Tensions between the University of Missouri System, state legislative leaders on the mend

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Tensions between the University of Missouri and the state Legislature appear to be dying down.

Legislative leaders this week said the four-campus system is making headway with lawmakers.

Frustrations with the university have been building for months following November protests on the Columbia campus over what some students saw as administrators' indifference to racial issues.

But House and Senate leaders said Thursday that greater communication between the Legislature and the system is helping to mend the relationship.

House Budget Chairman Rep. Tom Flanigan, a Republican from Carthage, had proposed cutting more than $8 million in state funding for the University of Missouri.

He's since restored more than $400,000 of that, and says he supports adding in at least $3.8 million more.
University of Missouri plans for cuts up to 8 percent on Columbia campus

By Rudi Keller

Friday, March 4, 2016 at 12:31 pm

An enrollment loss of as many as 1,500 students and potential legislative cuts could result in an overall budget reduction of 5 to 8 percent for the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus.

The likelihood of cuts is the top agenda item for meetings of the Council of Deans, College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O’Brien said Friday. O’Brien is trying to protect course offerings and keep department chairs informed as the cuts’ magnitude becomes clearer, he said. O’Brien likely will have to keep faculty positions open to achieve the reduction, he said.

Whatever is done, O’Brien said the pain will be spread evenly.

“We are going to do this as a campus,” he said. “We are not going to piecemeal it by unit.”

MU Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler developed the budget projections based on a loss of tuition revenue, the statutory limitation on tuition increases and the likelihood of a cut in state appropriations, Mary Jo Banken, executive director of the MU News Bureau wrote in an email Friday.

The number of incoming freshmen is expected to drop by about 900, and total enrollment is expected to be 1,300 to 1,500 fewer than the fall enrollment of 35,424. Under state law, tuition is tied to inflation, which was 0.7 percent last year, Banken wrote.

Final budgets are set in May, Banken wrote. “Between now and then, campus forums are being planned to give members of the campus community the opportunity to hear about all aspects” of the fiscal year 2017 budget, she wrote. “There has been no discussion of across the board pay cuts as a potential solution” to the projected budget reduction.

Gibler’s projection for lost revenue is $20 million to $25 million, Banken wrote.

The Missouri House next week will consider an appropriation bill that cuts $7.6 million from the UM System administration’s allocation of tax dollars, or about half of the tax support for that
university function. It would represent a cut of about 10 percent overall if not mitigated by adjusting campus budgets.

The appropriation bill also leaves UM out of a $9.9 million allocation for contingent increases to state colleges and universities. The money would be distributed if state revenues grow faster than the 3.1 percent projection that the budget is based on.

“It is too early in the process to be making contingency plans for the UM System budget until the situation becomes clearer,” system spokesman John Fougere wrote in an email. “We are working closely with our legislators as they determine our appropriation, and are committed to doing so by being accountable, transparent and fiscally responsible in our leadership and our actions.”

Gibler will meet Monday with members of the Faculty Council Executive Committee, council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said. After hearing from Gibler, he said, the committee will decide whether to invite her to speak to the entire council. Trachtenberg, an associate professor in the School of Law, said a cut at the upper end would be very hard on the school.

“But I couldn’t possibly speculate on the details of it until you know what it is going to be and what the inputs are,” he said. “We don’t have a lot of fat to cut.”

The Truman School of Public Affairs is planning a conservative budget for the coming year, Dean Barton Wechsler said. Wechsler said he prefers to keep positions open rather than resort to pay cuts to keep spending in line.

“At the low end, it is much more manageable than at the high end,” Wechsler said. “Whatever it is, we will find a way.”

Demonstrations over racism on campus that drew international attention and discontent among graduate assistants over health insurance and other issues contributed to the enrollment decrease, said Nicole Monnier, vice chairwoman of the Faculty Council and an associate teaching professor in the Department of German and Russian Studies.

Other factors are in play as well, Monnier said. The number of high school graduates is declining, and other states are aggressively recruiting students with financial aid, she said.

The budget will become clearer when students select schools because the projected loss of enrollment is based on applications at this point, Monnier said.

“We all understand that the forces of darkness are gathering, and there will have to be cuts next year,” she said.
Man charged after rape, attempted sex assault at Mizzou

COLUMBIA, MO. • A man was arrested Saturday after a rape and attempted sex assault were reported on the University of Missouri campus earlier in the day.

Zachery Ryan Jones, 21, described by police as homeless and not a student at the university, was being held at the Boone County Jail pending a bond hearing.

He was arrested about 4 p.m. Saturday and faces one count of rape and one count of sodomy, campus police said. No other information was available, and the investigation is continuing, police said.

