

JUL 25 2012

## Missouri press supporters look to tap students

15 hours ago • Associated Press

**The University of Missouri's decision to scrap its academic publishing business in favor of a digital-driven alternative has generated withering criticism from authors and scholars far beyond Missouri. Opponents now hope to boost their efforts by tapping into the school's biggest resource: some of the nearly 35,000 students who will descend on campus next month.**

The campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors hosted nearly 70 faculty and other University of Missouri Press supporters Tuesday to discuss strategy. The call for student involvement came from author William Least Heat-Moon, a former MU English professor and four-time Missouri graduate.

"We can sit here and talk to each other, and go on and on and on the way faculty meetings do, but it's going to go virtually nowhere," he said. "We are not going to win this fight in this room, or in any other room on this campus. We are going to win this fight only when we take it to the streets."

Several participants invoked campus protests against the Vietnam War and the recent successful efforts by University of Virginia students, faculty and alumni to help reverse a Board of Visitors' decision to oust the school's popular president.

Others urged group members to lobby elected leaders in Jefferson City or Washington, who in turn could share their displeasure with University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe. In his most high-profile decision since moving into University Hall in February, the former software company executive decided in May to shut down the 54-year-old academic press and put the \$400,000 annual university subsidy to better use.

The university recently announced plans to replace the press \_ and most, if not all, of its 10 full-time employees \_ with a digital publishing operation that will rely largely on student workers and be overseen by the editor of the Missouri Review literary journal, creative writing professor Speer Morgan.

Once-silent press employees have grown increasingly vocal in their objections to Wolfe's plan, noting that the operation has enacted significant cost-cutting measures while also becoming actively immersed in electronic publishing. Most of those press employees, including editor-in-

chief Clair Willcox, attended the two-hour meeting at the Missouri Student Center. Several faculty members were scheduled to meet with Wolfe later Tuesday to voice their concerns.

Wolfe has acknowledged that he was caught off-guard by the level of rancor surrounding the press changes. About 5,000 people have signed an online petition in support of saving the press, while several authors \_including former U.S. Rep Ike Skelton \_ have said they will take their book projects elsewhere or have asked the school to return publishing rights.

Some audience members at Tuesday's rally were concerned as much about how Wolfe made up his mind \_ without faculty input \_ as with the actual decision.

"We're doing damage to our brand," said Karen Pasley, whose husband is an MU history professor. "We need to bring in outside political pressure."

The press' transformation will be a likely topic of conversation Thursday at the regular meeting of the campus Faculty Council, a group that has broader representation and participation than the Missouri AAUP chapter. But it's also a group not known for taking activist stands, said math professor Stephen Montgomery-Smith.

"You'd think they would be totally outraged," he said.



## Plan progresses for small nuclear reactors

By Janese Silvey

A proposal for federal dollars that would bring small modular nuclear reactors to Callaway County would be "transformational" for Missouri, state and local leaders said yesterday.

At stake is as much as \$452 million being offered by the U.S. Department of Energy for proposals to design, build and operate small modular nuclear reactors, considered the next generation of nuclear reactors. Westinghouse Electric Co. has teamed up with Ameren Missouri to compete for those dollars, which would add as many as five small modular reactors at Ameren's current Callaway County location.

To give the project an edge, Gov. Jay Nixon has created a task force led by Boone County Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill. The group, made up of five commissioners who represent affected counties, will ensure that communities are on the same page and ready to assist with infrastructure and other needs if the time comes, he said.

Small modular nuclear reactors generate less energy and are no more or less safe than traditional reactors. What makes them attractive is that unlike traditional reactors, which require parts to be imported from other countries, small modular nuclear reactors can be entirely manufactured in the United States, said Alex Flint, senior vice president of governmental affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

That means if Missouri succeeds, the funding would not only meet growing energy demands but also would allow Missouri to design, build and export small modular nuclear reactors to other states and countries, Nixon told state and local leaders during a summit on the University of Missouri campus.

Nixon cited the state's central location, research capabilities at the university system's Columbia and Rolla campuses, and support from all of Missouri's electric power providers as giving the state an advantage against at least three competitors in the race for the funding.

The UM System is willing and able to provide additional research and training to continue to make a workforce available, UM President Tim Wolfe said.

"This is huge," he said. "Think about the number of jobs coming to Central Missouri — it's unbelievable."

