

## Curator says presidential hunt is making progress

Associated Press Monday, October 24, 2011

**KANSAS CITY (AP) — The governing body of the University of Missouri system hopes to have a short list of candidates within two weeks for the presidency of the four-campus system.**

The Board of Curators is seeking a replacement for former President Gary Forsee, who stepped down in January to care for his wife as she battled cancer. The curators had private discussions about the search during their two-day meeting last week in Kansas City, and board Chairman Warren Erdman said the curators are “making great progress.”

“We are narrowing down the field to the point where I would think within the next two weeks, we will probably be to a group of finalists,” Erdman said during a post-meeting news conference on the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus.

The curators had reported having more than 100 potential candidates for the job of overseeing the Missouri system, and Erdman said they will take their short list to a 20-member advisory committee formed earlier this year to help the curators with the search. He said the curators have not decided how many candidates will be on the short list.

He also said there is no firm deadline for when a new president will be selected. “I have said from the beginning from this process that I will not set deadlines because when you set deadlines, you preclude some of your options,” Erdman told reporters.



## Missouri not quite ready to tell Big 12 goodbye for SEC

**Missouri didn't say goodbye just yet. At least that's the word from the Big 12 after a regularly scheduled board of directors meeting Monday in Dallas.**

The league expressed a "strong desire" for Missouri to remain in the Big 12, according to a league statement. All 10 member institutions and incoming member TCU participated in the meeting. Among other issues, the Big 12 also discussed the exploration of creating its own network.

Missouri is considering going to the Southeastern Conference but first would have to withdraw from the Big 12. That move would have ramifications on the Big East, Mountain West and Conference USA. If Mizzou leaves, the Big 12 is expected to target West Virginia or Louisville of the Big East or Brigham Young as its replacement.

The Big East would like to add six teams to form a 12-team football league. That model includes inviting Mountain West members Boise State and Air Force and independent Navy as football-only members and Conference USA members Central Florida, Southern Methodist and Houston to join in all sports. Houston regents will meet Thursday to authorize its chancellor to negotiate a move to a new conference. But at least some of the institutions targeted by the Big East are wary of additional Big East defections, which could come if the Big 12 adds Louisville or West Virginia — or both, if the league opts to expand to 12 members.

And so, expect expansion madness to continue. "I'm not opposed to schools moving around; it's always occurred," NCAA President Mark Emmert told the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in Washington. "The troubling piece is the lack of thoughtfulness in some cases, and the surprise nature of some, and the cost it was bringing in the lack of collegiality."

"I would like to inject some rationality and calmness, maybe invoke a 30-day period where a move is discussed (before being put in motion). Flying the volleyball team two-thirds of the way across country and then getting them back for class the next morning is wrong."

According to the Knight Commission, almost \$14 billion in renegotiated television contracts, primarily for regular-season football, went to the five wealthiest conferences. So where might

realignment madness end? "I think we could ultimately end up with two conferences — one called ESPN and one called Fox," LSU Chancellor Michael Martin told the commission.

We think he was joking.

## **Deaton wishes the Big 12 "the best and all of that"**

By Mike DeArmond - Posted on 24 October 2011

**COLUMBIA – Interim Big 12 commissioner Chuck Neinas has told The Star that Missouri did not submit a letter of conditional withdrawal nor did it notify the Big 12 Conference on Monday of its plans to leave.**

“The conference encouraged Missouri to stay in the Big 12,” Neinas added, referring to a statement to be released by the league concerning the Big 12 Board of Directors meeting on Monday in Dallas.

When asked if following its release Neinas could be asked for further guidance, Neinas said: “You could, but I won’t give you any.”

**But Monday night, in an interview with KOMU-TV, Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton added some perspective, including a statement that he wished the Big 12 “the best and all of that.”**

**“So we’ll see where that goes,” Deaton added.**

The Big 12 release was at best noncommittal:

“In a regularly-scheduled meeting today at an undisclosed Dallas area location, the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors reaffirmed previous action to execute institutional grants of Tier 1 (over-the-air) and Tier 2 (cable) television rights to the Conference.

