Foley discusses search for full-time athletic director

The University of Missouri's interim chancellor, Hank Foley, is finishing up his one-week term as MU's interim athletic director before he hands the duties off to the university's third interim AD in two weeks, Sarah Reesman. Foley is currently seeking a full-time athletic director. On Wednesday, he spoke to Tribune sports editor Joe Walljasper on athletic matters. Here is the Q&A, edited for length.

Q: How do you approach the athletic director search, A, because you’re an interim and, B, because I’m not sure how much background you have in athletics? How much are you leaning on the search firm and search committee, or are you going to make a unilateral decision?

A: It's pretty much the way we would always do it, whether I was interim or not interim. We have an outstanding consultant in Todd Turner, who is our search firm. Collegiate Sports Associates is the name of the company. We got a lot of input from people. You’d be surprised how many people nominated other folks or suggested people. Todd and I worked pretty hard while I was, quote, on vacation in that first round of 30, 40 people to try to figure out what's what. The most important thing that every headhunter told me is you have to have absolute confidentiality or the best people won't come forward. So far we’ve had absolute confidentiality, and we’ve benefited from that.

We’ve continued to whittle the group down. We have a committee of people who are advisory to me. I hope to wrap it up sometime in the next couple of weeks. Or I shouldn’t have said that. I hope to wrap it up sometime soon.

Q: In the interview process, is it just you interviewing the candidates or is the search committee involved in that?

A: The search committee will become involved in that at the next level. Up to now it’s been Todd and I because the field is so big and because we have to maintain confidentiality.
Q: You had an interesting situation where one of your curators, Jon Sundvold, was mentioned as a possible candidate and he was left off the search committee. First of all, there is the rule where curators can’t work for the university for two years after their term ends, so if he did become a candidate, how would he be able to become the AD?

A: I can only speculate. The rules are the rules. I’m a rules guy. I live by rules. It's speculation, but I suppose the board (of curators) would have to take some action to either waive the rule or change the rule.

Q: He is one name that has been popular among fans, and another one is Mike Owens, the former MU football player and executive at Anheuser-Busch and Gander Mountain. How do you weigh someone with athletic administration experience vs. someone with success in business without much athletic administration experience?

A: We’ve been very open-minded in looking at people and evaluating where the programs are, where the coaches are, what we need. It’s a lot of nuts-and-bolts stuff that has to be done day-in and day-out. The student-athlete experience is huge, staying close to those students, really caring for them and nurturing them. Then you also have to support coaches day-in and day-out. They’ve got to know that the athletic director is there to do that. That’s in everything from the media to everyone they had on their staff and so forth. You’ve got to look at compliance very, very carefully. As you know, we had our own little issue with the NCAA in basketball.

You’ve got to also have a broad view of how you want to bring the university and athletics together. For a long time, in many universities, athletics was a tub on its own bottom, kind of separate. That’s true, there is a budgetary reason for that model, but you want to bring everything back to its academic core. How do you keep the academic principles first and foremost in your mind as you’re trying to win games and be effective on the field. There are the revenue issues, the financial issues, models for best practices and ticket sales. There are lots of things. We have some sports that are really successful but not well-attended. And we’ve got other sports that aren’t as successful but are a little better attended. You’ve got to look at all that and start to come up with ways to package things so you’re really taking care of the business side as well as the academic side.

A person with a nontraditional background can certainly do the job if they have a person in place that really understands the traditional aspects of the nuts and bolts of the job. So it’s not exclusionary. I think at the end of the day, we want someone who’s going to be the very best for us, and that is yet to be determined.
Q: Do you see any particular value to someone with Missouri ties? When Mack Rhoades left after a year, I know the sentiment is that you want someone who wants to be here and considers it a destination job. Does that matter to you?