Warner Baxter, president and chief executive officer at Ameren, estimates that one reactor would provide more than 9,500 direct jobs and more than 9,000 indirect jobs.

The Energy Department funding requires a 50 percent match, making a partnership between private entities and local and state governments vital, said Kate Jackson, senior vice president and chief technology officer at Westinghouse.

At the same time, both sides benefit. "It's about jobs," Jackson said. "It's about jobs in America and jobs in Missouri."

That's why federal lawmakers are behind the funding proposal, Flint said. They fear that if small modular nuclear reactors aren't made in the United States, the country will fall behind in what is expected to be a nuclear renaissance.

More than 300 people attended the afternoon summit at the Bond Life Sciences Center to hear about the future of nuclear power and why Missouri is the best place to build the reactors.

Rep. Jeanie Riddle, R-Mokane, pointed to Ameren's reputation for safety, knowledgeable workforce and generation capabilities. "I think that puts us ahead of the game," she said.

The project could be the investment Missouri needs to boost lagging state revenue, said state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail [jsilvey@columbiatribune.com](mailto:jsilvey@columbiatribune.com).



## Meeting focuses on how to fight UM Press closure

By Janese Silvey

Supporters of the University of Missouri Press plan to recruit students, reach out to state lawmakers and raise money in hopes of saving the 54-year-old publishing house.

Those were some of the ideas tossed out during a two-hour meeting Tuesday between the American Association of University Professors and those who are fighting the university's plan to close the press and replace it with an experimental model on the MU campus.

"We'll win the fight only when we take it to the street," author William Least Heat-Moon told about 70 attendees during the meeting at the MU Student Center.

In May, UM President Tim Wolfe announced plans to phase out the UM Press by cutting its \$400,000 subsidy starting July 1. Last week, the MU campus revealed plans for a new model to be directed by Speer Morgan, an English professor who oversees the Missouri Review literary magazine.

The plan has caused a national stir, prompting letters from academics and authors around the country and generating national media attention.

Heat-Moon suggested Morgan was behind the scheme.

"Blame one man," he said, urging critics to "follow the money." The UM Press comes with a backlist of successful book titles that generates some \$800,000 a year — money that would be redirected to Morgan's operation.

That amount could decrease, though, if authors are successful in getting their book rights back. So far, three have made formal requests that their rights be returned, and Heat-Moon urged other authors to do the same. He suggested writers get together and seek legal representation.

Heat-Moon also urged protestors to get students on board either through petitions or by asking them for small donations.

Jonathan Jones, who is pursuing his doctoral degree in history, attended the meeting because he's worried about the change in the press model devaluing his degree. He said he's afraid it will tell future academic employers that he graduated from an institute that does not value academics.

And the proposed new press on the MU campus that would heavily utilize graduate students, is “a step above slave labor,” Jones said. “We work hard, we work our butts off and teach quality classes, but we’re not publishing professionals so we should not be doing that.”

The Missouri Student Association, which represents undergraduates, is watching the situation but has not decided whether or how to get involved, said Xavier Billingsley, president of the organization.

Heat-Moon has pledged a donation to keep the traditional publishing house opened and said supporters are about a fourth of the way into a \$100,000 fundraising goal.

Leaders from the national AAUP suggested getting state lawmakers involved.

Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, said it would be inappropriate for legislators to mingle. “This is classically an internal decision,” he said. “The greater principle here is the right of the university to govern itself.”

But the university is not governing itself appropriately, many at Tuesday’s meeting said. They pointed to the fact that the decision to close the UM Press was made without consulting faculty groups.

While UM’s rules are hazy about who governs the press, faculty should have input in areas involving teaching and research, said Donna Potts, chairwoman of the assembly of state conferences for the national AAUP.

“The UM Press is arguably part of the research mission,” she said.

Potts, who has a doctorate from MU, said the national AAUP could get involved if faculty groups take a strong stand. So far, a group of deans from UM-St. Louis has signed a letter opposing the decision, but MU Faculty Council has not taken a stand.

“I’ve been frustrated with Faculty Council,” said Stephen Montgomery Smith, a math professor and vice chairman of MU’s AAUP chapter. He accused the council of being passive. “You’d think they’d be totally outraged.”

But Faculty Council does not meet regularly in the summertime, Chairman Harry Tyrer told the Tribune.

“I do not think we’ve been too passive,” he said, noting that the press is on Thursday’s agenda.

