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Editor wrote proposal for press in April Consultant also gave UM advice.

By Janese Silvey

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

A University of Missouri English professor was drafting plans for a new type of university publishing house well before UM System President Tim Wolfe announced the closure of the UM Press.

Speer Morgan — who is also editor of The Missouri Review literary magazine — sent a proposal for a new type of press to the UM System in April, according to documents the Tribune obtained through an open-records request. In late May, Wolfe said the current press would be phased out to save a \$400,000 yearly subsidy. Morgan last month was named director of a new university press on the MU campus.

Although backlash over the decision has caused administrators to rethink plans, much of Morgan's original proposal remains on the table. His plan, sent to Steve Graham, UM associate vice president for academic affairs, outlined a press that would partner with his literary magazine and the Missouri School of Journalism, involve teaching and take advantage of student interns.

The model is largely built off recommendations from Ben George, editorial director of Lookout Books, a press that partners with a literary magazine at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. In March, George sent Graham ideas for a new type of press. He was paid a consulting fee of \$1,000 plus travel expenses, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

One dramatic difference between the current UM Press and George's suggestions is a peer-review process. The current UM Press ensures quality by requiring, with rare exception, manuscripts to be reviewed by two outside experts, said Clair Willcox, who was laid off as editor-in-chief last month.

George dismissed the need for the process. "I don't think that the comments of peer reviewers are as valuable as the reaction to and reception of a book once it's published," he wrote, later saying: "I don't really think peer review is the right way to go."

In an email, Morgan said a new list would "be peer reviewed. The press will have a press committee consisting of members from all of the campuses."

It's unclear whether the new press will be more literary than scholarly in nature. In his plan, Morgan wrote that the role of university presses "as tenure validators may be insufficient justification for the cost of the press" and suggested the new press include categories such as art and literature, then, over time, include more specialized titles. And on several occasions, Graham and Morgan refer to Graywolf, Coffeehouse and Milkweed, three not-for-profit literary presses. Morgan said in his email that the new press "should be experimental and flexible in its future areas of concentration, but at the same time it should not forget its historic strengths."

Morgan's original proposal also came with a timeline suggesting the UM Press close within the first two years.

"One possible approach might be to close it but indicate that the Columbia campus will maintain the University of Missouri Press list," he wrote in April. "It may suffice to state that UMC will continue to do all that it can to pursue publishing in the 21st century through its excellent journalism school, English department and Creative Writing Program, as well as its widely admired literary magazine TMR."

Still, Morgan says he was surprised by Wolfe's May announcement. "I was surprised because I had thought the planning of the new press would be further along before they closed the old press," he wrote in an email.

Morgan said he sent the proposal because he was asked to do so as a member of a committee looking at the future of the press. But other members of that committee said they were not asked to submit ideas, nor were they aware of discussions to close the press in favor of a new model.

Budgets Morgan prepared this summer for a new press reveal a \$100,000 endowment set up for the UM Press will be moved to the new model, as well as revenue from UM Press' backlist. "Speer Morgan is simply taking the money that's generated by the backlist plus the endowment and using it to fund this literary boutique press," Willcox said.

Other critics say the documents highlight Morgan's lack of publishing experience. "It strikes me that Speer is throwing proposals out, hoping one sticks," said Bruce Joshua Miller, a book representative from Chicago who has collected more than 5,000 signatures on a petition to keep the current press open.

Meanwhile, more than 30 authors have asked for the rights to their books back. UM administrators have asked them to hold off while the new model is under discussion.

MISSOURIAN

The★Star. **AP** Associated Press
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

In plagiarism case involving MU doctors, author raises red flag

Tuesday, August 14, 2012 | 6:24 p.m. CDT
BY Zachary Matson

COLUMBIA — The author of a medical journal article published in 2006 raised the red flag that led to allegations of plagiarism against two MU researchers, according to the company that published the original piece.

The American Journal of the Medical Sciences last week retracted an article co-written by Amar Jadhav and Anand Chockalingam, two doctors at the MU School of Medicine. It said they had plagiarized parts of the 2006 piece published in a separate journal, Heart.

