

MU Health is in compliance

Follow-up visit yields clean bill.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

The University of Missouri Health Care system is now in full compliance with Medicare regulations, ending five months of scrutiny for not being compliant with a variety of standards related to infection control, facility maintenance and patient rights.

MU Health CEO Jim Ross was notified April 4 that a follow-up inspection of University Hospital and other facilities on March 30 determined corrections made related to an inspection last fall and again in January were acceptable.

“Your facility is now in compliance with the Medicare requirements for hospitals in Missouri,” said a letter to Ross from Dean Linneman, an administrator for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. MU Health officials did not respond to requests for an interview.

State inspectors in November made an unannounced visit based on a complaint focused on the hospital’s sterile processing department. Inspectors determined the complaint was unsubstantiated “with unrelated deficiencies.” Inspectors cited dozens of observations about deficiencies in infection control and housekeeping.

Officials with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said the hospital did not meet “conditions of participation” — standards that must be met to receive reimbursement for Medicare patients — in numerous areas. Hospital officials responded with a massive cleaning of the hospital and by hiring additional housekeeping staff.

A follow-up visit by 10 inspectors ended Jan. 25 and found noncompliance in 11 areas, including patient safety, patient rights, maintenance of the physical plant and poor hand hygiene practices and monitoring.

The hospital’s initial plan of correction forwarded to the Department of Health was deemed “unacceptable,” so the hospital put together an amended plan. Inspectors determined in a March 30 visit that corrections had been made and “the hospital was in compliance with all health and life safety code regulations.”

The Jan. 25 report flagged the hospital for its use of restraints and handcuffs. Inspectors reviewed 248 security guard responses for a 12-month period showing nine patients were placed

in handcuffs. The hospital responded by revising its policy “so that handcuffs will not be used on a patient unless the patient’s behavior is considered a criminal action ...”

Inspectors also noted a Jan. 17 report of a patient who was “aggressive and out of control” because of a recent head injury. Security staff was called and manually restrained the patient. During the incident, according to the report, “the patient struck his/her head on the wall. The family member stated the patient was begging to have his/her arms released while still being held by security and then stated he/she was going to vomit, which the” patient “did. The security guard then released the patient from the hold, and escorted the patient back to bed.”

In another finding, inspectors cited the hospital for not having window coverings over patient door windows in the behavioral health pediatric unit. Hospital officials pointed out the windows had been installed “as a result of a past DHSS survey that cited the facility for not being able to observe the patients while the patients were in their rooms.”

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Time running out on UM curator nominations

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — Senate President Pro Tem Rob Mayer yesterday said he is holding up the nominations of two members to the University of Missouri Board of Curators to get Gov. Jay Nixon to make appointments Mayer wants.

When lawmakers adjourn today, they will have two weeks left to complete their work for the year. If the Senate does not confirm Columbia attorney Craig Van Matre and Cassville attorney Donald Cupps by May 13, they would be barred from ever being appointed to the board.

Both nominees are Democrats appointed more than three months ago. St. Louis businessman David Steward of St. Louis, appointed the day before Van Matre and Cupps, was confirmed early this month.

“I need to talk with the governor about some things,” Mayer said. “There are just some little, small matters I have to get resolved.”

The “little, small matters” are appointments Mayer would like to see Nixon make. Those appointments do not need to be made before lawmakers go home, Mayer said, but he added that he needs a commitment from Nixon before moving forward on the curators.

“They are just good people who would be good in several certain positions,” he said without giving specifics.

The curators are engaged in a search for a new university president, and the Ninth Congressional District, which includes Columbia, has had no voice in the search to this point because the seat is vacant.

Some observers had suggested Van Matre’s nomination was being held up by Sen. Bob Dixon, R-Springfield, in retaliation for the opposition of Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, to the nomination of Springfield attorney Tom Strong to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Strong was nominated to the coordinating board in the fall as an independent. He is the attorney Nixon, while attorney general, hired in the 1990s to handle the state’s interests in the massive national lawsuit against tobacco companies.

Asked about the connection, Mayer seemed to confirm the rumors by saying he intended to speak to Schaefer and Dixon about it. In separate interviews, Dixon said he was not involved in

blocking any nominations, and Schaefer, while confirming his opposition to Strong, said he was not the only member of the Senate who questioned Strong's political independence.

"That is patently not true," Dixon said of his supposed role in keeping Van Matre off the board. "I can't imagine why that would be connected in anyone's mind."

And Strong, Dixon said, is the epitome of an independent. While he has been a supporter of Nixon, Dixon said, Strong has also at one point served as chairman of the Greene County Republican Central Committee.

As for curator choices, Dixon said, "I would support any of them that have been nominated."

Schaefer said he has done all he can to push Van Matre's nomination, but he also dismissed any connection to Strong's lack of confirmation.