The council meets at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Union South. Morgan is expected to attend that meeting.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail [jsilvey@columbiatribune.com](mailto:jsilvey@columbiatribune.com).

## UM Press supporters plan to enlist MU students to cause

By Fareeha Amir

July 24, 2012 | 6:17 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Nearly 70 supporters of the soon-to-be-closed University of Missouri Press met Tuesday morning to plan their next moves to save the press.

Among them was best-selling author and MU alumnus William Least Heat-Moon, who urged the group to take more dramatic action. He said they would not be able to win the fight inside closed-door classrooms.

"We've got to take this battle to the streets," he said.

He also urged the professors, authors and graduate students on hand to get the general student body involved when the fall semester begins in August.

The announcement by UM System President Tim Wolfe in May about closing the press caused an uproar in the academic community at MU, as well as nationwide.

The MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors sponsored Tuesday's meeting to formulate a plan to save the existing press, which is set to close sometime in fiscal year 2013.

Donna Potts, the AAUP chair of the Assembly of State Conferences and a professor at Kansas State University, led the meeting. Potts said MU's Faculty Council needs to draft a resolution at its next meeting — this Thursday — adopting the six goals included in the "Save the University of Missouri Press" petition, which had 5,051 signatures as of Tuesday afternoon.

The goals include:

- Rescinding the decision to shut down the press and lay off its staff of 10.
  - Guaranteeing that the press continue to serve the citizens of Missouri and publish a broad range of peer-reviewed books.
  - Guaranteeing that the press continue to print books and train students — "but not use them to replace trained professionals."
-

The new press as described by MU's administration last week envisions a press that is almost entirely digital and in which students play a far greater role. Those parts of the plan have prompted the most criticism.

Truman Storvick, a retired MU professor emeritus in the Department of Chemical Engineering who has worked for the university for 53 years, attended the meeting and expressed concerns about the lack of communication between Faculty Council and the administration of the university. He was critical of the administration's management of the university.

“We’re using an industrial management model, which is totally inappropriate for an academic institution,” he said.

Stephen Montgomery-Smith, vice president of MU's chapter of AAUP and a member of Faculty Council, said he was happy that many different points of views got across at the meeting. He said he has no idea what the future of the press might be but that he had a “good feeling” about it.

*Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.*



The Tribune's View

UM Press

## **Tornado of criticism**

By Henry J. Waters III

I know of no one with serious interest in the University of Missouri Press or its kin nationwide who is happy with changes in the offing for the local operation. No one, perhaps, except high university officials directly involved in orchestrating the changes.

The idea is to save money while maintaining a scholarly publishing enterprise worthy of the name. Critics from all over the nation believe UM is gutting a vital outlet for important publishing and losing a function every good university should perform. Several authors have severed their relationships with the press. Others worry about their future.

Without consulting principals at the press, UM President Tim Wolfe ordered the change not long after taking office. Wolfe and other university officials say discussions about the future of the press had been under way for two years, but the move surprised almost everybody and seemed abrupt and heartless to many. It was done to save some \$400,000 in annual subsidies, but critics say such savings are not in the cards and serious discussion already was in progress looking for ways to make the operation more efficient.

In perhaps the most angry reaction, critics wonder why the new operation will fire all 10 current press employees and then rehire several people doing ostensibly the same functions.

According to plans, the UM Press will become a campus operation under the loose auspices of the Missouri Review. Two editors and a marketing director will be hired, and more of the work will be done by graduate student interns. As they try to justify the change, MU officials say these students will get valuable experience, but historians and authors believe the credibility of the press will diminish and prestigious authors will go elsewhere. They will regard the new press as experimental and will want their publications to receive "professional" treatment.

Discussion of the change was secretive, a familiar pattern at the university. One wonders whether MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, Provost Brian Foster and College of Arts and Science Dean Michael O'Brien were pleased to hear of the transfer, but as they struggle to explain the rationale, they put on the best face they can.

A major component of the new era is increased emphasis on digital publication. Serious historians generally do not hold e-books in the same light as print and paper volumes. For permanent preservation, I know of no historian who believes digital copy is as safe as hard copy.

Foster says the new model will take advantage of new technology, but current press Editor-in-Chief Clair Willcox says the UM Press already offers electronic versions of published works. He says reaction among his current staff to proposed changes is that "we already do all that and more."

A protest meeting is being sponsored today by the American Association of University Professors at the Student Union.

