

Curators expected to meet Tuesday to discuss conference affiliation

By Dave Matter

Big 12 interim Commissioner Chuck Neinas believes Missouri will resist its wandering eye and remain a member of the Big 12.

“There’s always a pretty girl who walks down the aisle and you’d like to take her to the prom,” Neinas said on a conference call last night, “but there’s also that girl who is tried-and-true you know is going to be there.”

In Neinas’ analogy, the Southeastern Conference is the pretty girl, the temptress of stability, equality and enhanced revenue that Missouri seeks for refuge from the “tried and true,” though troubled, Big 12. After meeting with the Big 12’s athletic directors the last two days in Dallas, Neinas came away confident that Missouri’s decision-makers — namely, the UM System Board of Curators — will decide the Big 12 is best for the Tigers.

Neinas believes the curators will come around on the idea of granting MU’s first- and second-tier media rights to the conference, which would essentially lock MU into the Big 12 for the foreseeable future.

“They will have the opportunity to review what we’ve accomplished, what we’re doing and what we plan to do,” Neinas said. “Once they have an opportunity to review and comprehend what the conference is doing, I think they will agree that Missouri should be a member of the Big 12 Conference.”

That remains to be seen, but a source close to the situation confirmed yesterday that the curators plan to meet Tuesday in Columbia to discuss MU’s conference affiliation. The board’s audit committee and compensation and human resource committee are expected to meet, as well as the executive committee, which consists of Chairman Warren Erdman and curators David Bradley and Don Downing.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead declined to address reports of Tuesday’s meeting. The board is required to issue a public meeting notice at least 24 hours in advance.

Multiple sources have indicated there’s a strong preference for MU to join the SEC — especially from the Governor’s mansion and within the athletic department — but Missouri officials and curators will have to weigh the financial costs and benefits of leaving the Big 12.

A primary concern, according to sources, is the withdrawal fees the Big 12 would enforce if Missouri leaves. Big 12 rules state that a school wishing to leave the conference must give two years notice. If the school gives notice between six months and one year, 90 percent of its television revenue over a two-year period would be withheld. MU officials told the Tribune in June they anticipated about \$13 million in TV revenue this year. If the two-year revenue total turned out to be \$26 million, that would mean a \$23.4 million penalty.

The exit fees are negotiable. Nebraska and Colorado were charged \$9.25 million and \$6.86 million, respectively, last year. Texas A&M's penalty has not been determined.

There is potential for greater revenue in the future in the SEC, though.

The SEC has television contracts with ABC/ESPN and CBS worth \$205 million annually. Both deals run through 2024, but SEC Commissioner Mike Slive told reporters Tuesday that because it's expanding, the conference will try to renegotiate with ESPN and CBS this fall.

The addition of Texas A&M and possibly Missouri would make the SEC more valuable. Comcast/NBC is trying to crash what had been a party of two — ESPN and Fox — and that has created a seller's market for media rights. Last spring, the Pac-12 signed a deal worth \$250 million annually with ESPN and Fox, who put aside their differences and worked together to keep Comcast out of the game.

Sources also indicate Missouri is concerned with potential lawsuits coming from the Big 12 or member schools, though legal threats made against Texas A&M and the SEC seemed to cool once the Big 12 stayed together and reactivated its expansion committee.

Missouri's most vocal advocate for change has been football Coach Gary Pinkel, who began citing the SEC's stability and equal pay structure in July during Big 12 media days in Dallas. Gov. Jay Nixon, according to sources, is on board, too.

On Monday, Nixon met with interim UM System President Steve Owens to discuss the situation, a source confirmed.

According to the UM System bylaws on intercollegiate athletics, the UM president and the curators shall approve any proposal by a campus to withdraw from one conference for the purpose of affiliating with a new conference.

However, any proposal to withdraw would be proposed by Chancellor Brady Deaton, whose role in the approval process would be significant.

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Homecoming here not the original

Schools claim earlier events.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spirit-filled students and reminiscing alumni by the thousands will descend on Columbia in two weeks to celebrate what many consider the first collegiate homecoming 100 years ago.

There's just one problem, or maybe two.

Illinois already had its centennial homecoming celebration last year, having started its annual alumni event in 1910. And Baylor held its first homecoming in 1909, although it would take six years for the event's return and several more decades for the more-common moniker to take hold after an earlier incarnation as "Good Will Week."