Nixon spokesman Scott Holste said the governor continues to support all three nominees. Answers about why the nominations are stalled can only come from the Senate, he said.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Pell grants for summer are dropped in budget deal

BY TIM BARKER • tbarker@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8350 | Posted: Friday, April 29, 2011 12:15 am

The federal budget deal that avoided a government shutdown didn't do any favors for needy college students looking to take summer classes.

Among all the compromising done by Democrats and Republicans was a plan to trim back the rapidly escalating costs of the Pell Grant program that supports low-income college students. They decided to kill the portion of the program that offers support for the summer semester.

It was either that or trim the maximum award — \$5,550 — offered to students during the full year. Cutting summer aid, starting in 2012, was the better option in the eyes of some local financial aid officers. A more general across-the-board cut, they said, would have affected a much larger pool of students.

Last year at the University of Missouri-Columbia, for example, only 700 students used Pell Grants during the summer semester.

"I wouldn't say that's trivial. But it's not a huge number," said Jim Brooks, the school's director of student financial aid.

The summer grant, called the Year-Round Pell Grant, is actually a fairly new offering, established through the Higher Education Act of 2008. Essentially it allows some students to receive a second award, generally in the summer.

The problem is that the Pell Grant program has ballooned as enrollment has climbed. Since 2008, the cost of the program has soared to \$34 billion, up from \$16 billion.

That left President Barack Obama and legislators wrangling over how to rein in spending. Some Republicans wanted to slash the maximum yearly award by \$2,000, while Obama pushed to cancel summer benefits.

The summer offering was developed with the idea that it would help students finish their education more quickly — a plan that seems to fit with Obama's goal of significantly increasing the nation's output of college degrees by 2020.

It's hard to say how loss of the extra grant will affect summer enrollment. After all, it didn't seem to have that much of an impact on enrollment at schools such as Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

In each of the two summers before the Year-Round Pell Grant was offered, the school received more than 2,600 applications for financial aid. In 2010, the first year of the summer Pell Grant, applications were actually down about 500, said Terri Harfst, interim director of financial aid.

"We had more students (getting financial aid) in summer school when they weren't receiving Pell Grants," Harfst said.

Still, there is at least one sector that's nervous about the change.

The for-profit schools — which receive nearly a third of the summer Pell money — stand to be hit harder simply because of their student mix. Unlike students at traditional schools such as Mizzou, the students at for-profits tend to have full-time jobs and family commitments.

"They like to get through school quickly. And they aren't interested in summer breaks," said Harris Miller, president of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities.

The organization, which represents more than 1,600 for-profit colleges, is lobbying Washington to reconsider its decision and look for other solutions to the problem. It is not alone.

Some financial aid experts, worried over additional cuts next year, are calling for modifications of current rules. Among the suggestions being offered:

- Require students to take 15 hours a semester — up from 12 hours — to speed them through college more quickly and save money over the long term.
- Cut eligibility to six years from eight, again forcing students to finish more quickly.
- Change formulas for determining who gets how much money, to make sure only the neediest students are getting the maximum awards.

Regardless of what options are chosen, some students will get less help with their college costs, said Sandy Baum, education consultant and senior fellow at the George Washington University school of education and human development.

"Anything you come up with, there is going to be a downside to it. There's no perfect answer," Baum said.

Posted on Thu, Apr. 28, 2011

University says Internet video distorted labor lecturers' meaning

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
The Kansas City Star

Videos released on the Internet showing two University of Missouri instructors advocating union violence totally distorted their comments, a university official said Thursday.

The university made the determination after reviewing hours of unedited videotape of class lectures.

Videos posted Monday by Andrew Breitbart's Big Government website show University of Missouri-Kansas City professor Judy Ancel and Don Giljum, a lecturer from the St. Louis campus, team-teaching a Labor in Politics and Society class.

The video shows Ancel, who directs UMKC's Institute for Labor Studies, telling her class: "Violence is a tactic, and it's to be used when it's the appropriate tactic."

Other snippets appear to show Giljum, a member of Operating Engineers Local 148, describing such tactics as "strategically placing a screwdriver near equipment" and circulating literature about "plant sabotage" that he and union buddies used to force plant shutdowns.

But university officials, who have spent the week reviewing much of the "18 hours of an unedited video of the Labor in Politics and Society class," say the website videos are obviously bogus.

"It is clear that edited videos posted on the Internet depict statements from the instructors in an inaccurate and distorted manner by taking their statements out of context and reordering the sequence in which those statements were actually made so as to change their meaning," UMKC provost Gail Hackett said in a statement.

The editing is evident when, in the middle of the lecture, Ancel appears in different clothes.

"Such selective editing is disturbing, and the release of students' images without their permission is a violation of their privacy rights," Hackett's statement said.

The class is a collaboration between the university's Kansas City and St. Louis campuses. Neither Ancel nor Giljum could be reached for comment Thursday.

The university said that during the investigation Giljum resigned. The university statement did not say why he left.

Breitbart operates several other websites, including Breitbart.tv, Big Hollywood, Big Journalism and Big Peace. Employees of the websites could not be reached Thursday.