A: I think you’ve got to take the longer view and not just look at last year. Yes, Mack is leaving. Yes, that hurts me. It hurts a lot of us. To some extent, I’ve used the word we feel a little “spurned.” … Gary Pinkel, I don’t think was from Missouri. He came from Toledo and had grown up, I think, in Ohio. I understand the sensitivity, but let’s remember we’ve had good success. We’ve had a tough year — I’m not saying we haven’t — but we’ve had good success in the past, and I think we’ll have good success in the future, whether it’s a person with overt Missouri ties or a person who comes here because it is Missouri. You’ve got to remember that this is a big job, and being a part of the SEC is a huge draw for athletic directors.

Q: You mentioned that Sarah Reesman has been on vacation in Greece the last two weeks. She’s on the search committee. So the five-member search committee hasn’t really begun its work yet and that will happen down the road?

A: I started working on the AD search the afternoon after Mack talked to me. I’ve been working on it with Todd all along. I’ve had meetings with the search committee. I’ve kept the search committee up to speed and involved. We’ve had their involvement, and we will have their involvement increasingly from here on out.

Q: Is there any protocol in place if you run into another situation where athletes want to boycott?

A: It’s interesting — that’s a question we’ve asked our candidates: “So what would you do?” It’s not so much what you would do there, because that was a very unique situation for a whole host of reasons. … The key thing is to be very close to the players, to truly understand what’s on their minds, to be really interacting with them closely, to not be surprised by any of those things, but if that were to happen again, to sit down and to talk to them about, “What are you really trying to accomplish here? What is it you’re seeking to do? How can we help you accomplish what you want to accomplish without having to do this radical thing you’re talking about? Are there other ways we could help you make a statement?”

Q: Going back to the basketball program, who’s responsibility is institutional control?

A: That rolls all the way up to me, eventually, as chancellor, but there are operatives in between.
Q: What will you do to make sure there is institutional control?

A: I’ve already asked that question many, many times. When we had our first discussion of this, I was in the decision-making that led to us self-imposing and doing all the things we did, because I had institutional control and oversight. I was at the table making those decisions with the athletic director, with outside counsel, with our compliance people. What I have to do is continue to articulate to all of them that compliance is absolutely essential. But as we look toward the future and look to a new day in athletics, we’ve got to be sure those things are really forcefully in place. Everyone has to feel like compliance is their job.

Q: In this particular investigation, you had four basketball players serving as interns at a geospatial intelligence company doing defense work for the United States government, which seems, on the face of it, would raise a red flag on the front end. Do you think the failure in this case was more in allowing them to do this internship in the first place or in the follow-up?

A: I don’t think you could make that call up front. That could lead to some other unintended consequences. I think it was on the follow-up.

Q: Do you think the compliance staff dropped the ball?

A: No, I didn’t feel like they dropped the ball. I feel like they got tricked or maneuvered or jockeyed about a bit and just weren’t getting the full story.

Q: In this week you were athletic director, how much work did you really do?

A: My work was in finding an athletic director, which has been around the clock, except when I’m sleeping.

MISSOURIAN

Investigation into Missouri softball coach Earleywine finds no infractions

ETHAN MAY, 13 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — The investigation into the actions of Missouri softball coach Ehren Earleywine has come to an end. It found no violation of the university's non-discrimination policies, according to a statement released Thursday from Interim Chancellor Hank Foley.

"Senior leaders in athletics are currently discussing next steps, and I, too, will be involved in those discussions," Foley said in the statement.

Attempts to reach Earleywine on Thursday were unsuccessful.

In April, the athletics department, then under the leadership of athletic director Mack Rhoades, launched an investigation into Earleywine's behavior after players submitted complaints about his coaching style.

The team responded to the investigation by playing a game under protest of Rhoades and athletics department leadership May 7, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The following week a group of softball players detailed their frustrations in a pair of letters.

Speaking to reporters in May, Earleywine said he did use inappropriate language with his players, and he would work to stop doing so.

“Is that grounds for firing a coach? I think if you set that precedent, there won’t be a coach left in America,” Earleywine said at the time.

Earleywine also worked with a sports psychologist from the athletics department to improve the way he communicates with his players.