Other schools such as Indiana, Michigan and Northern Illinois held homecominglike events even earlier but without the traditional football game, bonfires, parades and other hallmarks of modern-day homecoming. When it comes to college football rivalries, none is older than Harvard-Yale and its 1875 origin. But Harvard didn't have a homecoming until 2009.

Tigers faithful have spent decades claiming former Missouri football coach and athletic director Chester Brewer's invitation for graduates to "come home" was the start of the tradition. School leaders know better — and are now more vocal in dispelling a well-worn myth whose adherents included Brewer himself.

"We try to be a little more careful about it," said Missouri Alumni Association Executive Director Todd McCubbin, whose organization used to promote the school's homecoming as "the first and finest."

The Oct. 15 game versus Iowa State, preceded by a week's worth of activities, is now simply the school's centennial celebration.

"Certainly, our graduates feel like we're the first," he said. "Sometimes perception is reality."

In 2005, university archivists at Illinois attempted to get to the bottom of the historical uncertainty. Their conclusion: "At the very least, Illinois can claim to have had the longest tradition called 'homecoming' and to have self-consciously created the event with the intention of it being a precedent that would be adopted by other institutions."

But it wasn't the first event.

"Baylor probably had the first homecoming," said Ellen Swain, the school's archivist for student life and culture. "Of course, there could have been a school in Florida somewhere that we don't know about."

As for Missouri's claim?

"We were so surprised to hear that," Swain said. "It was pretty clear that they weren't the first."

Students and alumni in Champaign, where No. 24 Illinois (4-0) faces Big Ten rival Northwestern (2-1) in Saturday's homecoming game, were disappointed about the archivists' findings but accept their conclusion, Swain said.

In Waco, the 1909 celebration convened over Thanksgiving weekend included class reunions, a parade, a band concert and an "old-time soiree," according to an online school history. The university makes no claims of being the first, instead noting only that "few were as early as Baylor's."

"We don't say it's the oldest homecoming," said Baylor senior Zach Sartor, a chemistry major from Abilene who leads its homecoming committee. "We hang our hat on having the oldest and largest collegiate parade in the nation."

Settling the debate on the football field would seem to be an obvious solution, though Illinois chose not to renew what had been an annual season-opening game against Missouri in St. Louis after four consecutive losses. Sartor, however, noted that No. 15 Baylor hosts Missouri as its homecoming opponent Nov. 5.

"That's a great storyline, huh?" he said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

(blog post)

Brady Deaton says he is not resigning as Big 12 chairman

Posted on [September 29, 2011](#) by [Andrew Wagaman](#)

From his front doorstep Thursday night, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton told the Missouriian that there is no truth to the rumor he is resigning as the chairman of Big 12 Conference Board of Directors.

“That’s not true at all,” Deaton said.

Earlier Thursday, a reporter from a website that covers Texas A&M [tweeted that Deaton was resigning](#).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

This is the time to get behind Missouri, Pinkel

SAM MELLINGER COMMENTARY

Maybe you don't like Missouri. Maybe you root for the Jayhawks or went to Kansas State or some other school. Maybe you're like a particularly intense friend of mine who considers the idea of cheering for the Tigers against anyone other than proven terrorists repulsive.

Maybe you should reconsider.

The Big 12's best future — not its survival, but its best future — depends on how Mizzou's showdown with Texas ends. Missouri's beefs are all of our beefs. In other words, you should root for the Tigers.

No matter what the Southeastern Conference says officially or publicly, the league is very clearly holding a spot open for MU, and that leverage is the best hope for K-State since Bill Snyder's return and for KU since Mario Chalmers' jump shot.

We are a parochial city and a region divided by our rooting interests and backgrounds, but to paraphrase a line, right now we are all Mizzou fans.

And Gary Pinkel is our leader.

MU's football coach calls the Big 12 infighting "sad" and "embarrassing," points out that everyone knows the problems but nobody fixes them, and every word is true until he claims to be out of the loop.

Pinkel, whether intentionally or otherwise, has made himself the loop. With Texas A&M (and Nebraska) out, Missouri is third in the league's power hierarchy. And after taking MU from the mess of Larry Smith to six consecutive bowl games, Pinkel is the school's most important employee and recognized voice.

There is no whining in this, no stepping out of place. Pinkel is only telling people — publicly and otherwise — how he feels. You could say Pinkel is spending capital he's built up from his success, except he's actually building even more capital. Here's a guy who answers questions honestly, using his influence to fight for his school.