Amid the torrent of negative reaction, what's the best face one can put on this situation? Not much, really. It's all about saving money with the hope the press can continue to perform its traditional, valuable function. Nobody seems to believe the latter part of this equation, and as for the former, MU administrators have said the new model likely will not operate in the black. More realistically, it boils down to whether the traditional function is valuable enough to preserve. Trying to accomplish this with the new model will be a stretch.

Several months will elapse before the transition is complete. Even harsh critics concede the press should routinely look to reform operations, but none I know of thinks the wholesale change is warranted. The move is not a minor shift in the university's organization chart. It represents a major change in how the university treats scholarly publishing.

The hot potato has been handed from University Hall to Jesse Hall, not only narrowing the focus of the operation but diverting arriving slings and arrows to the MU campus.

I'm no historian or scholarly writer. Maybe in time we outsiders will regard this change as small rather than hot potatoes, but I think all of us should notice how deep and wide the negative feeling is among those who know and revere university press operations.

The University of Missouri has suffered a hit to its academic reputation at a time when it seems overjoyed at the prospect of moving into a larger athletic arena. Fair or not, many will believe the university could fund the press with mere crumbs from its SEC table.

HJW III



## MU faculty and colleagues vow to keep fighting for UM Press

By Janet Saidi



Credit Janet Saidi / KBIA

KSU Professor Donna Potts and MU Professor Stephen Montgomery-Smith led faculty members and colleagues in a discussion about the future of the UM Press, Tuesday, July 24, 2012.

**A group of MU faculty and colleagues concerned about the University of Missouri's decision to close the University of Missouri Press have outlined a set of goals that they'd like to see regarding the Press going forward, and loosely agreed to attempt to create a resolution regarding the Press through MU's faculty council. Organizers of the meeting also say they have a list of violations they believe UM administrators have committed in its dealings with the Press and its staff.**

A group of about 70 people – mainly MU faculty members – met Tuesday to reinforce their united concern about the future of the University of Missouri Press and the way the closure of the Press has been handled.

Stephen Montgomery-Smith is on the MU faculty council and helped organize today's meeting. He's a math professor who says he's worked at MU for 25 years, having got his first teaching job here. Echoing a concern that was voiced repeatedly at today's meeting, Montgomery-Smith said the problem went beyond being about the Press itself, and was also about university administration dealings with faculty and stakeholders – he describes it as a lack of "shared governance."

"I see in many ways the press closure, I mean it's an unfortunate thing that it happened, but it's not the problem at the University of Missouri," he says. "It's a symptom of the problems at the University of Missouri. And the lack of shared governance that led to the closing of the University of Missouri Press has been around this university probably as long as I've been here..."

William Mountz is a graduate student in the history department at MU, who also attended Tuesday's forum. He says the way the decision of the press closure was communicated is a problem for him: "Coming into the academy as a young faculty member, I ask myself, is this the way university presidents negotiate with faculty? Do they listen to faculty? Do they take what they have to say, or do they take the advice of the faculty when they're making decisions like this? So it's very concerning that this is my future career, and this is the place where I'll be working one day."

One of the meeting organizers, Donna Potts is a professor at Kansas State University and works with the American Association of University Professors, or AAUP. She has also published two books with the University of Missouri Press – and says that one outcome she's working toward is to help save the jobs of the University of Missouri press employees: "My primary goal is to keep the jobs of the professional staff, I have to say. They were of such high quality, and the publications of the press were of such high quality it would just be unconscionable for them to lose their jobs."

MU administrators last week announced a plan for a new University of Missouri Press under a new model that would be based at MU and managed by Missouri Review Editor Speer Morgan. The so-called new model would utilize a multidisciplinary team of faculty across departments as well as using student interns to continue publishing scholarly work.

Many at Tuesday's meeting voiced concerns about that plan and vowed to continue efforts to save the Press in its current incarnation.



## **MU hospital worker accused of stealing**

A University of Missouri hospital attendant is suspected to have twice used a work-related gas card for his personal use.

The Missouri Psychiatric Center reported a lost or stolen credit card to MU police, said Capt. Brian Weimer. Investigators believe Fulton resident Joseph E. Tomlin, 37, used the card two or three times within the past month.

Incomplete police reports do not indicate how Tomlin, a hospital attendant with the university's hospitality valet services, was linked to the use of the credit cards or how much gas was purchased. Tomlin was still employed as of this morning, a spokesman said.