Quick fix: Mizzou cleans up campus sign

By Benjamin Hochman St. Louis Post-Dispatch
At Mizzou, progress is spelled “N RSI o I S URI”

In Thursday's Post-Dispatch and on STLtoday.com, we pointed out the embarrassing sign of the times in Columbia, Mo. At one of the entry points to the campus, a large sign that originally read “UNIVERSITY of MISSOURI” was reduced to “U IVE TY f M S O.”

At a school where much is disarray, the sign was a symbol.

But on Thursday, the school tweeted out a photo of the sign, apparently fixed. It was a subtle subtweet to students and alumni, showing the sign but talking about the sunny weather in Columbia.

Image is so important for the institution, rocked by racially charged protests last fall, and also marred by poor performances by sports teams. The school is in the midst of search for an athletic director (not to mention a president and chancellor, too).

\[\textbf{'Zombie' Anthrax Goes on a Killing Spree in Siberia: How?}\]

An outbreak of anthrax that has killed more than 2,000 reindeer and sickened 13 people in Siberia has been linked to 75-year-old anthrax spores released by melting permafrost.

It's an event of the sort many scientists have warned about: Warming temperatures reviving dormant diseases, perhaps even pathogens long-thought extinct. There are, however, ways to protect both livestock and humans from an anthrax infection, and the current outbreak is likely to end quickly, said George Stewart, a medical bacteriologist at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

"This particular outbreak is going to fizzle out very quickly now that public health officials are in place," Stewart told Live Science.

**Zombie diseases**

The anthrax currently infecting reindeer and people in western Siberia likely came from the carcass of a reindeer that died in an anthrax outbreak 75 years ago and has been
frozen ever since — until an unusually warm summer thawed permafrost across the region this year, according to local officials.

*Bacillus anthracis*, the bacteria that cause anthrax, are capable of surviving in the soil for centuries, so it's no surprise that melting permafrost could resurrect a long-dormant plague, Stewart said. Anthrax spreads through soil. Grazing animals pick up the bacteria, which quickly gain a toehold and start reproducing like mad in the animals' blood. Unlike many pathogens, which aim to keep the host alive long enough to reproduce, anthrax wants to kill, and it produces toxins to do so, Stewart said. That's because anthrax demands a dead and decomposing host to spread: Once oxygen enters the rotting animal, the bacteria transform into spores.

"Spores are basically a bacterial cell in a really tough protein shell," Stewart said. They're in a state of suspended animation, and they stay that way in the soil until another grazer accidentally ingests them.

In the United States, anthrax occasionally pops up along the cattle trails of the Old West, Stewart said, because cows stricken with anthrax were left to rot.

Because anthrax is so hardy, it's no surprise that it could survive in permafrost. Researchers warned in 2011 in the journal Global Health Action that outbreaks such as this one could become common as the remains of livestock killed in earlier outbreaks thaw. There are also fears that other pathogens may lurk in the frozen soil of Siberia. In 2015, researchers discovered that a 30,000-year-old virus isolated from permafrost was still infectious (though, fortunately, not dangerous to humans).

**Human infection**

The humans infected with anthrax in the Siberia outbreak likely got it from butchering and eating infected animals, Stewart said. There are three forms of human anthrax, he said. About 80 percent of cases are cutaneous, or introduced through the skin. These cases are eminently treatable with antibiotics and have a mortality rate of 10 to 20 percent if left untreated.

Pulmonary anthrax occurs when the spores are inhaled. Without treatment, pulmonary anthrax is almost always fatal, Stewart said. During the 2001 anthrax attacks, in which someone mailed anthrax spores to politicians and news media offices, 22 people were infected and five died.

The rarest form of human anthrax, gastrointestinal anthrax, is the form that has sickened people in Siberia, killing one 12-year-old boy. It's hard to pinpoint the mortality rate of gastrointestinal anthrax, because it's rare and people usually aren't diagnosed until late in the disease, Stewart said. But if left untreated, this form probably causes between 50 and 75 percent of patients to die. According to local news reports, 90 nomadic people have been tested for the disease as a precaution so that anyone who is infected can start treatment quickly.
In places where anthrax is a known threat, cattle get vaccinations, Stewart said. Outbreaks can also be quelled by burning livestock that died of the disease, or burying corpses very deep in the ground so that spores won't penetrate to the surface.