Pinkel is uniquely positioned to speak on this, to put pressure on Texas to come closer to the middle on revenue sharing and the other contention points. Bill Self coaches the wrong sport, and Bill Snyder would sound too self-serving.

But Pinkel's perspective is also KU's and K-State's, so in that way, he is the most public advocate for our region.

The league will survive with or without the Tigers, but the context of previous departures and premature statements of unity from others would position MU's dropping out as the lowest moment yet.

Last summer's departure of Nebraska and Colorado brought all the league's problems to daylight. Texas A&M's illustrated the scale. Missouri leaving would show that things will never change.

Mizzou is the Big 12's last hope for positive change.

MU will and should do what's best for the school. Pinkel appears convinced that means leaving for the SEC, and the Tigers are in a terrific position, but if everyone involved can remove emotion and ego they'll see that the Big 12 can still be the best spot for all.

There would be no better path to the national championship than through a nine- or 10-school Big 12 without a league title game.

Missouri has won 40 games in four seasons in this conference, and it's able to make a legitimate claim to being one of the nation's top 20 programs without having to run the SEC gantlet.

Missouri could compete in the SEC, but it would have better access to the BCS and other major bowl games through the Big 12.

The conference's year and a half of bickering in both backrooms and in public has to end. The buildup and the Pac-12's thanks-but-no-thanks to Texas and Oklahoma puts everyone back at the table. We've seen this happen before, but never with the power brokers publicly rejected and without better options to hang over the heads of other schools.

This time it's Missouri with the option, and it's a good one.

People in Columbia are much less concerned about Texas making money from the Longhorn Network than taking a perceived recruiting advantage by showing high school games or highlights on it. Missouri cares less about Texas and Oklahoma making the rules than it does about knowing everyone will be around in 10 years.

Missouri can help ensure that, with real leverage that could convince Texas to agree to more equality throughout the league.

This is the best hope for Kansas City to maintain its best sports world. MU's fight is Kansas City's fight.

Besides, if you're a KU or K-State fan and this saga doesn't play out the way you hope, then those old feelings about Mizzou will come back quick enough.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Letter to the Editor: Missouri can't afford to turn down the SEC

By The Maneater Staff

Published Sept. 30, 2011

If there's an offer on the table, the University of Missouri needs to take it. Here's why:

Let's start with a big hang-up for our decision-makers: academics. As former student leaders, we care deeply about the University of Missouri's academics. Our generation demands to be well-prepared for scarce jobs in a tough economy. Many of us chose Mizzou because, as the flag ship University of the State of Missouri, it fulfills that promise of rigorous academic preparation. With that in mind, there appears to be a perception that the SEC is academically inferior to the Big 12. The reality is that the academics of the SEC are just as good as the Big 12. With the departure of Colorado, Nebraska and Texas A&M, the Big 12 has only three AAU universities (excluding Missouri). The SEC also has three AAU universities. Additionally, the most recent "U.S. News and World Report" national school rankings show how the Big 12 and SEC compare (see chart). We can cut it other ways, too. Top 100 Business Schools? The SEC has more than the Big 12, 10-5. Top 100 Law Schools? The SEC wins again, 8-4. The SEC also enjoys an edge in the Top 100 Medical Schools, whether the paradigm is research or primary care. It's simply not tenable to maintain that the new, 9-member Big 12 has stronger academics than the SEC.

Why should we move? How about basic economics? The Big 12 is the only major conference that doesn't practice equal revenue sharing; the ACC, Big Ten, Pac-12, and SEC engage in equal revenue sharing. Why should Mizzou take a smaller cut in the Big 12 if we can move to the SEC and generate more revenue? With both Colorado and Nebraska leaving for less than \$10 million, this means we could earn buyout money back in a few years in the SEC. So unless the Big 12 can agree on equal revenue sharing and equal rights, moving to another conference is the only option. Which leads to our next point: stability. Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State almost left for the Pac-12 last week. The only reason they didn't is because Texas would not agree to equal revenue sharing. Outside of reinforcing our previous point, this also shows that the core contingent of the former Big 12 South isn't invested in the University of Missouri, plain and simple. They don't see us as having mutual interests, so why should we tether ourselves to these schools? By staying in the Big 12, Mizzou is exposed to more risk, particularly from the former Big 12 South.