The sites are known for publishing selectively edited video. It was Big Government that issued a video last July purporting to show U.S. Department of Agriculture official Shirley Sherrod making a discriminatory comment about a white farmer. In fact she was saying that she didn't treat that farmer any differently because of his race.

Videos 'Ripped' From Online-Course Footage Bring Threats to Instructors

By Peter Schmidt

The University of Missouri system has been besieged with angry letters and phone calls, and top officials at its St. Louis campus have asked an adjunct faculty member to resign, as a result of the conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart's posting videos this week that appear to show two labor-studies instructors advocating union violence.

A contributor to Mr. Breitbart's Web site produced the two videos, which run roughly seven minutes each, from about 30 hours of lecture footage taped as part of a distance-education course and uploaded onto the university's Blackboard course-management system.

Because the footage includes depictions of students in the classroom and was supposed to be accessible only to faculty members, students enrolled in the course, and university technical-support personnel, its wide-scale online distribution has raised concerns about students' privacy rights and the unauthorized use of online course footage to put colleges' faculty members under political pressure.

Mr. Breitbart declined Thursday to comment or respond to allegations that the videos were selectively edited to look incriminating.

After Mr. Breitbart's Web site posted the videos on Monday, the university system initially responded with a statement distancing itself from the comments that the lecturers are depicted making. "Obviously, the comments on the video do not reflect the position of the University of Missouri," said the statement from Jennifer Hollingshead, a system spokeswoman. Officials at the St. Louis and Kansas City campuses, where the lectures were delivered, "are looking into the situation," her statement said.

On Thursday, however, Gail Hackett, provost of the University of Missouri at Kansas City, issued a statement denouncing how the videos are presented on Mr. Breitbart's Web site, based on the campus's continuing review of the raw classroom footage used to make them.

"From the review completed to date," her statement said, "it is clear that edited videos posted on the Internet depict statements from the instructors in an inaccurate and distorted manner by

taking their statements out of context and reordering the sequence in which those statements were actually made so as to change their meaning. Such selective editing is disturbing, and the release of students' images without their permission is a violation of their privacy rights."

'A Hatchet job'

The statement from Provost Hackett nonetheless said the St. Louis campus "has accepted the resignation of its lecturer."

But on Thursday, Don Giljum, the adjunct instructor at the St. Louis campus who is depicted in the videotapes, went from saying he planned to resign that day to saying he had not tendered his resignation and was reconsidering his decision to do so.

Mr. Giljum said he had been told by his immediate supervisor at the St. Louis campus, Deborah Baldini, associate dean for continuing education, that both the campus's chancellor and provost had called for him to resign, even though he had never been given a chance to discuss with them the allegations made in the video. Mr. Giljum said the only opportunity he has been given to defend himself was a brief conversation with Ms. Baldini in which, he said, he told her the statements he is shown making in the video "were taken totally out of context and completely edited. It is nothing but a hatchet job by this person who wants to destroy unions and destroy labor education."

The administrators' request for his resignation "is a huge mistake on their part," Mr. Giljum said, arguing that, based on the videos, "they are going to sacrifice academic freedom and the open and free-flowing exchange of thoughts and ideas between teachers and students."

Regardless of what happens at St. Louis, Mr. Giljum, who politically identifies himself as a communist, has already lost one source of income because of the controversy over the videotapes. The St. Louis-based Local 148 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, for which he had worked as business manager, demanded his resignation on Wednesday. Mr. Giljum said he is worried that Southwestern Illinois College, where he teaches a class on labor relations, will ask for his resignation as well.

The other instructor depicted in the videos is Judith Ancel, director of the Institute for Labor Studies at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. The footage used for the videos show her and Mr. Giljum team-teaching a course titled "Labor, Politics, and Society" through video conferencing. In a statement issued on Thursday, she said neither she nor Mr. Giljum ever advocated violence in their classroom lectures, but they felt compelled to discuss it given the violent history of the labor movement.

In the statement, Ms. Ancel said she is "outraged at Mr. Breitbart's invasion of our classroom and his attempts to intimidate us and my colleagues at the university." She called Mr. Breitbart "a master of taking quotes out of context, deletion of what doesn't serve his purpose, and remixing to achieve totally different meaning," and cited several points in the video where she believes statements by her and Mr. Giljum were taken out of context or otherwise distorted.

Plan to 'Go After' Educators

If Mr. Breitbart's Web site has broadcast a misleadingly edited video, it would hardly be the first time. The site is notorious for having put up the video that purported to show a Department of Agriculture official, Shirley Sherrod, saying she had discriminated against a white farmer, when a review of her comments in context show that she said no such thing. (Ms. Sherrod, who was forced to resign after the video came out, has sued Mr. Breitbart.)

Mr. Breitbart's Web site also publicized the 2009 hidden-camera videos of employees of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or Acorn, which appear to show the employees advising a pimp and prostitute on how to deceive the IRS about their activities and income. Law-enforcement officials who investigated the allegations have said the videos were edited to make it look as if the employees were actively engaged in wrongdoing when, in fact, they were not.