“The Board also discussed a wide range of topics including NCAA legislation, the Bowl Championship Series, and exploration of a Conference dedicated TV network.

“Additionally, a strong desire for the University of Missouri to maintain its Big 12 affiliation was expressed. All 10 member institutions and TCU participated in the meeting.”

Across Internet message boards poured frustration from Missouri fans anticipating the school would give the Big 12 formal notice of its withdrawal, if not announce its application for membership of the Southeastern Conference.

Some expressed skepticism that the Big 12's statement was truly reflective of what transpired when Deaton met with his contemporaries at an undisclosed location in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

There was no evidence provided Monday that Missouri had made any move away from the Big 12, despite the Missouri Board of Curators having authorized Deaton last Friday in Kansas City to act as he best saw fit in exploring Mizzou's options for conference affiliation.

But Deaton said, in the interview with KOMU at Columbia Regional Airport, that there were "no delays here at all.

"It's the kind of thing you can't rush. I know fans get impatient.

"Let me say, I'm very sympathetic, but what I hope they will understand is that it's not a set of issues that one can press a button and be done with."

Deaton indicated the Big 12 is "making some of the right moves, now, that are necessary for the Big 12 to do, and I wish them the best and all of that."

If that sounds like the right moves are coming too late to deter Missouri from joining the SEC, well that is a widely-held belief among those who want Missouri to bolt the dysfunctional Big 12.

Meanwhile, in Columbia, a long-time Missouri supporter wondered over the choice Mizzou has still not publicly made between the Big 12 and the SEC.

"Tiger John" Cleek, like his father before him, "Mizzou Mo" Cleek before him, has sold appliances and home furnishings to the folk living in Columbia and mid-Missouri for decades.

He has been a Missouri fan all his life.

"Truthfully, I had held out hope that the Big 12 could maintain its stability, just because I've been for 55 years a Missouri fan," Cleek said. "That we could keep our traditional rivals."

But Cleek expressed confidence in Deaton and Missouri athletic director Mike Alden making the decision that might be necessary to send Mizzou's athletic ship of state into SEC waters.

"Financially we've got to make this thing work," Cleek said. "They're in position to have the information and the knowledge that those of us here don't have.

"It's going to be a very major decision, but when you've seen in the last 16 to 18 months where Oklahoma and Texas both just about left.

"My heart says I'd love to stay in the Big 12. But financially and in terms of long-term stability it looks like the SEC would be a real good opportunity for us."

If Missouri did not immediately jump to cash in on that opportunity on Monday, Cleek seemed not troubled by yet another day going by without a monumental decision being announced.

“I think the chancellor is very much looking out for what is best at the University of Missouri.”

Over the weekend, many MU boosters said privately that a move to the SEC was a foregone conclusion, reflective of nearly a week of local and national media reports.

But what ultimately is decided to be the best for the University of Missouri, for now, remains in public limbo.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Mizzou is patient on departure issue

BY VAHE GREGORIAN

**COLUMBIA, MO. • On Friday, Missouri took further audacious steps to set up a departure from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference when the system's Board of Curators authorized chancellor Brady Deaton to take action and negotiate contracts regarding conference alignment and Deaton leaped so far out on a limb as to acknowledge an exchange of information with the SEC.**

With SEC-bound Texas A&M next up on MU's football schedule and a Big 12 Board of Directors meeting scheduled Monday in Dallas, the timing seemed right for the next logical step:

For Deaton to proclaim at least a conditional withdrawal from the Big 12.

But after the Big 12 meeting, there was only this statement from the Big 12:

"In a regularly-scheduled meeting today at an undisclosed Dallas area location, the Big 12 Conference Board of Directors reaffirmed previous action to execute institutional grants of Tier 1 (over-the-air) and Tier 2 (cable) television rights to the Conference.