A third researcher, Apeksha Ingole, who is affiliated with a medical school in India, also worked on the MU researchers' article, entitled "Ventricular Ectopic Beats: An Overview of Management Considerations." It was published in the February issue of the medical sciences journal.

The author of the original article, G. André Ng, contacted the editor of Heart after noticing the MU researchers' work was similar to his own. The editor informed British Medical Journal Group, which publishes Heart, of the similar work. The two articles were compared using plagiarism detection software called iThenticate, BMJ spokeswoman Caroline White said. She said the result was a "very high percentage similarity rating."

BMJ contacted the editor of the medical sciences journal with a request to investigate. After an expert review of the two papers, the medical sciences journal agreed its article had plagiarized the Heart article, White said.

After determining the article was plagiarized, the American Journal of the Medical Sciences issued its retraction.

The editor of the medical sciences journal, David Ploth, declined to comment further.

MU officials were first made aware of the allegations July 2 by the medical sciences journal, Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said.

On Aug. 3, MU assigned the investigation to an ad hoc inquiry committee, which is responsible for investigating the charges and determining whether there is sufficient evidence to warrant a referral to the Standing Committee on Research Responsibility, Basi said.

The month-long delay in initiating the investigation was the result of summer absences, Basi said.

The two researchers will remain MU faculty members while the investigation progresses. "Nothing has changed regarding their employment status," Basi said.

Researchers found to have committed research misconduct such as plagiarism are subject to discipline and could be fired, Basi said.

The retraction was first reported by the website Retraction Watch, which tracks article retractions in scientific journals.

Attempts to reach Jadhav and Chockalingam have been referred to MU officials.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Guest commentary: We need to make college affordable again

8 hours ago • [By Jack Wax](#)



Jesse Hall and the columns on the campus of the University of Missouri-Columbia, pictured July 28, 2010. Erik M. Lunsford elunsford@post-dispatch.com

A matchbook almost determined the course of my life. I am lucky that it didn't. The matchbook was printed with an ad for a radio disc jockey training program. Because I was 21 years old and liked music, I thought I might as well enroll in the program and learn whatever it is that they teach at disc jockey school. A friend's father heard about my education plans and suggested that if I went to college and majored in journalism I'd have a better future.

That was three degrees and long ago. I am retired now and can't imagine the turns my life would have taken had I responded to the matchbook ad and never gone to college. I do not exaggerate when I say the thoughts I think, the quality of my life and the impact of my life on others stem, in good measure, from the education I received at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

I am not an MU booster, and this is not an alumni fund-raising pitch.

I have never donated a penny to the university, figuring my financial obligation ends with tuition and taxes. But I and every other adult who has had the privilege of a college education have a moral obligation to every young person reading the ads on matchbooks or on the Internet and thinking a commercial trade school is the only option.

I am not opposed to trade schools. But had I gone to disc jockey school I would never have been awed by the professor who made Greek tragedy fun. I might never have heard of philosophers, such as John Dewey or Frederic Nietzsche, or read any of the hundreds of research studies, novels, biographies, histories or poems that shape my thinking. I would not have learned how big the world is and how small I am.

The specifics of my jagged career path are of little interest to anyone except me and my family, who depended on my income. But along that 30-year path, I affected to various degrees everyone I worked with, along with clients, customers, businesses and non-profit organizations. Think of all the people you come in contact with in the course of a day or a year. Multiply that by 30 years.

Not every college teacher I had was an outstanding individual, but most earned my respect, and some I admired. The best ones modeled a way of being in the world that was different from the middle-class work-a-day world I grew up in. Their lectures and personalities demonstrated the value and virtue of analytical thinking and mastery of a body of knowledge. They taught and sometimes inspired. And I learned — not merely a set of facts or theories that could be found in a database. I learned a way of approaching problems and life.

That was decades ago. Because I value my education and what it has meant to me and done for me, I want others to have the opportunity of attending a four-year college. But higher education is now something that millions of youths can only dream of or forget about. The desire to learn, to become educated, is there. The desire to contribute to society is there. The desire to have a stable economic future is there; but the money for that education isn't.