Mr. Breitbart had indicated in an April 18 interview on *Hannity*, Sean Hannity's show on Fox News, that he planned to "go after" educators and their union organizers.

Mary Lou Hines Fritts, chief information officer for the Kansas City campus, said on Thursday that the classroom footage used in the videos on Mr. Breitbart's site technically could not have been downloaded, and the videos must have been made by capturing streaming video through a process commonly known as "ripping."

Wandra B. Green, a spokeswoman for the campus, said, "What we believe was that an individual who had valid access used a third-party tool to capture the video, and, after they did that, they modified it for their personal use, without authorization from UMKC."

Public reaction to the videos has been heated. Web sites associated with the Tea Party movement in Missouri have been urging activists to contact university and state officials and demand, among other things, that the faculty members involved in the course be fired and that the labor-studies program be suspended. Both Mr. Giljum and Ms. Ancel said they have been barraged with angry phone calls and letters, and Mr. Giljum said he has received explicit death threats over the phone.

The American Association of University Professors issued a statement on Thursday characterizing the videos on the Web site as an assault on "the academic freedom and employment security of the instructors," and "the privacy and safe classroom environment of the students, some of whom speak on the video clip."

"When students voice their views in class, they should not have to fear that their comments will be spread all over the Internet," the statement said. "When faculty members rightly explore difficult topics in class, they should not have to fear for their jobs or their lives."

The statement called on the two campuses and the university system "to speak out clearly and forcefully in defense of the rights of their professors and students."



The Shirley Sherrods of Academe?

April 29, 2011

Videos posted by the conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart appear to have ended the teaching career of an adjunct at the University of Missouri -- even as university officials issued a statement backing the contention of the two instructors of the labor studies course that their comments in the class had been edited to present an "inaccurate and distorted" picture of what was said.

Breitbart posted the videos ([here](#) and [here](#)) on his Big Government blog and, based on the recordings, called the course "advanced thuggery." In the video, the two instructors can be heard making numerous seemingly positive statements about the use of violence or threatened violence in labor-management relations. The course is taught by one instructor at the university's Kansas City campus, Judy Ancel, and another at the St. Louis campus, Don Giljum. With a video link, the professors and students at the two campuses interact in class -- and the recordings have been available to students through the learning management system used in the course. The videos posted by Breitbart are clearly from different class sessions, as the professors appear in different clothing.

In interviews Thursday, both Ancel and Giljum said that their statements in the videos were a mixture of different teaching techniques, including describing how labor leaders felt during certain periods of time, directly quoting specific individuals (whose views they did not necessarily share), and intentionally taking an extreme position to prompt class discussion.

They said that the full recordings would make this clear, and that they would like the complete class sessions released. The problem, they said, was that the recordings show identifiable students as well as the instructors (which is the case in the excerpts posted by Breitbart, too), so the university can't just post the recordings without violating student privacy rights.

Late Thursday afternoon, Gail Hackett, provost of the Kansas City campus, issued a statement that backed the instructors' description of the class, based on administrators' review so far of the 18 hours of available video (of which Breitbart's two excerpts are together under 15 minutes). "From the review completed to date, it is clear that edited videos posted on the Internet depict statements from the instructors in an inaccurate and distorted manner by taking their statements out of context and reordering the sequence in which those statements were actually made so as to change their meaning," Hackett said. "Such selective editing is disturbing and the release of

students' images without their permission is a violation of their privacy rights." (University officials assume that a student either gave Breitbart a copy of the video of the class or provided access.)

Hackett's statement went on to "underscore our commitment to the importance of academic freedom, freedom of speech and the free-flowing discussion of challenging topics in our courses," as well as "the serious responsibilities this places on us to ensure a balanced perspective is offered to our students within our curriculum."

And Hackett said that "[i]n this particular case, we also affirm our belief that studying labor unions, their history, and their role in society is an important subject given the role they have played and continue to play in the United States and the world. As a result, we continue to review the appropriate place for such an offering within our curriculum."

Breitbart did not respond to a request from *Inside Higher Ed* for a response to the allegation that the videos he posted are distorted.

This is not the first time that he has been accused of selective editing. It was Breitbart who posted the excerpt of a talk by Shirley Sherrod, then an Agriculture Department official, purporting to show her expressing anti-white racial attitudes, setting off a furor that led to her resignation. The subsequently released video of her complete talk showed how she was referencing long-ago attitudes and in fact gave a moving call for racial reconciliation.

Breitbart may be on the lookout for other academics. Appearing on Sean Hannity's show on Fox last week, he said that "we're going to take on education next, and go after the teachers and union organizers."