**MU Study: Students who get personal help do better with education loans**

*Generated from News Bureau press release: “Relationships, More than Information Alone, Key to Improving Financial Aid Decisions for College Students”*

A new study by the University of Missouri shows students who develop relationships with financial advisers make better decisions about education loans.

After a report last year by the University of Indiana concluded providing information alone changed student borrowing habits, MU conducted further research.

Nick Prewett, the school’s financial aid director, says it tracked students to see what happened when they had additional contact with advisers.

“The ones that (have added contact) did asked really great questions” said Prewett. “And then we saw a slight change in their borrowing behavior. And it really came down to that focus on having a relationship with the financial aid office.”

Mizzou’s financial aid office and Truman School of Public Affairs collaborated on the study, which found students made more informed decisions after establishing a personal connection with a financial advisor.
The university's also using federal grant money to help identify financially “at-risk” students, which receive additional information and assistance. The median student loan debt for MU graduates is just over $21,200, while nationally it's $35,000.

Prewett says if a student leaves school with debt equal to Mizzou’s median rate, it would require monthly payment of $217 over 10 years. He advises students not to borrow more in student loans that they’re going to make in their first year after college.

![Futurity Logo]

**Kids who know ‘number words’ may do better in school**

This story was a result of a News Bureau press release: [http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2016/0804-kindergarteners-mathematics-success-hinges-on-preschool-skills/](http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2016/0804-kindergarteners-mathematics-success-hinges-on-preschool-skills/)

Teaching young children the mathematical values associated with number words could set them up for success in school, a new study finds.

The research also shows that children who have a basic understanding that addition increases quantity and subtraction decreases it are much better prepared for math in school.

“Our previous 10-year longitudinal study followed first graders and how their basic understanding of numbers and the relations among them puts them on a track for future success in high school and work,” says David Geary, professor of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri.

“However, there have been few studies that bridge the gap between preschool curricula and later success in early elementary school. Our current study follows kids from preschool to first grade, and we found that future success in mathematics lies in the basic understanding of number words and the quantities they represent.”

For the study in *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, researchers followed 112 preschool children ranging in ages from 3 to 5 years old and identified as at risk for school
failure. Controls were established to account for general knowledge, parental background, and other factors.

The children selected were administered several tasks to evaluate non-symbolic skills (such as quantities of collections of objects) and symbolic quantitative and calculation skills, including their understanding of number words and the ability to add and subtract from collections of objects.

“We measured participants’ math skills at the beginning of preschool and again at the end of preschool,” Geary says. “Kids who better understand the value of number words have an implicit understanding of addition and subtraction and are more fluent at processing numbers going into kindergarten.

“Preschoolers need to have a good understanding of quantities associated with number words and need to have experiences manipulating set sizes. Preschool curricula sometimes covers a lot of things, so what seems important may not be—we want to help narrow the most fundamental concepts down so that kids can continue to be successful throughout their school careers.”

The researchers will continue to follow the children through first grade in this four-year longitudinal study where they will use the same preschool measures to evaluate success.

The National Science Foundation and the University of Missouri Research Board funded the project. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the funding agencies.

How FIDGETING could save your life: Toe-tapping 'dramatically cuts your risk of cardiovascular disease' offsetting desk job health woes

Fidgeters may annoy the people around them.

But experts in heart health say: don't stop.

According to a new study, even mild toe-tapping and thumb-twiddling can dramatically reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.
And a research team at the University of Missouri believe it could be the answer to boosting heart health in an age when so many people spend most of their time sat at an office desk.

'Many of us sit for hours at a time, whether it's binge watching our favorite TV show or working at a computer,' said Dr Jaume Padilla, an assistant professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at MU and lead author of the study.

'We wanted to know whether a small amount of leg fidgeting could prevent a decline in leg vascular function caused by prolonged sitting.