"The Board also discussed a wide range of topics, including NCAA legislation, the Bowl Championship Series, and exploration of a conference-dedicated TV network. Additionally, a strong desire for the University of Missouri to maintain its Big 12 affiliation was expressed."

The desire for MU to stay didn't seem reciprocated, though.

At Columbia Regional Airport late Monday, Deaton told KOMU-TV in Columbia that there are "no delays here at all. There are some very specific things that have to be addressed, and we are addressing those."

He declined to elaborate on specifics, but added, "It's the kind of thing you can't rush. I know fans get impatient. Let me say, I'm very sympathetic, but what I hope they will understand is that it's not a set of issues that one can press a button and be done with it."

He added that the Big 12 is "making some of the right moves, now, that are necessary for the Big 12 to do, and I wish them the best and all of that. So we'll see where that goes."

As for the content of the meeting, perhaps the most apt words came from Twitter sensation Fake Dan Beebe, as in the former Big 12 commissioner who recently resigned:

"THEY'RE DISCUSSING A BIG 12 NETWORK NOW????!?!?"

Perhaps, but apparently not one that would include all 10 schools currently remaining in the lineup, including Texas Christian in place of A&M next year. Texas is not going to give up its Longhorn Network, for starters.

But it's believed there was discussion of bundling the third-tier rights of most of the other schools for equal distribution.

It's not known how that point came about during the meeting, but a source familiar with the dynamics of the conference's last attempts to persuade A&M to stay believed it was likely the meeting included a similar basic question of MU:

What will it take for you to stay?

It's possible the discussion then turned in the direction of third-tier rights, which may or may not have constituted an entirely fresh look at the matter.

Whatever the case, it's highly unlikely that's a game-changer for MU, which by all appearances already has checked out.

Although Deaton said last week there would "continue to be no unnecessary or inappropriate delays" in the decision-making, he also has called the decision a "weighty" one and that he won't hurry just to get it out of the way.

Uncertainty about the future of the Big 12 compelled MU to gird itself for the future by considering alternatives, and the SEC has given every indication behind the scenes that it would accept a Missouri application if all potential legal entanglements are removed.

It's not known whether such concerns would include a clash over the timing of MU's departure, which Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas has said won't be for next year.

That was likely a strategic negotiating stance since Big 12 television inventory would fall short of its contractual TV obligations for football if it is only able to field a nine-team conference in 2012.

While the Big 12 figures to restock to 10 and possibly move back to 12 if Mizzou leaves, its prime potential targets - West Virginia, Louisville and Cincinnati - are in the Big East, which is holding Pittsburgh and Syracuse to a 27-month departure time for their next conference, the Atlantic Coast.

So if MU wants to leave next year but the Big 12 can't replenish itself in time, potential legal conflicts could surface.

Despite Neinas' contention, Deaton said Friday that if MU leaves it would seek to go in 2012.

Deaton stepped down as chairman of the board of the Big 12 earlier this month as he was authorized by the curators to explore options for conference alignment.

When asked Friday what the next step in the process would be, MU board chair Warren Erdman said, "The next step will be resolution of the question."

But perhaps just not as soon as many had expected.



## Big 12 voices 'desire' for Mizzou to stay

*By David Ubben ESPN.com*

Missouri has not left the Big 12. Not yet, at least.

**The conference's board of directors met Monday at an undisclosed location in the Dallas area, and it was anticipated that Missouri chancellor Brady Deaton, having been given the power last week to make decisions on the future of the university's athletic program, might use the opportunity to inform the rest of the conference of its planned departure.**

But Big 12 interim commissioner Chuck Neinas told the Kansas City Star that Missouri did not submit a letter of conditional withdrawal or notify the Big 12 that it planned to leave.

"The conference encouraged Missouri to stay in the Big 12," Neinas said, according to the report.

And in a news release, the Big 12 said "a strong desire for the University of Missouri to maintain its Big 12 affiliation was expressed" at the meeting.