The American Association of University Professors released a statement late Thursday denouncing Breitbart's tactics, and contrasting the alleged calls to violence in the videos with the damage that the association said is really taking place. "The violence that is being done ... is to the academic freedom and employment security of the instructors, and to the privacy and safe classroom environment of the students, some of whom speak on the video clip," said the AAUP statement. "When students voice their views in class, they should not have to fear that their comments will be spread all over the Internet. When faculty members rightly explore difficult topics in class, they should not have to fear for their jobs or their lives."

While the university's statement endorsed academic freedom, it also noted that during "the course of our review the past couple days, UMSL has accepted the resignation of its lecturer." The St. Louis campus declined to elaborate on that resignation, but Giljum said that he was told by a dean that she needed him to resign, and had been told by her higher-ups to get his resignation.

Noting that he is an adjunct, Giljum said that "they could care less about me. I am an at-will employee, and they are focused on preserving funding for the university."

He said that the university sent a message by asking him to resign in the wake of the videos. "Teachers here are no longer going to be able to express comments, theories or counter-positions or make statements to force students to push back and critically challenge the comments and statements of the teacher," he said.

Teaching in such an environment, he said, "I would be guarded about what I would say, and students would be guarded as well."

Ancel, the other instructor, said in an interview that she works on annual contracts and that the university has not taken any action against her. She also released a statement in which she explained the context behind some of the quotes shown in the video.

For example, she noted that one of her quotes in the Breitbart video is: "violence is a tactic and it's to be used when it's the appropriate tactic." Here is what she said really happened: "After students had watched a film on the 1968 Memphis sanitation workers' strike and the assassination of Martin Luther King, they were discussing nonviolence. I said, 'One guy in the film ... said 'violence is a tactic, and it's to be used when it's the appropriate tactic.' " In this instance, she said, "Breitbart's editing has literally put words in my mouth that were not mine, and they never were mine."

Both Ancel and Giljum said that a course about the history of the labor movement would of necessity discuss violence. Ancel said in her statement: "Any examination of labor's past would be incomplete without discussion of violence (which for the most part was directed at workers), and analysis of its roots. At no time did my co-instructor, Don Giljum, nor I advocate violence."

While Ancel's statement said that complete review of the tapes would vindicate both instructors, she added that the videos had caused real pain, "ugly" threats and the loss of Giljum's job. "These videos are no idle prank. They do real harm," she said.

She also stressed that the invasion of privacy extended to her students -- some of whom want to learn about labor without telling their bosses, and who are visible in the videos. "These videos are an attack on higher education and its mission to working adults, putting labor education programs at risk. They create fear and have an enormously chilling effect on freedom of thought and expression," her statement said. "Sadly, they have already shattered the very positive atmosphere of trust and openness that we worked so hard to create in this class. One of my students told me, with some discomfort, 'My boss watches Fox News.' "



MU faculty given honors

Student focus is highlighted.

They're the instructors willing to work with students after class, the professors who drive them to out-of-town conferences and create extracurricular projects to make classroom lessons come alive.

Yesterday, 10 University of Missouri faculty members were honored for that work. The Excellence in Education Awards recognizes faculty, staff and administrators known for going beyond normal duties on behalf of students.

"The primary goal of this university is to maintain a focus on student learning, but that doesn't mean just sitting in a classroom," Provost Brian Foster said in the ceremony at Reynolds Alumni Center. Recipients were selected for their creativity in education and focus on the "whole student," he said.

The Division of Student Affairs and the MU Parents Leadership Council sponsor the awards, which come with a \$100 gift. Awardees are nominated by students and colleagues, and a panel of former recipients selects the winners. Honorees this year include:

- Heather Carver, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre, was honored for mentoring students. She has used her own experiences with breast cancer to put on one-woman performances and last fall organized a student event during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Lois Huneycutt, associate professor in the Department of History, was praised for guiding students. She also drives a group to Michigan every year to provide opportunities off campus.
- Barbara Ifshin, assistant professor in the School of Journalism, organizes student-led communication campaigns through Mojo Ad to give students real-world experience. She's also known for helping students find jobs at top industries.
- Leslie Jett, executive chef and assistant teaching professor in hotel and restaurant management, also gives students work experience. Every year, the class adopts a Navy ship where students prepare meals for sailors during Thanksgiving week.
- Chip Kemp, instructor of livestock in the Division of Animal Sciences, travels with students to train them to judge livestock. He's considered the No. 1 recruiter for students in production agriculture.
- Patrick Market, associate professor of atmosphere science, leads a campus weather-forecasting group and a storm chasers club to give students forecasting experience.

- Phyllis Moore, director of the master's program in the School of Accountancy, is known for making students a priority and for going the extra mile to help them. She developed a way for business students to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.
- Seido Ray Ronci, an associate teaching professor in the Department of English, leads the Buddhist Association on campus. One student credited Ronci for teaching him about life and always being ready to offer encouragement and advice.
- LuAnne Roth, education coordinator for Mizzou Advantage and an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of English, is leading an effort to create new certificate programs. She was praised for mentoring and creating new opportunities for students.
- Ric Wilson, assistant professor of art, is said to ask students the right questions in the classroom to empower them to make their own decisions. He was described as a role model.