In the attempted sexual assault, a woman reported she was walking along University Avenue near the Mumford Hall classroom building shortly before 4 a.m. when she was approached from behind by an unknown man, according to a posting on the campus online emergency information website.

After a brief conversation, the man grabbed her and forced her to the ground. He attempted to sexually assault her, but she fought him off and called 911 from her cellphone.

At 11 a.m. police received a report of a rape at 5:30 a.m. near the Student Recreation Complex, police said. No other information on the incident was reported.

“With the assistance of our university community and work from our officers and detectives, we were able to identify and arrest the suspect quickly,” MU Police Chief Doug Schwandt said.
MU police nab suspect in rape, sodomy reports

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 12:00 am

A 21-year-old homeless man was arrested Saturday as a suspect in an early morning rape and a separate sexual assault.

University of Missouri Police Chief Doug Schwandt said in a news release that Zachery R. Jones, who was not an MU student, was arrested at around 4 p.m. on two counts of forcible rape and one count of forcible sodomy. Police did not have an address for Jones, who was described as homeless. Jones was taken to the Boone County Jail and his bond had not yet been set.

The rape was reported around 5:30 a.m. north of the Student Recreation Complex. A surveillance camera captured an image of the alleged assailant, who was also the suspect in what police first called an attempted sexual assault at around 3:55 a.m. in the area of Mumford Hall, near Hitt Street and University Avenue.

According to a news release, a woman was walking on a sidewalk along University Avenue when she was approached from behind by a man she didn’t know. MU police said the woman reported that after a brief conversation, the man grabbed her and forced her to the ground. The first report said the man attempted to sexually assault the woman, but she was able to fight him off and call 911.

Columbia Police and University Police responded immediately, but couldn’t locate the man.

The rape was reported around 5:30 a.m., north of the Student Recreation Complex.

An MU alert message about the attacks was sent to MU students, staff and employees earlier Saturday.

“With the assistance of our university community and work from our officers and detectives, we were able to identify and arrest the suspect quickly,” Schwandt said in the news release.
UPDATE: Man arrested in connection with two sexual violence incidents reported at MU

MISSOURIAN STAFF, Updated Mar 5, 2016

COLUMBIA — A man sought in connection with two different sexual violence incidents Saturday on the MU campus was arrested by the MU police department.

Zachery Ryan Jones, 21, was arrested at approximately 4 p.m. Saturday on suspicion of forcible rape and forcible sodomy. An MU police release said Jones is a homeless man who is not an MU student. He was transported to the Boone County Jail. His bond had yet to be set.

MU Police Chief Doug Schwandt credited the universe community, police officers and detectives for identifying the suspect and making the arrest, according to the press release.

Police were looking for a "white male, early 20s, 5-foot-7-inch to 5-foot-9-inch, stocky build, short dark brown hair, scruffy beard, round face and wearing a long sleeve red plaid shirt and blue jeans," according to a Clery release.

MU Alert posted pictures of the suspect on its website.

At about 3:55 a.m. Saturday, the MU Police Department received a report of an attempted sexual assault in the area of MU's Mumford Hall, a classroom building.

Mumford Hall is located near the intersection of Hitt Street and University Avenue. A woman was walking on the sidewalk on University Avenue when a man unknown to her approached her from behind, police said.

According to the release, the two briefly talked before the man grabbed the woman and forced her to the ground. She struggled with him as he attempted to sexually assault her, but she was able to fight him off and call 911 from from her cellphone, according to the Cleary release.
The man ran away and was last seen around Dumas Apartments, located kitty-corner from Mumford Hall.

At 11 a.m., MU Police received a report of a rape that occurred at 5:30 a.m. north of the MU Student Recreation Complex, according to MU Alert.

The suspect description in both incidents was similar.

**Police say Missouri rape suspect is homeless, not a student**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A 21-year-old man is accused of raping one person and attempting to sexually assault another on the University of Missouri campus.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (bit.ly/1QXEjYn) reports the man was arrested at 4 p.m. Saturday and was being held at the Boone County Jail pending a bond hearing.

Campus police say the man is homeless and not a student at the university.

In the attempted sexual assault, a woman reported she was walking near the Mumford Hall classroom building shortly before 4 a.m. Saturday when she was approached from behind.

She said the man grabbed her and forced her to the ground, but she fought him off and called 911.

Police received a report at 11 a.m. of a rape that happened at 5:30 a.m. near the Student Recreation Complex.
Police arrest suspect in reported sexual assaults on the MU campus

COLUMBIA - Authorities arrested a suspect involved in two sexual assault incidents that happened Saturday morning.