But late Monday, Deaton gave some clue as to Missouri's intentions, giving a statement to KOMU-TV in Columbia, Mo. in which he wished the Big 12 "the best and all of that."

"There's no delays here at all," he said, referring to the school's step toward leaving the Big 12. "There's some very specific things that have to be addressed. We want to address those. We really can't rush these things. These are things you can't rush."

The Tigers' expected departure for the Southeastern Conference has been reported as "imminent and inevitable."

The Big 12's board of directors also discussed the possibility of creating a conference-wide television network, according to the release.

The Big 12 has previously discussed the possibility of creating a conference-wide network, but has yet to take any concrete steps to making it a reality.

On Monday, the board reaffirmed a previous resolution in which the league's members pledged to grant their Tier I (over-the-air) and Tier II (cable) media rights to the Big 12.

All 10 Big 12 members, including Missouri and TCU, took part in Monday's meeting, according to the release.

The board also discussed NCAA legislation and the Bowl Championship Series, according to the release.



## The Tribune's View

### Big ??

#### The end of an era

By Henry J. Waters III

Columbia Daily Tribune Monday, October 24, 2011

This year Big 12 football teams are generally regarded as the equal of those in any conference in the land. At the same time, the jig seems up for the athletic arrangement we all grew up with.

**Last week the UM Board of Curators took action that seems to ensure our Tigers are leaving the Big 12 and presumably headed for the SEC.**

The Big 12 had recently made significant reforms aimed at restoring stability and mutual respect among members, but it seems too late. Nebraska is gone. Colorado is gone. Texas A&M is gone. And now Missouri seems on the way. Only a few weeks ago, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State would have left if the Pac-12 would have had them.

If these defections finally occur, some sort of Big 12 descendant could emerge, but it would not be the same. If Missouri and the remaining schools would stay hitched and learn to love each other, a renewed Big 12 could be built, but, alas.

UM officials are trying to walk away without destroying a continuing relationship with Kansas, but KU officials are having none of it. If Missouri wants to go to the SEC, the KU athletic director would "wish them well."

For his part, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton says the (selfish) actions of some Big 12 schools speak for themselves.

Deaton has been authorized by curators to negotiate a new conference connection. This would not happen unless Deaton and MU had a certain deal at hand. The curators also would not be talking about wanting to continue some sort of athletic event in Kansas City if the Big 12 contests were scheduled to continue.

So, we'd better let nostalgia drift away and look forward to a future that has its own rewards. As in the Big 12, MU is on the geographic periphery of the SEC but adjacent to several strong programs. Within a three-state radius, the SEC includes almost as many schools as the old Big 12. Leaving out Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, closer SEC schools include Kentucky,

Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, LSU, Texas A&M, Mississippi State and Ole Miss. Presumably, the SEC wants to accumulate 14 teams with two divisions. MU might be in a western division, only playing the eastern teams less frequently.

Oh well, what do I know? We are yet to get definitive word from the Halls Jesse and University. Their denizens have been discussing strategy as well as potential contract issues in secret session. But in their parsed public words, they are saying the next thing to "Goodbye, Big 12," and Big 12 remainders are saying the same in response.

The Big 12 marriage seems shot and the divorce nearly final. In the SEC, MU will make more money from sports. Many or most fans are ready for the move. A few old-timers feel remorse, but we will get over it. Ours is but pudding-headed nostalgia.

# MISSOURIAN

## No movement toward SEC for Missouri in Monday meeting

By Harry Plumer

October 24, 2011 | 9:24 p.m. CDT

Despite mounting speculation that Monday could be moving day for Missouri, it turned out to be nothing of the sort.

**MU Chancellor Brady Deaton attended a meeting of the Big 12 Conference presidents in Dallas, but no announcement was made regarding Missouri's rumored departure for the Southeastern Conference.**

The league issued a statement stating that "a strong desire for the University of Missouri to maintain its Big 12 affiliation was expressed," but did not elaborate.