I don't need to stress the athletic benefits of the SEC. It's the premier conference in college football. We would automatically experience the benefits of improved exposure and new recruiting advantages in addition to the increased revenue. For those concerned about the Kansas

rivalry, we can keep it, just as many of the SEC schools continue to enjoy historic rivalries with schools in the ACC. Whatever initial adversity we might experience in football would be offset by an immediate advantage we could see in other sports, including basketball. And don't count out Coach Pinkel — he's built a football program that can compete in any conference in the country, including the SEC.

Chancellor Deaton is in a tough spot as Chancellor of the University of Missouri and Chairman of the Big 12 Board of Directors. What's more, Deaton is a consensus-builder and a man of incredible integrity, which means that it's going to be difficult for him to advocate leaving the Big XII if he has made any overtures of unity in the recent past. But, no matter how you look at it, leaving the Big XII for the SEC is what is in the best interest of the University of Missouri.

-Jordan Paul, Jim Kelley, Tim Noce

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN™

The Smallest Revolution: Five Recent Breakthroughs in Nanomedicine

By [Julian Taub](#) | September 30, 2011 |

Nanotechnology is a cutting-edge advancement within science and engineering. It is not a single field but an intense collaboration between disciplines to manipulate materials on the atomic and molecular level. When this technology is applied to medicine, the results are especially exciting, and can better our lives in drastic new ways. Its inventive and interdisciplinary nature constantly surprises me, as do the men and women behind these projects. Each breakthrough in nanotechnology solves a problem that many thought could not be overcome. Here are five innovations in nanomedicine in the past year and the faces behind them:

Lung Cancer Early Screening:

We constantly come across depictions of lung cancer in anti-smoking ads. In addition to the gruesome nature of these images, there's another reason to be afraid: until now, lung cancer has been almost impossible to detect in its early stages. Thousands of people go about their daily lives unaware that tumors are forming inside of them.

The lung cancer screening test, designed by pathologist Dr. Michael Wang and biomedical engineer Dr. Li-Qun Gu at the University of Missouri, relies on a simple yet efficient design. The principle behind it is that when cancer starts forming in the lungs, it distorts the sequence on a molecule called microRNA. If the scientist can find the irregularities in the microRNA, he can discover if the patient has cancer. To do this, he takes a sample of microRNA (which is easily extracted from a sample of blood plasma), and runs it through a nanopore, a hole in a protein-based membrane that is so small it lets only one molecule pass through at a time. Running a current through the pore, a machine picks up on the signals given off by the base pairs of the RNA as each one interacts chemically with the protein hole and can detect any abnormalities in the sequence. The test is so straightforward to perform that patients can be diagnosed and begin therapy during their first visit.

Dr. Wang is a professor at the University of Missouri in clinical molecular genetic pathology. He also works at the [Ellis Cancer Center](#) in Columbus MO. Dr. Gu works in biomedical engineering at [Dalton Cardiovascular Center](#). He was inspired by the way ions move across cell membranes and has worked to make similar structures that perform important tasks.

Gold Nanoparticle Flu Test:

Most flu tests today are either time-consuming or incredibly inaccurate. The most accurate technique is called PCR, where a sample is taken, stored for a few days, its RNA is replicated, and then two weeks later, the results arrive. At that point it could be too late to halt an epidemic.

However, with the gold nanoparticle test, the results can be found out immediately, and the patient can be treated right away without spreading it to more people. Created by a team at the University of Georgia headed by Ralph A. Tripp, the test takes advantage of gold nanoparticle's ability to scatter light in drastically different ways, depending on its geometry. The scientists attached the nanoparticles to antibodies that bind specifically to the flu virus. When the particles surround the virus, their geometry changes and they disperse light differently, making it clear that the virus is present. All the doctor has to do is take a fluid sample and mix it with a gold nanoparticle filled solution. If the virus is present, the solution will scatter light in a measureable pattern. Not only is the test quick, it's inexpensive as well. The gold used is in such a minute amount that it costs 100th of a cent to take the test.

Besides for determining influenza, the test works for a whole host of other diseases as well. Scientists can attach any antibody necessary to the nanoparticles. Each type of antibody has special receptors that bind only to a certain type of virus. The test can even tell if there is salmonella in your chicken.

Dr. Tripp, the research group leader behind this breakthrough, is a Georgia Alliance Eminent Scholar. He has worked with state-of-the-art solutions to infectious diseases, such as RNA silencing and trying to create a vaccine for the avian flu. He strives to understand how cells respond to infection to learn how to better fight disease.