**MUPD said 21-year-old Zachery Jones was arrested at 4 p.m. on Saturday.** He is accused of two counts of rape and one count of forcible sodomy. Police said Jones is not a student.

"With the assistance of our university community and work from our officers and detectives, we were able to identify and arrest the suspect quickly," MU Police Chief Doug Schwanndt said.

A woman was walking along University Avenue around 4 a.m. when an unknown male approached her from behind, according to University of Missouri Police. After a short conversation, he forced her to the ground. The victim was able to get free and call 911.

Police also said a rape occurred around 5:30 a.m. near the Student Recreation Complex. The description of the suspect is similar in both incidents.

Report: Spike Lee creating '30 for 30' about Mizzou protests

The Missouri football team's involvement in campus protests during the 2015 season is reportedly getting the documentary treatment.
According to Indie Wire, director Spike Lee was in attendance at the True/False film festival in Columbia, Missouri, over the weekend. Lee watched a 30-minute documentary about the Concerned Student 1950 movement on campus. The Mizzou football team briefly boycotted all football activities because of the movement in early November.

Per the site, Lee, a two time Oscar nominee, is interested in using footage from the short in a potential ESPN "30 for 30" he's creating. The "30 for 30" documentary series has featured the University of Miami football team, Southern Methodist's football program among many other topics since the series' inception in 2009. Systemic racial inequality became the focus of the movement that, at least initially, had a multi-pointed focus.

The emotions captured in the film were evident in last night's audience, which was packed with University of Missouri students for whom the issues addressed in the film were clearly still raw. Before the film even began the filmmakers received a standing ovation, while five of the original members of Concerned Student 1950 took to the stage to make clear their struggle did not end with Wolfe’s resignation. After the screening the group led the audience in one of their protest chants, while receiving their second standing ovation of the night. A surprise guest in the audience was Spike Lee, who Indiewire has learned is interested in using some of the footage from the documentary for his own ESPN 30 For 30 project about the Missouri football teams' role in the protests.

The CS1950 movement rose to prominence when the football team joined the movement in solidarity with a student who was on a hunger strike until University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe resigned. Wolfe resigned on Monday, Nov. 9.

The hunger strike ended after Wolfe's resignation and the team also ended its boycott. Then-Missouri coach Gary Pinkel, who posted a tweet supporting his players, has said his support for their decision not to play was the right thing to do.

Earlier this year, Wolfe told friends via email that the football team threw gasoline on a small fire.

**Spike Lee reportedly working on MU football '30 for 30'**

By David Morrison

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 7:15 pm
Director Spike Lee is working on a documentary for ESPN's "30 for 30" series about the Missouri football team's boycott in the fall, according to a report from Indiewire.com.

Lee was in Columbia on Saturday night to attend a screening of the student-made documentary "Concerned Student 1950" at the True/False Film Festival and, according to Indiewire, he "is interested in using some of the footage from the documentary for his own ESPN 30 For 30 project about the Missouri football teams' role in the protests."

Tigers sophomore quarterback Marvin Zanders tweeted a picture Sunday afternoon of he and junior wideout J'Mon Moore speaking with Lee.

Moore and Zanders were among the original group of nearly three dozen African-American football players who tweeted out a picture Nov. 7 of them linking arms with hunger striking protester Jonathan Butler, along with a message pledging that they would not return to football-related activities until Butler and Concerned Student 1950's main demand -- University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe's removal from office -- was met.

A picture on the Twitter account of then-Coach Gary Pinkel on Nov. 8 showed most of the Tigers' team and staff locking arms in support of the original players' stand -- even though later statements from Pinkel indicated that he was supporting his players, rather than their aims -- and Wolfe resigned Nov. 9.

ESPN's "SportsCenter" did a segment on the boycott during its "Rise Up" special to commemorate Black History Month on Feb. 14, in which the network interviewed former safety and captain Ian Simon.

Missouri was also the subject of a documentary in the SEC Network's "SEC Storied" series last September. Titled "Tigers United," it focused on the 'Tigers' improbable run to the SEC East title in 2013 and the friendship between players Marvin Foster, Michael Sam and L'Damian Washington, which took on new dimensions after Sam announced to the team before the season that he is gay.

MU physicist positions Columbia as destination for rare solar eclipse

BRIANNA STUBLER, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — Angela Speck has crunched the numbers, and she wants Columbia to take notice.
When the physics professor came to MU 14 years ago, she already had her sights set on an astronomical spectacle that will occur on Aug. 21, 2017: the first total solar eclipse visible from the continental United States since 1979 and the first to cross from the West to the East coast since 1918.

With Columbia located in the heart of the path of totality — the sun will go behind the moon for 2 minutes and 37 seconds — Speck reasons the city will become a magnet for eclipse watchers and scientists from near and far.