The statement also stated that the presidents had reaffirmed their commitment to equal revenue sharing and the six-year grant of television rights and had discussed a variety of topics including NCAA legislation, the Bowl Championship Series and the possibility of a TV network dedicated to conference coverage.

After Friday's UM System Board of Curators news conference, during which Deaton was granted the power to make decisions about conference alignment, it seemed that a move to the SEC was close. There were various reports that Deaton would notify the Big 12 of Missouri's withdrawal on Monday.

The timeline now becomes cloudy for Missouri to take the definitive step out of the Big 12 by withdrawing. The move could still happen this week, but there is no official information to suggest that this is the case.

Texas A&M submitted its withdrawal through a publicly released letter on Aug. 31. Missouri's method, now that the meeting has passed without any definitive announcement, would likely be similar. The Aggies were accepted into the SEC six days after their withdrawal letter.

# MISSOURIAN

## MU Sustainability Office pleased with progress on bicycle parking issue

By Connie McCollom

October 24, 2011 | 3:03 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The warning tags seem to be working.

In September, the MU Sustainability Office began an informational campaign to inform cyclists their bicycles could be impounded if left improperly tethered to trees, light poles and other fixtures instead of bike racks.

**Steve Burdic, MU's sustainability coordinator, said campus Landscape Services and volunteers have been checking every day for improperly parked bikes and have put warning tags on 400 to 500 bicycles since the middle of October.**

The campaign seems to be effective — no bikes have been impounded since enforcement began on Oct. 10., he said.

The office has also tagged fewer bikes, and Burdic thinks the campaign has helped make people more aware of using racks. He also said the recent change in weather could be a factor because fewer people are riding their bikes.

“Now when we go out, there are very few bikes parked to trees and poles,” Burdic said. “I really want to thank people for parking in the right parking zones now.”

The sustainability office encourages cyclists to register their bicycles in case of impounding or theft. Burdic said about 100 to 200 bicycles have been registered. There is a requirement that everyone who rides a bike needs to register either with the MU Police Department or the city.

Burdic said feedback has included both opposition and support, as well as suggestions for bike rack locations.

Rebecca Sullinger, an MU senior who rides a yellow Schwinn, said, “It is difficult because there are areas without bike racks, and then in the areas that there are racks, they are overflowing — like by Memorial Union.”

Sullinger said she has had to attach her bike to a trashcan in the past.

Burdic said in a typical year about 300 bicycles might be impounded, and they tend to be abandoned bicycles found at the end of the school year. If bicycles are parked in handicapped accessible areas, they are also impounded.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said there has not been a recent increase in bicycle registration since the informational campaign commenced. He said the department encourages bike registration every year.

# MISSOURIAN

## MU athletic training degree moves to state board for approval

By Melissa Gilstrap

October 25, 2011 | 12:00 a.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — MU students will soon be able to major in athletic training, a program predicted to attract more potential students to the university.**

The degree program, unanimously approved by the UM System Board of Curators on Thursday, will now go to the state Coordinating Board for Higher Education for approval.

The board should approve the program by February 2012, said Richard Oliver, dean of MU's School of Health Professions. Incoming and current students should be able to begin applying for the degree the following spring semester.

According to MU Office of Admissions data, one of the most requested majors not available at MU is sports medicine and athletic training.

Some potential students chose other universities because MU lacked the degree program, said Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies.

"The School of Health Professions analyzed the future of careers that the athletic training program would prepare students for, and the projection was great," Spain said.

Brain injuries, especially in high school and college athletes, are a big issue in sports right now, Oliver said. He said there are new guidelines for athletes that try to make sure they can go back on the field after a head injury.

"Education has gotten more specialized because of traumatic brain injury," Oliver said.

Sixty students are needed to enroll as athletic training majors to make the program financially and academically viable.

The anticipated popularity of the major exceeds this cap, and revenue from students in the program would outweigh expenses, according to the proposal that went to the curators. Oliver said the major would lose money the first year or two, but it would eventually bring in about \$400,000 more than it costs.