Sandia Cancer Hunters:

All over the world people suffer from tumors. Sometimes they can be removed surgically, but many times the affected cell is in an inaccessible area. Chemotherapy is another option, but radiation isn't picky about what it kills. Oncology needs a version of "going for the jugular" in their arsenal.

That weapon might just have been invented. The protocell, engineered by Jeff Brinker and his team at Sandia National Labs in New Mexico, is a contraption to carry nanoparticles filled with toxins and RNA silencers to a cancer cell. It's a capsule of porous silicon dioxide (think: quartz) encased in a double layer of lipids. Once it approaches the cancer cell, the protocell's proteins latch onto the tumor's receptors, allowing the cell to engulf it. It lets it enter and float around in a bubble of the tumor's own cell barrier, called an endosome. To release the death blow, the fusogenic peptides, a type of protein attached to the protocell's outer coating, create holes in the endosome that bring hydrogen ions into the bubble. The pH of the bubble increases, releasing the cell toxins and breaking the endosome. The toxins now go about poisoning the tumor and halting protein production. Some toxins have nucleotides attached to them, allowing them to be picked up by transport RNA and brought to the nucleus, where they can destroy the tumor's DNA.

Protocells target cancerous cells; they have at least a 99% affinity to bond with the overgrowth of receptors that occur on the cell membrane of tumors. It is highly specialized and economical as well: only one protocell is necessary to silence a tumor. They are remarkably stable in body fluid, won't leak nanoparticles onto healthy tissue, and are simple to prepare. Scientists only need to soak the protocell in a solution containing whatever nanoparticles and other toxins that they want to use.

This remarkable invention has an equally remarkable man behind it. Dr. Brinker is one of those scientists who you think only exists in sci-fi movies. Neither of his parents went to college, and his chemistry set inspired him to pursue a science career. As a novice working at Sandia, he solved a scientific problem concerning aerosol-gels, was elevated to the expert of his field, and then wrote the textbook on the subject. He was at the forefront of molecular self-assembly, creating a new technique that made porous nanostructures, like the one used in the protocell. He also created biosensors made out of cells imbedded into nanostructures that change colors when exposed to toxic material.

Cell Feedback:

To put a new drug on the market pharmaceutical companies usually spend about twelve years and over \$300 million in the process. They go through various stages of testing, from cell cultures, to animal testing and eventually human trials. However, there has been one crucial step of testing that they have not been able to perform: testing the cell's response to the drug from the inside.

Professor Karen Martinez, with her team at the University of Copenhagen, has made a breakthrough in biosensors. They inserted semiconductor nanowires into a cell without interfering with its internal processes or killing it. Human liver cells and rat neurons were placed on a bed of indium-arsenide nanowires, and were still able to function, living for several days. The researchers then measured processes inside the cell in real-time, including internal response to stimuli and cell membrane potential. They could also transport drugs along the wire into the cell and test the reaction from the inside.

The ability to enter electronics into a cell without disturbing its behavior opens up a new field of drug testing. Now researchers can test drugs on an individual neuron and receive feedback on the interaction. This technique can be used with any new drug and can help explain its side effects. It can also help improve existing drugs by obtaining detailed feedback on its effects inside the cell. This breakthrough has put Copenhagen on the map in the nanotechnology world.

Martinez came to the University of Copenhagen after conducting research in Switzerland, where she studied protein receptors to make more affective drugs. Along with teaching courses in bionanotechnology, she sits on the board of directors for a company called inXell, a company that she founded with two other collaborators on the cell-nanowire project. inXell will become the business end of this breakthrough, working to create microchips that possess the feedback nanotechnology to test new drugs on cells.

Spinal Cord Repair:

Accidents occur every year that leave individuals paralyzed and wheelchair-bound for life. When a spine is injured, a cyst can form, blocking the nervous tissue from regenerating. The nerves below the break are then cut off from the rest of the nervous system and atrophy. One of the most famous examples is the late actor Christopher Reeve. Many see stem cells as the solution to spine rehabilitation, but two researchers in Milan have utilized another approach.

Fabrizio Gelain and Angelo Vescovi constructed nanotubes filled with self-assembling peptides to act as support for the damaged area and mimic the structure of the spine. They tested the procedure on rats and inserted the nanotubes into their broken spines where cysts were forming. After six months, they observed that the cysts were replaced by newly formed cells that included neurons, blood vessels, and bone cells. There were also neurons inside the nanotubes where the peptides originally were. Once the area recovered, the tubes would biodegrade and be eaten by microorganisms.