"You don’t get many opportunities to see these sorts of things," she said. "If you were alive during the moon landing, wouldn’t you have watched that?"

Speck used factors such as the geographic coverage of the eclipse and population of surrounding areas to predict that Columbia should be prepared for crowds. In a presentation to the Columbia City Council, she estimated upward of 400,000 visitors.

Columbia is positioned as an eclipse destination because of its location and robust hospitality industry, Speck said. The city is along the path of totality; an eight-hour drive for 150 million
people, she said, making it an attractive destination for people from places including Kansas City and St. Louis that won't experience a total eclipse.

Potential impacts

Megan McConachie, marketing and communications manager for the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, said her agency was in the beginning stages of planning for the eclipse "so we can make sure the entire city is prepared for such an immense influx of people."

McConachie said 400,000 visitors would be unprecedented. If Speck's estimate is anywhere close, McConachie said, the event will have a dramatic impact.

"There are so many parts to this, from parking to street closures to law enforcement," McConachie said. "At this point, there's no way to estimate a total cost because we haven't determined what we're planning yet."

There's a potential economic boost from eclipse visitors. "I'm trying to have people see the benefits, rather than seeing it as a burden," Speck said. "This is such a great opportunity for us to shine and show people what a great place Columbia is."

Bryana Larimer, a spokeswoman for the Columbia Police Department, said police representatives began talking with Speck in October.

"Our command staff is aware; however, at this time, I have not been made aware of any special preparations," Larimer said.

Speck anticipates enough visitors to warrant multiple viewing locations. She's making arrangements to use Memorial Stadium and hopes to use the big screen to broadcast live images of the eclipse from NASA as the sun's shadow moves across the country.

"There will be some money involved in renting Faurot Field that is related to the cost of opening, cleaning and maintenance," Speck said. "But we don't have to pay to rent it."
Speck said she's also looking into creating venues at Cosmo Park, the fairgrounds at the Central Missouri Events Center and Columbia Regional Airport.

“Ashland is slightly closer to the center line than we are — the center actually is at the Columbia Regional Airport. So I’ve been working with other cities like Ashland, and I’m trying to coordinate an event at the airport as well,” she said.

Education and eyewear for public school students

Speck has also been working with representatives of Columbia Public Schools to provide teachers with educational material and information about the necessity of special glasses viewers will need to avoid eye damage.

She is working with the MU Bookstore to sell eyewear for the eclipse for $1 or $2; Columbia Public Schools are looking into glasses of their own to provide for students.

Mike Szydlowski, the K-12 science coordinator for Columbia Public Schools, has started planning for what he's calling “eclipse day.”

He plans to roll out a special curriculum next spring that will focus on the science of the sun and eclipses. "Then, on the actual day of the event, every student and staff member will receive a special set of eclipse viewing glasses which allows them to safely look at the entire eclipse," Szydlowski said.

The total eclipse will begin at 1:12 p.m. on the first day of the fall semester for MU and Columbia Public Schools. Szydlowski said all public school students will be given protective glasses to view the eclipse.

Whatever planning takes place in advance, one factor out of everyone's control is the weather. The historical data for the date of the eclipse suggests low chances for rain or clouds.

The eclipse will be memorable even if skies are overcast, Speck said. "It will still get dark, and you will still be able to feel the change in temperature."
Speck's planning efforts extend beyond Columbia. She's helping other communities across Missouri prepare, and she co-chairs a national task force of astronomers, educators and other professionals working on a website with resources for teachers, scientists and the public.

"I love talking to the public about astronomy and science in general," Speck said. "I love all of it, so for me it’s just a natural thing. Because if I don’t do it, who will?"

Columbia PD investigate shots fired near MU, find no evidence

By Ben Peters

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Columbia Police investigated a report of shots fired late Sunday night.

Police received a report of four shots fired in the alley between the Lofts at 308 Ninth and Hitt Street Garage at 10:42 p.m.

**The MU Alert system notified students of the incident at 11 p.m.**

Officers have cleared the scene and found no evidence of any shots fired.

MU says that if any more information becomes available, MU Alert will be updated.
Police find no evidence of shots fired near MU campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri sent out an MU Alert about a reported shots fired near campus Sunday night.

The alert was sent out just before 11 p.m. urging students to take precautions.

According to the alert, Columbia Police were called to the alley between The Loft apartments on S. Ninth Street and the Hitt Street Parking garage for reports of four shots fired.

The call came in at 10:42 p.m. Officers cleared the scene after finding no evidence of a shooting.

Police investigate report of shots fired near MU campus

COLUMBIA - The Columbia Police Department received a report of shots fired near the MU campus Sunday night, according to MU Alert.