The instructors play a key role in students' lives, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs told recipients. "Some of the most powerful relationships students will have are with you."

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THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Editorial: Debacle highlights MU's Facebook transparency, Conway's idiocy

Published April 29, 2011

In case you missed it, a digital debacle ensued on MU's Facebook page after unwise comments from many, most notably Missouri State Representative Kathie Conway.

The original posting was promoting MU Pride Month's keynote speech, a lecture by scholar and speaker E. Patrick Johnson. Johnson's lecture covered issues regarding black and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, particularly from his experience with those in the South.

Among the immature and discriminating comments, Conway, on her personal Facebook account, questioned, "Really?? This is educational? Just what is the percentage of the population that this could possibly apply? .0001%?"

Her comment, along with others, caused a domino effect, spawning heated posts between those in favor of those speaker and critical of Conway, and those on the other side. The postings became so out of control that MU, in accordance with their posting policies, deleted the entire post.

This move could have been eerily hasty and non-transparent had MU not issued a later blog about the matter, explaining their posting policies and clarifying why they took the post down. We applaud MU for handling this tense situation maturely and transparently, and hope they continue the trend in future situations.

Rep. Conway, in an interview with The Maneater, said the situation made her realize when "You are a public figure, you no longer have a personal opinion." How unfortunate for her, as it seems she finds a distinction between her persona as a representative and her actual persona, the ignorant colors of whom we all saw on Facebook.

What Rep. Conway could have taken from this situation is the realization that her responsibilities to her constituency, her professionalism and her quality of conduct do not fade away when she's chilling on Facebook. Having opinions different than others as a public figure is acceptable, but not if your means of expressing them is immature, uninformed and unprofessional.

Missouri elk: Are they going into the wrong place?

elks — posted by mary anna gentleman on April, 29 2011 12:54 AM

University of Missouri sends a news release on the advisability of reintroducing elk in Missouri: R. Lee Lyman, the chairman of anthropology at the university, thinks state's Department of Conservation's plan to bring elk into southeast Missouri is good for elk, tourism and the economy, but he fears the effort may have unintended and unpredictable negative consequences.

Lyman has studied the history of mammals, conservation biology and wildlife management for nearly 40 years. He said a 2002 MU study completed by a graduate student proved that most prehistoric elk remains found in Missouri were in the field plains of the northwestern area of the state, not the southeast reintroduction location.

“If we are looking for the best place for elk survival, we should consider why elk were not in the southeastern part of the state in prehistoric times,” Lyman said. “If they weren’t there previously, why would they survive there now? The Mississippi flood plain – where they are being reintroduced – is not the best habitat, because elk didn’t live there for some reason, such as the wrong kind of food or bad terrain.”

A coordinated effort to control a species is always controversial, Lyman said, because it involves many factors, including politics, economics, tourism and biology. He thinks mistakes can be avoided if the prehistoric record is considered.

There are plenty of examples where wild animal control has not been advantageous to the environment. For example, in Missouri, river otters that were reintroduced are now dominating ponds and overtaking ecosystems. In Montana and Idaho, ranchers and farmers have successfully fought to get wolves that were reintroduced to the Yellowstone ecosystem in the early 1990s removed from the endangered list, so that farmers can kill the wolves, which jeopardize livestock.

“The issues in these situations relate to time and the ecological cascade that happens when you change one variable,” Lyman said. “A hundred years is nothing when compared to the 12,000 years elk have been in America. So what is going to happen when elk roam the Ozarks? If we think that 500-pound elk are going to stay in one area, that is pretty naive. No matter how much data scientists collect and use to make predictions, we’re still talking about wild animals. The truth is no one really knows.”

Lyman points to Missouri’s whitetail deer as an example of animals thriving in the dense Missouri forests.

“The scrawny whitetail deer in our cities and dead along our highways are proof that there can be too much of a good thing,” Lyman said.



HIV positive women share their stories through photos

5:37 PM, Apr 28, 2011 | [comments](#)

St. Louis, MO (KSDK) - If a picture is worth a thousand words, a photo of a road collapse speaks volumes for Tamika Taylor-Jackson.

"That's how I felt -- empty, alone," Jackson said. "But I knew it could be fixed one day, eventually."

Diagnosed with HIV in 2001, she instinctively knew she would survive. But would her spirit?

"Everybody looked at me like a germ, a disease, I don't want to touch her, my own family," Jackson said.

So, when a University of Missouri professor asked her to take pictures to describe her life and how she felt, Jackson knew just where to start.

"I took pictures of my houses from the time I was diagnosed. I had to dig, soul search on that. It got me emotional," Jackson explained.

Her husband left after discovering she was positive, and the family home was later foreclosed on. Taylor-Jackson says the photos helped her find an inner strength and spiritual connection that gave her hope.

That professor was Michelle Teti at the University of Missouri. She's been working with HIV positive women for years. But early on, she noticed a disconnect in the message of prevention and the realities of life.