Tests on the rats' motor skills showed that their legs and back motor movements improved and they didn't have to drag their back legs around anymore. They also responded better to electrophysical stimuli than a control group of rats that were not given nanotubes.

Gelain is the vice-director of the Center of Nanoscience and Tissue Engineering in Milan. His work centers on developing nanomaterials to repair nerve tissue in victims of spinal cord injuries and strokes. He was a visiting professor at MIT and is an editor at the journals PLoS One and Frontiers in nanotechnology.

Vescovi, on the other hand, is one of the leading stem cell researchers in Italy and is interested in the regulation of cell growth. His focus is on neural stem cells in the brain and how to use them to treat disorders. He is the director of the Italian Consortium of Stem Cell Research and worked as the stem cell consultant for the Pontifical Academy of Life at the Vatican.

These innovations I've mentioned are just the beginning of how nanotechnology can change our quality of life. Its combined fields are so vast that different disciplines are intertwining and making unpredictable discoveries all the time. Searching nanotechnology online, more often than not I learn about a new breakthrough each day. The question then becomes: What does this all mean? Where is nanotechnology taking us? I don't think anyone knows at this point, but I'm sure looking forward to the journey.

Drug may aid social function in autistic

Published: Sept. 29, 2011 at 7:53 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 29 (UPI) -- U.S. researchers say propranolol -- a drug used to treat high blood pressure, control heart rate and reduce test anxiety -- may help people with autism.

David Beversdorf of the University of Missouri found the drug is beneficial for improving language development and social communication in people with autism.

"We can clearly say that propranolol has the potential to benefit language and may help people with autism function appropriately in social situations, including making eye contact with others," Beversdorf said in a statement. "Enhancing both language and social function is significant because those are two of the three main features of autism. Clinical trials will assess the drug's effect on all three features, including repetitive behaviors."

Propranolol has been used for decades with minimal side effects reported in healthy individuals, Beversdorf said.

The drug acts by reducing the effect of norepinephrine brought on by stress, to allow the brain to function as if there is no stress, which is beneficial for people anxious taking tests. In people with autism, the brain is hardwired in a different way, making processing more rigid in terms of social function and language, but the drug acts on these hardwired processes and improves tasks and functioning in these areas, Beversdorf said.

Beversdorf and colleagues said the next step is to conduct clinical trials to determine whether the benefits are sustained over time and if the benefits outweigh other effects.

The findings are published in Cognitive and Behavior Neurology.

Black principals a factor in schools

Report: Teachers of same race are happier

By Ben Wolfgang

The Washington Times

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Sharing skin color with their principal makes life better for many American teachers, according to a major new study from the University of Missouri.

The report, which surveyed more than 37,000 teachers and principals from 7,200 schools across the country, found that black teachers who work for a black principal are generally happier with their jobs, are less likely to leave and say they receive more support, encouragement and recognition from their superiors.

While base salaries are usually negotiated and remain largely equal across racial groups, the study found that black teachers are more likely to receive "supplemental pay," such as extra money for coaching the high school basketball team, if the principal also is black.

"The takeaway is ... people are more comfortable with people who look like themselves," said Lael Keiser, an associate professor in the university's Truman School of Public Affairs and co-author of the report.

"This highlights the need for principals to know that they have to work especially hard to communicate when they're working with teachers who are not similar to them. I highly doubt that there are principals out there who are purposely doing this. Some of it is subconscious," she said.

White principals appear more likely to pick teachers of their own race for coaching jobs or as advisers for school clubs, which leads to more money in supplemental pay, the report states. But in schools with black principals, "the supplemental salary rates were roughly the same," regardless of a teacher's race.

The study, its authors argue, should have "policy implications" for the nation's public education system.

"We hope these findings could provide justification for policymakers to undertake programs targeted at increasing the flow of minority teachers into the principal pipeline," Ms. Keiser said.

Previous research, she added, has shown that minority teachers can improve the educational experiences of minority students, mainly because some youngsters are simply more comfortable and feel they have more freedom to express their ideas with a teacher who looks like them.

The same dynamic appears to be true in the teacher/principal relationship, and a minority teacher in a largely white school often becomes "detached" and feels like less a part of the school family, said Judith Richardson, a former principal and director of diversity, equity and urban initiatives at the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

"It's so important that a staff understands the culture" of the community they're working in, she said Thursday. "You've got to look at what the demographics of the community are."