MU Alert said later officers did not find any evidence of shots fired.

The report came in to CPD at 10:42 p.m. of four shots fired in the alley between the Lofts at 308 Ninth and Hitt Street Garage, according to MU Alert.
Board of Curators strays from faculty review process in Click firing decision

In the absence of members of the MU community taking action, the Board of Curators felt it needed to do its own investigation, communication department Chairman Mitchell McKinney said.

Melissa Click’s firing Feb. 24 for her actions during last semester’s Concerned Student 1950 protests has raised questions about the UM System Board of Curators’ decision-making process.

After no one from MU filed a charge against her, the UM System Board of Curators stepped in. The board suspended Click and pursued their own investigation of her actions, ultimately resulting in her dismissal from the university.

A charge of unethical or irresponsible action may be brought against a faculty member by students, faculty members, teachers, administrators and board members, according to the UM System Collected Rules and Regulations’ Procedures Governing the Disposition of Charges of Faculty Irresponsibility.

According to the procedures, those filing a charge must sign and specify the act which they constitute as unethical or irresponsible. The charge must include details such as the time and place the act was committed, witness names and the conditions under which the alleged act occurred.

According to the Collected Rules and Regulations:

- After the accuser puts the charge in writing, it should go to the provost to review the charge’s validity by reviewing its details and discussing it with the accuser.
- The dean of the accused faculty member’s academic division then reviews the charge’s procedural detail to avoid vague claims.
- Once the divisional dean and the department chairperson verify the charge’s validity, they should immediately provide the accused with a full copy of the charge, including the name of the accuser. The chairperson then holds informal meetings with the accused and the accuser in an attempt to reach reconciliation.

If a resolution is not reached, the accused has the right to an informal hearing by a panel of seven faculty members who investigate and form a written report of the case.

Citing the Collected Rules and Regulations, the faculty committee’s report may conclude the following:
• The charge is unfounded or there is insufficient reason to believe the accused has violated professional ethics or acted irresponsibly, and the matter should be dropped without prejudice to the accused.
• There is sufficient reason to believe the accused has acted unethically or irresponsibly. No recommendation as to sanction should be made, but an assessment of the seriousness of the alleged violation, including whether it is serious enough that termination of appointment should be considered, shall be made.

The divisional dean and the provost can either recommend that a formal hearing be held or that the accused's appointment be terminated under the UM System Academic Tenure Regulations.

The Board of Curators bypassed these procedures because no one from MU’s campus filed a charge.

The board appointed investigators who reviewed relevant documents including video recordings and interviews of more than 20 witnesses, according to a statement made by Board of Curators Chairwoman Pam Henrickson when announcing Click’s termination. Click was also interviewed with counsel representation twice, and they interviewed — or attempted to interview — each of the witnesses Click stated as relevant and included their information in the report.

“The board believes that Dr. Click’s conduct was not compatible with university policies and did not meet expectations for a university faculty member,” Henrickson said in the statement.

Some faculty members don’t believe Click received due process through the Board of Curators’ investigation.

The curators’ process regarding Click’s case “violates the norms of faculty governance,” Faculty Council wrote in a statement Feb. 25. “By creating a new process as it went along, the Board denied Professor Click the fair procedures that she, like all faculty, had been promised.”

The statement cited the lack of a fair hearing with witnesses before dismissal, the use of an outside lawyer to investigate and no formal meeting with the board as violations of Click’s rights under MU’s procedures.

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The curators’ process regarding Click’s case “violates the norms of faculty governance,” Faculty Council wrote in a statement Feb. 25. “By creating a new process as it went along, the Board denied Professor Click the fair procedures that she, like all faculty, had been promised.”

The statement cited the lack of a fair hearing with witnesses before dismissal, the use of an outside lawyer to investigate and no formal meeting with the board as violations of Click’s rights under MU’s procedures.

“By flouting the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University, the Board of Curators has caused needless injury to the University of Missouri,” the statement read.

Many faculty members expressed concern over their job security because of the board’s actions.

According to the Academic Tenure Regulations, tenure is the right to be free from dismissal without cause. Click was to be reviewed for tenure this year, but was subject to dismissal with cause before the review process was complete.

“When (college or university faculty members) speak or write as citizens, they are to be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes
special obligations,” the regulations read. “They should anticipate that the public may judge their
profession and their institution by their utterances and actions.”

Click’s actions and subsequent dismissal have initiated debates on First Amendment rights.

“Any faculty member, staff member or administrator, anyone on this campus has the freedom of
expression and freedom of speech,” communication department Chairman Mitchell McKinney
said. “They can say anything they wish, and they can express themselves and their views. There
were other elements, different from freedom of speech that led to Melissa Click’s firing,
including an assault charge.”