'While we expected fidgeting to increase blood flow to the lower limbs, we were quite surprised to find this would be sufficient to prevent a decline in arterial function.'

Researchers compared the leg muscle function of 11 healthy men and women.

They then tested them again after they had been sat down for three hours.

During that period, each one was asked to fidget one leg - tapping their foot for a minute then resting it for four. The other leg remained stationary.

Measuring their blood flow afterwards, the researchers found the moving leg had a much higher blood flow than the other.

In fact blood flow slowed dramatically in the stationary leg.

The researchers concluded that this minuscule movement could help stimulate vascular health.

In a real-world scenario they recommend tapping both legs to boost blood movement.

They do caution, however, that office workers should not see this as an adequate substitute for walking, and that everyone should try to get away from their seats for a turn every so often.

'You should attempt to break up sitting time as much as possible by standing or walking,' Dr Padilla said.

'But if you're stuck in a situation in which walking just isn't an option, fidgeting can be a good alternative. Any movement is better than no movement.'
University of Missouri files answer in animal rights Sunshine Law case

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 9:37 am

The University of Missouri on Monday filed its answer to a lawsuit alleging it sought excessive fees to prevent an animal rights group from obtaining research records.

Animal Rescue, Media and Education in January asked for records relating to 179 dogs and cats used in medical research by the MU College of Medicine. The university requested $82,222.23 to find, process and copy the records. In May, the group filed a lawsuit in Boone County Circuit Court alleging that the requested fees violate the state’s Open Meetings and Records law.

In the answer filed Monday, UM counsel Paul Maguffee denied that the fees requested were excessive or that Custodian of Records Paula Barrett inflated the charges by having “more employees than appropriate” work to fulfill the request.

The answer is the first filing by the university in the case, which is assigned to Circuit Judge Jeff Harris. No hearings have been scheduled.

Mulligan leaving University of Missouri to become state higher education commissioner

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, August 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Zora Mulligan, chief of staff for the University of Missouri System, will take over Aug. 29 as commissioner of higher education, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education decided Wednesday.

Mulligan has been with the UM System since 2014, after a four-year stint as executive director of the Missouri Community College Association. In her new role, she will be responsible for
guiding higher education policy in the state, which will include implementing legislation to improve access, affordability and quality of post-secondary education.

The legislation enhances some of the coordinating board’s powers but does not fundamentally alter the role of the board in relation to public four-year universities, two-year community colleges and the State Technical College of Missouri in Linn.

“This board has a fair amount of authority,” Mulligan said. Its main role, however, is “persuasion and coalition building. We have a lot of leaders throughout the state — politicians and college and university presidents — who want the system to work better.”

Mulligan was born in West Plains and received bachelor’s degrees in political science and psychology from Drury University in Springfield. She holds a master’s degree in education and a doctorate of law from the University of Kansas.

Mulligan worked for the Department of Higher Education from 2007 to 2010, when she was assistant commissioner, general counsel and legislative liaison. She was executive director of the community college association from 2010 to 2014.

“Zora has a wealth of knowledge about Missouri’s higher education system,” Brian Fogle, chairman of the coordinating board, said in a news release. “Her leadership will be vital to our continuing work to increase the percentage of Missourians with a college degree or certificate to meet the state’s need for a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.”

Mulligan will leave the university as it is in the middle of a presidential search and while interim leaders hold numerous positions.

“I have really, really enjoyed my time at the University of Missouri, even though it has been tumultuous and stressful,” Mulligan said.

In 2015, the department completed work on Preparing Missourians to Succeed: A Blueprint for Higher Education. The plan sets a goal of having 60 percent of working adults with a post-secondary certification, either in a technical or academic field, by 2025.

“There is pretty widespread recognition in the state of Missouri and probably throughout the country that what is really important is a post-secondary credential, whether it is a technical certificate to get into the workforce quickly or a Ph.D. in anthropology,” she said. “It is the post-secondary credential that gives people the ability to earn a living.”