Subconscious or not, Ms. Richardson said racial favoritism by a principal, black or white, damages the school's reputation and can cause more serious problems, like high teacher turnover rates, and could create a tense classroom environment that hinders students' ability to learn.

"The principal is a 24-hour role model for both staff and students," she said. "There are children and adults who look to them."

While much of the responsibility falls on a principal as the head of a school, Ms. Richardson said some teachers and district employees inject race into situations where it may have played no role whatsoever. If a white principal picks a white teacher to serve as adviser of the history club, for example, a black teacher may come to the conclusion that skin color was the biggest contributing factor.

That type of thinking, she said, can be dangerous.

"The question becomes, what is the perception of the person who did not get selected [for a job]? We only know the perception of the people that are involved," and those perceptions are reflected in the University of Missouri study, Ms. Richardson said.

"From your perspective, you're always the best candidate that exists. So then you ask, 'Why was I overlooked?' " she added.

The study was published in the latest edition of the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management and relied on data from the National Center for Educational Statistics, which each year administers a survey of teachers, principals and other district employees.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1935

State still eyes Nixon's goal for more college graduates

Nixon said an increase in college graduates will benefit the Missouri economy.

By Sean Na Published Sept. 30, 2011

Gov. Jay Nixon re-emphasized his plan to increase the number of Missourians who hold college degrees at his Summit on Higher Education this past summer.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education, on the other hand, has set a goal of 75 percent of Missouri high school graduates to attend college by 2020.

MDHE anticipates increasing the percentage of degree-seeking students who finish their degree within six years from 55 percent in 2009 to 63 percent by 2020.

"It is also true that states with a higher percentage of college-educated residents have lower unemployment rates and access to a skilled, well-educated workforce is often the determining factor in a business's decision about where to build, relocate or expand," Nixon said at the summit.

Nixon also said that Missouri granted 1,676 more college degrees in 2010 than in 2009.

According to the 2010 MDHE Annual Report, the rate of enrollment of high school students in colleges and universities has decreased from 69.38 percent in 2004 to 68.14 percent in 2010. In order to help reach their goal, the MDHE has introduced several programs to help students financially and academically.

Ten state financial aid programs granted a total of \$98.7 million to 57,307 students in 2010, according to the MDHE's report.

While trying to increase the college attendance rate for high-school graduates, MDHE also has tried to enable graduates in Missouri to enter workforces requiring cutting-edge technology.

MDHE spokeswoman Kathy Love said in an email that one MDHE program, the Study Missouri Consortium, has been set up to attract more international students and give chances to Missouri students to study abroad. Study Missouri is a collaboration between the MDHE and 23 colleges and universities.

“The state benefits by attracting students to Missouri and by educating students to be competitive in a global workforce,” Love said in the email.

With the continuing economic crisis in Missouri and the nation as a whole, federal financial support for higher education decreased by 5 percent in the 2009 fiscal year. As a result, starting in 2010, MDHE has decided to uphold higher education by assigning federal funds on education.

Love said MDHE has also increased total appropriations for public higher education by approximately \$38 million. Additionally, MDHE has promoted several financial aid programs to lead more students to attend post-secondary institutions. MDHE launched collaborative grants to acquire federal grant funds, comprised workforce development and training for health care and energy sector workers and expanded information and communication technology in Missouri.

MU professor David Schenker said he is not optimistic about Missouri’s plan to improve higher education.

“I see this current plan as a continuation of the same, a desperate PR attempt that has little connection to the realities of education, one that will likely create temporary confusion and consternation, but in the end amount to nothing” Schenker said in an email.

Although MDHE has conducted several actions to boost the quality of education in Missouri, high percentages of students remain in need of remediation, making it difficult for MDHE to perform such academic actions.

Regardless of financial constraints, MDHE has dedicated its limited funds to higher education as an investment in the state’s prosperity and future well-being.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Smokers continue to light up despite limitation policy

Despite MU's new smoke-free policy, people are smoking outside of the designated areas on campus.

By Chris Gothner Published Sept. 30, 2011

Despite a new policy that limits smoking to designated areas on the MU campus, many smokers continue to smoke outside of approved areas.

The policy, which took effect July 1, restricts smoking to areas outside of 15 buildings on campus plus most parking garages. This policy is a transition toward an eventual ban of all smoking in campus, which is expected to be implemented Jan. 1, 2014.