The Board of Curators, despite popular favor, has the power to step in when it does not agree
with campus action or lack thereof; the curators adjusted to MU’s lack of action.

“There were other elements, different from freedom of speech that led to Melissa Click’s firing,
including an assault charge.”

Study highlights the black male athlete
group experience at MU

By David Morrison

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 12:00 am

Jeremiah, a track athlete, said he felt as if most of Missouri’s student population viewed the
school’s African-American athletes as there only to play a sport.

John D., a basketball player, said he felt constant pressure not to make mistakes because of the
spotlight under which he lives as a black athlete at Missouri.
Drae, another basketball player, said it’s difficult to tell if white classmates are only civil to him because he is a prominent athlete. If he wasn’t a Division I athlete, would he get the same treatment?

Those three athletes — given pseudonyms to protect their identities — were part of a group of 52 interviewed last spring for a paper titled “Identity, Leadership, and Success: A Study of Black Male Student-Athletes at the University of Missouri.”

A three-researcher team from the university received a grant of $25,000 from the NCAA to embark on the project, the largest grant awarded by the organization’s “Innovations in Research and Practice” program last year.

“We bring young men in and expect them to perform on the field, but there are some missing pieces I don’t think we understand as far as who they are,” lead researcher Ty-Ron Douglas, an assistant professor in Missouri’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, said at the time.

The topic became even more timely between the time Douglas and his two co-presenters — Pat Ivey and Kim Bishop — started the study and when they presented their findings in January at the annual NCAA convention in San Antonio.

In the intervening months, activist group Concerned Student 1950 intensified its efforts to have university administration address grievances over racial inequality in the University of Missouri system. The football team joined the fray, precipitated by a picture of nearly three dozen black players linking arms with hunger striker Jonathan Butler and saying they would not participate in football activities until system President Tim Wolfe was no longer in office. Wolfe resigned two days later, after then-Coach Gary Pinkel tweeted a picture of nearly the entire team locking arms and saying he supported his players.

The fallout from the fall rages on four months after the fact.

Ivey, Missouri’s newly appointed assistant vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity and former strength coach of the football team, declined comment on the study through the MU News Bureau. Bishop, Missouri’s associate athletic director for student-athlete development, referred comment to Douglas, as he was the lead researcher. Douglas declined comment on the study because of “other commitments.”

“Perhaps I will be in a better position in the future to comment further on the study,” he wrote in an email last week.

The interviews with black athletes that form the basis of the 34-page research paper, which is available online, were completed last spring.

The paper only mentions Wolfe’s resignation in passing and does not mention the football player boycott.
It does, however, speak to the undercurrents of unease felt by some black athletes on a predominantly white campus, tensions that led some to feel strongly enough to speak up in a very public manner.

“The things the students dealt with on campus, I’ve definitely seen here in my time,” Danario Alexander, who played wide receiver at Missouri from 2006-09, said Feb. 25, the night he was inducted into MU’s athletic hall of fame. “They stood up for what they believed was right, and I think anybody should do that. If you feel like you want some change or if you’re passionate about something, you should definitely speak out about it. I definitely commend the players for doing that.

“Things go on on every campus. Mizzou was just the campus that, probably, stood out, stepped out on a limb to make it publicized.”

Perception

Douglas conducted “semi-structured” interviews with the black male athletes — which were voluntary, lasted 60-90 minutes and came with the bonus of a $20 gift certificate — and observed interactions around the athletic complex, during practices and on game days.

He interviewed 45 football players, four basketball players, two track athletes and one baseball player, according to the paper.

One consistent theme dealt with how the black athletes felt fellow students viewed them. One player from an unidentified sport, given the pseudonym “Seargeant,” said he is a math and physics major but people misread him because he wears dreadlocks.

“It’s like you are always standing out sort of,” Seargeant said in the paper. “A lot of people think that I’m a hood rat, like [gang] banger … kind of guy. But that’s not me at all. People automatically assume.”

John D. told Douglas that, because he came from a mostly black high school, he didn’t know how to function in a mostly white community. He said his mother was teaching him how to “proper” himself up before he came to campus.

“Basically you just have to watch yourself. Basically watch your back at all times,” John D. said. “Know right from wrong. Know what you’re doing at all times. Never listen to anybody that you don’t really know. Don’t trust anybody you never came around before.”

Athletes of all races inhabit a different kind of college experience from normal students. They shoulder the responsibility of performing in school as well as navigating the time commitments of their sport.