"I was teaching them traditional things like how to use condoms, tell their partner about having HIV. And these skills were really important, but the more I worked with women living with HIV, I realized they needed a whole lot more than just those skills," Teti said.

Many of the women weren't even having basic needs met. So Teti began searching for a way to help them define the priorities in their lives.

Using a method called "Photo Voice," where participants document their life in pictures, she found 12 H-I-V positive women in St. Louis and gave them cameras.

"I said, 'Take the camera, go out and show me what it's like to be you. Tell me about your life, your assets, your challenges,'" Teti explained.

Many of the women used the camera to show they're still healthy, hopeful. Others documented challenges they still face.

One woman shot an abandoned building in her neighborhood that had become riddled with crime. She used the photos to advocate for the destruction of the building. A community garden now sits in its place.

"You can talk about things all day long, but I think there's a power in being able to show it," Jackson said.

It's not a project that's directly slowing the spread of this disease, but hopefully it's lessening the stigma.

"A lot of times people ended up living with HIV because they did things people do every day. They trusted someone, they didn't ask all the right questions," Teti said. "For all different kinds of reasons, HIV makes you a survivor. There's just a lot of strength in that. The women are really strong, really resilient. And I think they want people to know that"

For Jackson, the process helped her learn about herself, and see the value in sharing her story.

"I'm not upset, I'm not ashamed," Jackson said. "I'll get out there and help save this next generation."



Gay mumbo jumbo at MU is infuriating

Editor, the Tribune: Ssssssss! Sssssss! It's my blood boiling. I just finished reading the front page of the April 14 Tribune. As a taxpayer and supporter of the University of Missouri, it makes me furious.

On the left, we are now advocating state-sponsored cohabitation, and on the right we are bowing to pressure from such places as Australia, Germany and Sweden to bring MU into the 21st century by offering benefits to same-sex couples. In a time when everyone's budget is maxed out, what a great idea to strain just a little further to scratch the backs of the "feel good" crowd. At the same time the state budget is maxed out and we are all trying to provide a good education for those who want to learn, we have those who want to acquiesce to the queer community.

As a taxpayer, it makes me furious to send my hard-earned money to support such crap. Let's rush and get on the bandwagon and embrace every left-wing, cockamamie idea out there. We want to rush into the 21st century so we can be like California, New York and all those other "broke" states. Somebody enlighten me: Where does education fit into all this mumbo jumbo?

Dave Miller

2509 Lilac Drive

Denim Day at MU brings awareness, support

By Caitlyn Crawford

April 28, 2011 | 6:50 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The tale of Denim Day, a day that aims to raise awareness about rape and support sexual assault victims, has surprised newcomers for years.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday at the MU Student Center, members of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center and other campus organizations offered pins, a denim craft and this story:

“In 1992, a young girl in Italy was raped on the side of the road by her driving instructor,” said Danica Wolf, coordinator of the prevention center.

The girl pressed charges and won. However, the instructor appealed the case shortly after, sending it to the Italian High Court.

“In 1999, the case was overturned when a member of the High Court said that since the victim was wearing very tight jeans, the instructor could not have removed them by himself, therefore the victim must have willingly participated,” Wolf said.

Women of the Italian legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. In April 1999, Denim Day became an international event, starting in California.

Wolf said the event may seem outdated, but these same types of rulings happen around the world even today.

“Australia, South Korea — both have had similar rulings in recent years that were based on skinny jeans,” she said.

There’s still a lot of room for change, she said.

Aside from raising awareness, Denim Day is meant to show support for victims of sexual assault.

“One in four women will experience a rape or attempted rape by the time they graduate from college,” Wolf said.

And that’s a scary thing to think about, much less talk about, Alyssa Rogers, co-coordinator of the prevention center, said.

“Acknowledging that it happens that often means acknowledging that it’s probably happened to people you know and love,” Rogers said. “And no one wants to think about that. We all want to focus on things that affirm the belief that we live in a safe place.”

Rogers said she thinks there are thousands of survivors on this campus. “But they’re never going to walk around wearing T-shirts saying, ‘I was raped,’” she said.

That’s why this event is perfect, she said. “Setting up these tables outside the Student Center, handing out pins, making denim crafts and telling people the story, ... they all serve to show support for these victims.”

“Being a part of this day says, ‘Hey, we care about what happened to you,’” Rogers said. “And we’re doing everything we can to stop it from happening to others.”

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Gender-neutral housing resolution debated

Twenty-six MSA senators voted in favor of the resolution.

By Amanda Capua

Published April 29, 2011

The Missouri Students Association hosted a joint session meeting with other on-campus student organizations Wednesday evening. The organizations present were the Residence Hall Association, the Graduate Professional Council, the Legion of Black Collegians, Four Front, the Panhellenic Association and the Interfraternity Council.

Various pieces of legislation were presented, but the piece that stirred the most debate was the resolution proposing that Residential Life offer gender-neutral housing to students living on campus.