Nevertheless, students say smoking outside of designated areas on campus continues to take place.

"I see it all the time," freshman Austin Fortner said. "I've even seen a worker at the university smoking in a doorway at Jesse Auditorium."

Although MU student Taylor Huffman uses the designated smoking areas, she said she has noticed her fellow smokers violating the policy as well.

"I've noticed them ignoring the policy, but I've also noticed that no one really says anything," she said.

According to MU's "[Smoke-Free Mizzou](#)" website, the policy is supposed to be enforced by the university community.

"All members of the university community share the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the policy and have the responsibility for bringing it to the attention of visitors," the "Respect and Responsibility" section of the website states.

Fortner said he sees the policy as difficult to enforce.

"I definitely don't feel comfortable asking a stranger to stop smoking," he said. "The students shouldn't be the ones who have to enforce it."

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the policy will remain community-enforced for now.

"It's going to require self-enforcement," Basi said. "We're hoping that as we continue to educate the campus about this, people will understand the policy and continue to comply with it, as well as enforcement by everyone in the campus community,"

Some smokers are also unfamiliar with the rules.

"I'm kind of new," graduate student Ashutosh Rajpat said. "I don't know about the designated areas on campus. I was told that if you are over 21, you can smoke on campus."

Basi said MU is addressing this issue.

"They have various educational campaigns that happen," he said. "Whether it's through MU Info, an article in Mizzou Weekly or their website, and as we have more and more visitors on campus, there will be communication campaigns to let those folks know what they can expect when they come on campus."

The feedback received by the university over the current policy has been mostly mixed so far, Basi said. But he said a small majority of the response has expressed a desire for a more restrictive policy.

Fortner said he agreed MU needs to be more aggressive in addressing the issue.

"I think the university needs to crack down more on students smoking in non-designated areas," he said.

Huffman said non-smokers have the right not to have smoke blown in their faces, but said the 2014 smoke-free policy is way too restrictive.

Basi said MU might refine the policy going forward, depending on its effectiveness.

"We will probably take the information gleaned from how the policy is currently working and then decide, 'Do we need to make some changes to the policy? Do we need to do anything differently? Or is it working the way we expected it to?'" Basi said.

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Editorial: Anti-smoking policy a poor excuse for PR

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The newest phase of the anti-smoking policy at MU is turning out to be completely and utterly useless. The designated smoking areas are so unrealistic smokers are disregarding the rules and the self-enforcement tactics aren't working.

As of July, the second phase kicked in, making parking lots and garages the only places on campus to smoke.

Rather than MUPD stepping in, students and staff are expected to step in and enforce the rule themselves. Can you imagine asking a smoker to move because they're sitting too close to you or mentioning to one you're walking behind that they're not in a designated area?

Realistically, a student working on a project in the library late at night is not going to wander to a parking garage to light up. If they're not doing it now, the rate of compliance is only going to get worse once the Missouri winter sets in and smokers have no warm, accessible place to go.

How about students living on campus? Freshmen are strongly encouraged to live on campus, and now MU is telling them they cannot smoke in or near their home? Of course, the residence halls are home to many students. Smoking and non-smoking, but by requiring smokers to take long walks to light up, there's a lack of compliance.

We're not making this all about the students, either. Faculty and staff members are here working for eight hours a day, and they're also a part of the MU community. They shouldn't have to walk to their car on their lunch break.

Since MUPD seems reluctant to get involved, and we find it highly unlikely the average student is perusing the Smoke-Free Mizzou website or taking a class on how to approach someone smoking in a non-designated area, we advocate more realistic smoking areas.

A compromise could be helpful to both parties. Rather than catering only to non-smokers, throw smokers a bone — a covered, designated area or two that isn't a two-mile hike. Perhaps a designated smoking residence hall where residents will be allowed to smoke right outside the doors could be in order.

A compromise of this sort would encourage smokers to follow the rules and respect their peers. Meanwhile, non-smokers would know which areas to avoid.

We understand it's good PR to tell everyone it's a smoke-free campus. It sounds so progressive. Unfortunately, this is really only a PR move seeing as how MU is smoke free in theory, but not in practice.

Basically, we're not advocating smoking. It's smelly, annoying and proven harmful even secondhand. But come on, MU. We're all adults here, and we feel we should still have the right to choose our harmful behaviors. We're also optimistic enough to think that smokers will have more respect for the rights of others if their rights aren't being stripped away.