Tomlin was arrested on suspicion of felony stealing and fraudulent use of a credit device. He was released from the Boone County Jail after posting a \$5,500 bond.

Felony stealing requires the value of the stolen property to amount to \$500 or more

# Chicago Tribune

## Happy all the time

New research offers hope for those seeking a durable boost in happiness

July 24, 2012 | By Nara Schoenberg, Tribune Newspapers

When Jim Gubbins finally got the job he'd been working toward for 12 years, he was a very happy man.

What's surprising is that three years later, the associate professor at Salem State University in Massachusetts is even happier. Thanks in part to running and meditation, he says he has sustained and enhanced the mood boost he got when he landed his tenure-track teaching position.

"I feel like this is being given the pony you wanted — plus the farm, and the farmhand to watch the pony," he says.

The idea that a person can get happier and stay happier after a major life change has taken major hits in recent decades, with researchers finding that lottery winners are no happier than nonwinners after 18 months and the happiness boost that follows marriage fades, on average, in about two years.

But a new wave of research is suggesting that the picture is more complex, and rising above your long-term happiness level or "set point" may be possible, at least for some individuals.

**In a preliminary but intriguing new study in the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, researchers from the University of Missouri in Columbia and the University of California at Riverside found that people who continued to appreciate a positive change and derive varying experiences from that change were more likely to sustain a happiness boost.**

"We think what it really comes down to is, whatever this change is, it should remain present in your life experience and supply positive daily experiences," says study co-author Kennon Sheldon, a professor of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri.

For a newlywed, that might mean going out for dinner with your spouse or planning a trip, Sheldon says. For the proud owner of a new painting, it might mean examining the painting from different angles or taking an art appreciation course.

These activities can sustain your appreciation of the positive change and combat the cycle of rising aspirations, in which something great happens (an engagement, a job promotion) and you're thrilled at first, but then you get used to your new circumstances and long for something even better (a spouse who picks up his socks, a corner office).

The overarching message from the new study is, "smell the roses and don't wish you had even better roses," Sheldon says.

Sheldon's study, like most in the field, has significant limitations: among them, it looks at happiness levels over only three months. But there's reason to be hopeful; a wide range of studies is beginning to suggest that that long-term happiness can change significantly for at least some people.

In an overview of research that appeared in *American Psychologist* in 2006, Ed Diener of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his co-authors found that evidence for a fixed happiness set point, while still very strong, has been overstated in some respects. For instance, a study looking at levels of well-being in a representative German sample over 17 years found that while happiness was stable overall, 24 percent of study respondents experienced significant changes in happiness.

"Long-term levels of happiness do change for some individuals," Diener and his colleagues wrote. "The more intriguing question, then, is why happiness set points change for some individuals more than for others."

The jury is still out on that one, but Sheldon's study suggests that some of us may be better at savoring positive changes and that some changes — chiefly those that allow for a range of positive experiences such as a career change or a trip to China — may create a more durable happiness than others.

That's the kind of multifaceted positive change that Gubbins, who was not involved in the Sheldon study, describes when he talks about his long-awaited job promotion.

He loves being a teacher, he says, and he enjoys many aspects of working at a university.

"If I have a funny shoulder I can talk to someone in the sports and movement sciences department. If I have a weird ring in my ears I can talk to a nurse — I get all this free advice. If I want some good reading literature I can go to my colleague in the English department," says Gubbins, 56.

"There are just all these benefits, which is great."

He also runs, which can boost your mood, according to some studies, and he meditates, which he says has helped him focus on the here and now and appreciate what he has while he has it.

"I used to think it would be great to teach at Boston University or Boston College — you'd have these really high-powered colleagues, you'd have a lighter teaching load," he says. "And now I see somebody I know who teaches at BU get on the train and I think, 'Oh, poor guy — I can ride my bike to work, and I ride along the ocean. I ride over this bridge that looks out over these islands.'"

"How many people ride to work along the coast, looking out over these just gorgeous views?"

"People get into retail therapy, they're trying to boost their mood, and the problem with buying stuff is, it just sits there. You quickly adapt to it," says Kennon Sheldon, co-author of a new study on long-term happiness in the *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. "People get into an addictive cycle, we think, where that's the 'fix.' "You want your fix, it wears off quickly, so you've got to go buy something else."

Buying trouble

— N.S.