According to the resolution, gender-neutral housing is “an accommodation for students that feel more comfortable living with people who express a different gender identity than themselves.”

The resolution also states that general-neutral housing would only be located in a particular residence hall on its own floor.

“It’s important as an inclusive campus to have this option,” MSA Operations Chairman Justin Mohn said in a speech. “It will be more inclusive toward the community.”

The resolution states that students would not be put in a gender-neutral housing environment unless they show interest in it.

According to the resolution, “gender-neutral housing communities focus on creating an inclusive environment where students can live in the same room with any student — regardless of sex, gender, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation.”

MSA Student Affairs representative Claire Kates opposed passing the resolution because it could lead to targeting students leading to discrimination.

“Having students all in one place like that would not be good,” Kates said. “It’s just like separate but equal. It’s a step in the wrong direction.”

Kates said applying for residence hall positions was already competitive, and this resolution would eliminate jobs in the residence halls for people who are uncomfortable working in a gender-neutral housing environment.

MSA Student Affairs Chairman Tyler Ricketts said he believed gender-neutral housing was a step worth taking.

“I am an advocate for residents who don’t have a space where they can feel comfortable,” Ricketts said in a speech.

MSA senators signified their vote through role call, and a majority of the MSA senate voted in favor of the resolution. Nine MSA senators opposed the resolution: Claire Kates, Lindsey Miller, Taeler De Haes, Nick Droege, Jake Wilhelm, Paul Ruppe, Michael Weaver, Taylore Johnson and Jordan Denker.

RHA and Four Front passed the resolution along with MSA, and LBC opposed it. PHA and IFC abstained from voting on all resolutions.

Ricketts said Residential Life can use this resolution in the future to show students are in favor of gender-neutral housing.

“The resolution can be used as justification for implementation,” Ricketts said.

According to the resolution, it is recommended that “Residential Life offer gender-neutral housing opportunities to residents by fall 2012.”

“This will give Residential Life a year to set it up before students ROAR,” Ricketts said. “I think it’s possible.”

The gavel signifying who will host the next joint session in the upcoming year was passed from MSA to LBC.



Aldon Smith And Blaine Gabbert Of Missouri Are First Round Selections In The NFL Draft

A pair of University of Missouri football standouts were selected Thursday night in the first round of the 2011 NFL Draft, as sophomore DE Aldon Smith and junior QB Blaine Gabbert were taken seventh and 10th overall, by the San Francisco 49ers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, respectively.

This marks the first time in Mizzou history that two Tigers have gone in the top 10 in the same draft.

Prior to 2011, Mizzou had a total of five top-10 draft picks in school history.

Gabbert and Smith give Mizzou five first-round draft picks in the last three years .

Previously, WR Jeremy Maclin (No. 19 to Philadelphia in 2009) became the first Tiger to play under Gary Pinkel to become a first-round pick.

He was joined in that same draft by DL Ziggy Hood (No. 32 to Pittsburgh) to mark the first time since 1977 that two Tigers went in the first round in the same draft.

That feat was followed in 2010 when LB Sean Weatherspoon became the third first-rounder in two years (No. 19 to Atlanta).

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Editorial: Futuristic classroom expansion shows fiscal irresponsibility

Published April 29, 2011

In an attempt to innovate the classroom experience with enhanced interactivity between course content and media, MU's Department of Space Planning and Management updated a room in Strickland Hall in fall 2010.

Decking it out with interactive whiteboards and seats "much more comfortable than your average chair," these futuristic rooms were created with the purpose of improving the classroom experience. Instructors at the time lauded the room's ability to create a "more mature and intellectual," rather than "institutional," learning environment.

Now less than a year later, plans have been set to expand the program to other facilities on campus.

We are enthusiastic about concrete initiatives to better integrate interactive media into the classroom, as we've all at one point been in the audience of a broken projector or DVD player. Enhancing the technology of our classrooms is certainly a worthwhile task, and we advocate it when appropriate.

However, carrying a \$100,000 price tag apiece, these rooms seem excessive compared to MU's ever-increasing list of deferred maintenance projects on campus. Rather than using what limited money we have to improve cracked walls and chipped painted, MU's move to spend thousands on brand-new technology is made more frustrating by the technology's underuse by instructors.

Now a semester after the room's installation, MU reports positive feedback from students and teachers about the room's atmosphere. One instructor, graduate student Thomas Coleman, said he did not use the technology at all.

It's apparent to us that MU is not being choosy in the ways in which they fill the room. Rather than randomly assigning classes to these futuristic rooms, MU needs to be deliberate in considering how the room can enhance certain curricula more than others. MU should also consider assigning certain professors to the room who actually intend to apply the technology to their teaching, rather than a teacher for whom the technology is unneeded.

And even broader, MU should consider placing fiscal responsibility over the quite-marketable endeavor of producing the most innovative classrooms around. We should place the quality of our entire campus into the forefront, rather than fixing things that don't need to be fixed.