"Even after we take off money off the top for scholarships, the business plan is very sound," he said.

Senior health sciences major Joe Moore said he would have liked if the degree program had been offered when he applied to MU, but it didn't keep him from enrolling.

"Getting an athletic training degree program would've been an added bonus," Moore said. "But I knew I wanted to be a physical therapy major from the start, so it wasn't a huge deal."

Moore is involved in the student trainer program. He assisted the Missouri football team last year, and the Missouri basketball team during his senior year. The help student trainers provide to prevent and treat injuries for Missouri athletes is very similar to what friends do as athletic training majors at other schools, Moore said.

Starting in spring 2013, freshmen would be admitted to MU as pre-athletic training majors. Most students would begin the three-year athletic training professional phase of the program their sophomore year.

Anatomy, physiology and psychology of sports injuries are some of the general education classes the students would take. Applied courses are another part of the proposed curriculum, where students would help treat or manage athletics injuries, Oliver said.

The professional phase would accept 40 students per class, totaling 120 students in the three-year program. Given the demand, Oliver said those spots would be fairly competitive.

Because the program would be housed within the Physical Therapy Department, athletic training majors and faculty would work together with physical therapy majors and faculty once the degree program is implemented.

Students aren't projected to graduate with athletic training degrees until 2016. Only after the first class has graduated can the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education accredit the program.

"With an emphasis on wellness in our society, and more demands being put on colleges and high schools to make sure their athletes stay healthy ... I think their futures are bright," Oliver said.



## MU band director puzzled about referee's demand for silence

By David Briggs

**The director of Marching Mizzou could not hear what referee Randy Christal shouted above the din of the Memorial Stadium crowd during the second quarter of Saturday's game against Oklahoma State. But the message was clear.**

Shut up!

"His throat slash made it pretty obvious to me that he felt we were playing too close to the snap," Bradley Snow wrote in an email.

He will agree to disagree.

While the officials viewed the band's presnap rendition of The Sugarhill Gang's "Apache" as a violation of rules banning schools from artificially interfering with the opposition's ability to signal plays, Snow regarded the added volume as a classic show of home-field advantage.

The stoppage came before the first play of the second quarter with OSU at the Tigers' 13-yard line. As Cowboys quarterback Brandon Weeden prepared to call for the snap — and the band blared — Christal blew the whistle and sprinted to the south stands to warn Marching Mizzou. The crowd booed and Snow simmered, wondering why the official would halt play. In the past, officials had relayed similar messages to the band via a member of the MU athletics staff.

"This has become an increasingly larger gray area now that most teams don't use huddles," Snow said. "It used to be very simple to just cut the band as soon as the team would break the huddle. So the bottom line is this. We weren't going out of our way to be unsportsmanlike, but we did try and make it difficult for them to communicate. It's called home-field advantage for a reason. I don't feel like we were in the wrong in this case, and it was definitely great to know our crowd had our back."

Only fans are exempt from NCAA rules governing noise. They apply to "all players, substitutes, replaced players, coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleaders, band members, mascots, public address

announcers, audio and video system operators and other persons affiliated with the teams or institutions.”

Snow, however, believes the rules were selectively enforced Saturday.

“It was a little frustrating on our end since we had already stopped playing when he stopped the game,” Snow said. “Even more frustrating was the fact that the OSU band consistently continued to play well after the snap on multiple occasions.”



## Missouri delegation to China tops 50 people

Posted on October 25, 2011 at 6:27 AM

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) -- More than 50 people are traveling with Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon during his trade mission in China this week.

The delegation includes a state senator, a state House member and the directors of the state departments of agriculture and economic development.

Also along are officials of groups representing Missouri producers of corn, soybeans, pork and beef. Several businesses sent representatives, as did the state and St. Louis regional chambers of commerce. **The vice provost for international programs at the University of Missouri-Columbia also joined the trip.**

Nixon left for China on Friday and is scheduled to return to Missouri on Saturday.