Shortly after the protests, wide receiver J’Mon Moore admitted to living in a sort of bubble that being a football player at a Southeastern Conference school creates. That is, he and his fellow players don’t have time for the regular student experience.
That, too, weighs on black athletes at Missouri, according to the research of Douglas, Ivey and Bishop.

“You can tell some people are kind of — they kind of look at you and don’t know what to think,” Drae told Douglas. “You almost feel uncomfortable when they see you. And then I’ve had situations where I’ve got black friends that don’t play basketball. And a white person might come up and laugh and smile in my face because I’m on the basketball team and show me a lot of love, but my friend, they don’t know them, so they kind of like shy away.

“You never know if it’s real or not. It’s kind of just, you’re on the basketball team.”

Opportunity

Last spring, Douglas said the initial idea for the paper sprang from the fact that, on a walk through the Mizzou Athletics Training Complex, he could find no black athletes on the wall that celebrates the school’s Academic All-Americans.

Speaking with athletes during the study, he found that most didn’t even know the criteria for becoming an Academic All-American.

“The most common majors of participants were undecided; general studies; sports management; and hospitality management,” Douglas wrote. “There were some participants who had undertaken more rigorous majors, but, in general, many participants did not have a strong sense of their academic pathway; of the ‘what next.’ ”

James, from an unidentified sport, said more of an emphasis is placed on graduating than attaining a high grade-point average. Douglas noted that some study participants heard the term “doctorate” for the first time when he brought it up during interviews and others had first heard it from Ivey, who earned a doctorate in sport psychology from Missouri in 2013.

Ivey came up multiple times throughout the paper. Douglas writes that Ivey — who helped present the paper in San Antonio between the time that new Coach Barry Odom decided he would not retain him as the team’s strength coach and when he started his new post Feb. 15 — was seen by study participants as “a significant mentor who ‘didn’t give up’ on them.”

Douglas and Ivey worked together on Missouri’s “Men4Men” committee, which holds discussions with male athletes at the school about off-field issues, including one last October that dealt with race.

“There’s a lot of education that needs to happen. There’s a lot of information that needs to be shared through education,” Ivey said in an interview with FOX Sports on Nov. 13, four days after Wolfe’s resignation. “Individual acts of racism, I can’t say that I can relate. As an athlete, I had a privilege on this campus. Athletes have certain privileges. Those are things we have to acknowledge. A lot of times, we’re insulated from a lot of things that happen on campus.
“We need more of our educated leaders to speak up, be heard and have conversations that are difficult.”

In the research paper, Douglas noted that several participants expressed a desire to become more active leaders at the school. Opportunities exist for that sort of development with the Tiger Leadership Institute, which the athletic department launched last fall, but Douglas also wrote that black athletes had been hesitant to join.

That discrepancy between desire and involvement, Douglas wrote, may signal that the school needs avenues specifically for black athletes.

“There may be need for more specialized programs that take the opportunities to black males rather” than “staff waiting or hoping for them to come to leaders to express their willingness to engage,” Douglas wrote. “There are power dynamics that must be considered when programs are initiated and invitations are given; including many participants’ stated discomfort with communicating with white people, concerns for overextending their time commitments, disconnects related to how black males see themselves and their potential as academics, and the administrative hurdles (e.g. getting letters of recommendation) that may inhibit a black male student athlete from engaging or pursuing a leadership development program opportunity.”

**Recommendations**

Douglas’ goal for the paper was to come away with a better understanding of the black male athlete experience as a way to develop recommendations to help them.

Among the subsections in the “discussion” section of the paper was a proposed audit that any school can do to determine how many black authority figures it has throughout all levels of its athletic department.

Douglas found that the athletes he interviewed held advice given to them by current and former coaches in high regard.

“Do you have black male and black female leaders at every level of administration — academic advisors, tutors, counselors, mentors, engaged faculty liaisons, Asst, Assoc & AD levels?” Douglas wrote. “It’s not enough to have black coaches, and it is problematic if there is greater representation of blacks in the dining hall, janitorial, landscaping staff than there is in executive boardrooms.”

He also concluded that, at Missouri, black male athletes “need more guidance and positive exposure related to class selection options, degree/major selection, and how their selections relate to potential life and career options.”

That would help deepen the sense that, as Jeremiah expressed to him, they aren’t just on campus to play a sport. They’re there to contribute to the academic life to the university as well.
Because of the tumult of the fall, Douglas wrote, Missouri has a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of the national discourse when it comes to preparing black athletes for life after sports.

“The nation is watching and hoping we can be part of the solution, in part because race and racism remain pressing national issues that leaders across the country are struggling to address,” Douglas wrote. “One of the key takeaways from this study is the value of addressing student needs before they become demands.”