Mulligan replaces David Russell, who retired Feb. 29. Her appointment will be well-received by leaders of four-year universities, said Paul Wagner, executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education.

“She is going to do a great job,” Wagner said. “There couldn’t have been someone more qualified to do it.”
Mulligan’s experience at a variety of jobs gives her a broad view of higher education’s needs and assets, Wagner said.

“We just have a real comfort level with her intelligence, her personality, how hard she works,” he said. “We are just really pleased.”

Suspected illegal herbicide use takes toll on southeast Missouri farmers

By Bryce Gray • St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

Farmers of soybeans and other crops in southeast Missouri, western Tennessee and northeastern Arkansas are facing widespread crop damage believed to be the result of illegal spraying of dicamba, an older herbicide that is finding new life as a tool to battle glyphosate-resistant weeds.

In four Missouri Bootheel counties alone, more than 100 complaints of pesticide drift have been reported since June 22, according to a representative from the Missouri Department of Agriculture. For comparison, the department typically receives 75 to 80 complaints statewide in an entire year. Experts say that all signs point to dicamba as the culprit behind the surge.

“The symptoms match what we would expect coming out of dicamba,” said Kevin Bradley, an associate professor in the University of Missouri’s division of plant sciences, and a lead scientist for the university’s agricultural extension. Possible exposure to the herbicide has been officially reported on 40,000 acres of soybeans in the state, causing the plants’ leaves to pucker and potentially hurting yields across the region.

State investigations into each complaint are ongoing, but many suspect the problem stems from farmers who have planted Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans — a dicamba-resistant crop variety released this year by Creve Coeur-based Monsanto Co. But, the dicamba-based herbicide meant to be applied to Xtend seeds has not yet been approved by the Environmental
Protection Agency, leaving farmers without the tool intended to fight increasingly stubborn weeds that have developed resistance to other herbicides, like Roundup, which has glyphosate as its active ingredient.


**MISSOURIAN**

State Historical Society reveals design for new headquarters

JESSICA HEIM-BROUWER, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The century-old location of the State Historical Society of Missouri in Ellis Library will be history by 2019.

A new headquarters at Sixth and Elm streets will be known as the Center for Missouri Studies, offering a link between downtown and campus and a place for Missourians to discover the state's history.

"This is an educational program that is expanding the way Missouri history is explored," Mary Ellen Lohmann, the society's strategic communications coordinator, said.

On Friday, the historical society's board approved a design by Gould Evans, a Kansas City-based architecture firm, for the three-story building. The center is expected to be completed by summer 2019. In March, the Missouri Development Finance Board issued $35 million in construction bonds for the project.

Limited space at Ellis Library means only a small fraction of the State Historical Society's art collection can be put on display. A gallery on the first floor of the new building will accommodate twice the amount of art, such as the works of George Caleb Bingham and Thomas Hart Benton, with state-of-the-art climate control.
"It's going to be a great expansion of the master works we have, but we're also hoping to do more rotating exhibits," Lohmann said. Missouri's bicentennial is approaching, she said, so most exhibits after the opening will focus on the evolution of the state.

There will also be a multi-purpose room with a nearly 200-person capacity, which will host lectures, meetings and other special events.

A research center on the second floor will allow greater public access to manuscripts and newspapers and will serve as a reading room, Lohmann said. A separate conservatory lab, similar to a science lab, will repair and stabilize old documents. Administrative offices will occupy the third floor.

The building will have two entrances: one facing south toward Peace Park, and another facing north toward downtown. The convergence of the campus and downtown communities is important to the project, Gary Kremer, the society's executive director, said in a news release.

A two-level parking structure, to be paid for through private fundraising, will provide about 75 spaces and stand on the north side of the building near Locust Street.

The new structure will go up in the current parking lot of MU's Heinkel Building, and those spaces will need to be relocated.

Stephen Limbaugh Jr., president of the State Historical Society, said the architectural design depicts an integration of the past, present and future, according to the release.

"The Center for Missouri Studies is a place where we can build on the history of our past while making decisions about the future," Limbaugh said.