**True/False film documents experience of University of Missouri student protesters**

By Alan Burdziak

Friday, March 4, 2016 at 2:00 pm

*Being in the True/False Film Fest does not seem real yet to three University of Missouri student filmmakers who in November were granted exclusive access to the protest group Concerned Student 1950.*

Over a two-week period in November, Varun Bajaj, Adam Dietrich and Kellan Marvin, all MU juniors, shot more than 60 hours of footage with Concerned Student 1950 amid its demonstrations, protests and other events it held on campus after a lack of action from university officials in response to racial incidents on campus. Concerned Student 1950’s demonstrations led to the resignations of two university officials.

Bajaj, 21, said getting the film in the festival was never a thought until a couple of weeks ago, adding that they were starting to shoot when True/False began taking applications for festival movies.

“At no point, even to right now, I didn’t think we were going to be in True/False,” Bajaj said. They first heard last Friday that the festival’s founders, Paul Sturtz and David Wilson, wanted the movie, and they still were working on putting the finishing touches on it Thursday.

Their 30-minute documentary named after the group, which is a reference to the first year black students were admitted to MU, will premiere at the Missouri Theatre at 11:30 p.m. Saturday. People attending the screening immediately before it, “Secret Screening Navy,” can hang around to see the film, and others can line up in the festival’s trademark “Q” system for a chance at a
free ticket. The 21-minute silent film of pictures from the movement also will play the festival’s Great Wall installation from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday at Ninth Street and Broadway.

Marvin and Dietrich expressed similar disbelief that their first real documentary — since the three students started in the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism program in August, they had only shot two- or three-minute documentaries — is not only in the festival, but was bought by Field of Vision, the journalistic documentary arm of the online news site The Intercept.

“I don’t think it will really hit me until the credits roll on Saturday, and even then, I still won’t believe it,” Dietrich, 22, said of being a part of True/False.

They are the first-ever current university students to have a movie in the festival. Sarah Rolufs, press liaison for True/False, said current festival programmer Chris Boeckmann had a short film in the festival when he was in high school.

Soon after Jonathan Butler, one of Concerned Student 1950’s leaders, started a hunger strike in early November to force UM System President Tim Wolfe’s ouster, Bajaj and Dietrich went to the group’s campsite at Carnahan Quadrangle. The filmmakers were not allowed to speak to the group, a rejection that all media were given at first. But a mutual friend of Dietrich’s and Butler’s put them in touch, and Butler gave them full access. After a few days, Marvin came on to help.

The students spent 16 to 20 hours a day with the group and came to identify themselves as part of Concerned Student 1950’s movement, though they said they believe they put together an objective telling.

“Regardless where I stand as an activist, as a social justice person, as a filmmaker, as a journalist, as a documentarian, there’s this truth that lies somewhere in the middle of all of those things,” Dietrich said.

At times, the trio felt overwhelmed, frightened and unsure of what to do, what footage to include or how to put it all together. Editors and producers at Field of Vision, co-founded by Oscar-winning documentary director Laura Poitras, helped them decide the best way to tell the story.

Their film, Bajaj said, hopefully will change the current narratives about the protests, which have focused on Assistant Professor Melissa Click, who was fired for her actions on the quadrangle. Click’s job status became a major issue in the Missouri General Assembly.

“It’s about the movement and this campus and this town and the changes that need to be made and the conversations that need to be had,” Bajaj said.
Musical couple arranges concert to benefit homeless families

KEELEY DORITY, Mar 4, 2016

COLUMBIA — The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary wants to raise money to help homeless families secure jobs and homes. They're going to do it through music.

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Benefit Concert will be held Sunday at the Broadway Christian Church to raise money for the Salvation Army's "Almost Home" program.

The concert begins at 3 p.m. and is followed by a reception. Tickets cost $20 for adults and $10 for students; children under 12 are allowed in for free.

The idea for the event began in 2011 when Judith McKenney volunteered to start a women’s auxiliary in Columbia. After starting the auxiliary, McKenney wanted to do something to raise money for the Salvation Army.

McKenney and her husband are both musically trained. Her husband, W. Thomas McKenney, is a professor in the MU school of music, and Judith McKenney thought the perfect way to raise money would be with a benefit concert.

The first event in 2011 had about 25 attendees, and Judith McKenney hopes this year's concert will draw at least 200 and raise $10,000 to help homeless families secure jobs and housing.

The concert will feature 11 professional musicians playing "extraordinary" music, McKenney said. The pieces will be short and will change often.

"That way if you don’t like something, it won’t last that long," McKenney said, laughing.

She said she believes in the mission of the program and thinks music is a great way to raise money.
"The program really is the key that opens the door to give families a new life," she said. "It's a wonderful success story."