Colleges and universities are no longer institutions of higher education. They have become corporations in the business of education.

Compounding this corporatization of higher education has been chronically weak funding for state colleges and universities. We are pricing access to our cultural and scientific heritage out of the reach of more young people each year. We are creating a debtor class out of those students whose parents can offer little financial assistance.

If there is a political philosophy that is more important than creating a world where our young can achieve their potential, I have not heard of it. Missouri politicians have given us one of the nation's cheapest cigarette taxes and have rejected taxes on Internet purchases. They have created lots of tax breaks for corporations but have done little to make higher education more affordable.

Of course, without an educated citizenry, Missouri will not have much of a future — economic or otherwise. According to Complete College America, a nonprofit organization funded by the

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in 10 years, 60 percent of all new jobs will require a college education. In Missouri only 37 percent of youth (age 25-34) have college degrees.

Statistics are easy to ignore, as are logical arguments that show the benefit of increasing access to college.

When enough of us feel the burden of this injustice, we can change the politics in the state Legislature and the culture in the academic world. But nothing will change until those of us who have received the benefits of a college education become committed to those youth who are being shut out of the future.

Jack Wax lives in Columbia, Mo.

United Press International

100 YEARS OF JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE

Appearance trumps health in young women

COLUMBIA, Mo., Aug. 15 (UPI) -- Young U.S. women say appearance is more important than health in caring for their body because society rewards women for "looking good," researchers say.

Maria Len-Rios, an associate professor of strategic communication; Suzanne Burgoyne, a professor of theater; and a team of undergraduate researchers at the University of Missouri asked college-age women how they viewed their bodies and how they felt about media messages aimed at women.

"During our focus group conversations, we learned that young people don't think about nutrition when it comes to eating," Len-Rios said in a statement. "They think more about calorie-counting, which isn't necessarily related to a balanced diet."

The researchers completed in-depth interviews with nutritional counselors who said lack of time and unhealthy food environments can keep college-age students from getting good nutrition.

"We receive so many conflicting media messages from news reports and advertising about how we should eat, how we should live and how we should look," Len-Rios said. "Some participants said they realize images of models are digitally enhanced, but it doesn't necessarily keep them from wanting to achieve these unattainable figures -- this is because they see how society rewards women for 'looking good.'"

The findings were presented at the annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference in Chicago.

BusinessWeek

San Francisco Chronicle

Samsung Witness Says Apple Saw His 'Tablet' Long Before iPad

Aug. 14 (Bloomberg) -- Apple Inc. saw a prototype for a tablet computer more than a decade before the iPad was released in 2010, according to a news technology developer called as a trial witness by Samsung Electronics Co.

Videotaped testimony by Roger Fidler, who heads the digital publishing program at the University of Missouri, was shown today to the jury in Samsung's multibillion-dollar intellectual property dispute with Apple over smartphones and tablets.

Fidler said in a written declaration he started working on a tablet design in 1981 and that "Apple personnel were exposed to my tablet ideas and prototypes" during a period in the mid-1990s when the company collaborated with Knight-Ridder Inc.'s information design laboratory in Colorado.

"My feeling was that it should be something that's lightweight, portable, with a flat screen that had an ability to use a touch screen," Fidler testified, referring to the first mock-up of his tablet from the early 1980s.

Apple, based in Cupertino, California, sued Samsung in April 2011, accusing it of copying patented designs, and Samsung countersued. The case is the first to go before a federal jury in a battle being waged on four continents for dominance in a smartphone market valued by Bloomberg Industries at \$219.1 billion.

Samsung's use of Fidler's testimony, as with other witnesses the company has called since it started putting on its case yesterday, is intended to discredit Apple's claims of originality behind the patented technology used in the iPad and the iPhone.

Fidler, who began his career in the newspaper industry in 1961, had a longstanding interest in developing "interactive, easy to read, portable electronic tablets," he said in his declaration. He wrote an essay in 1981 in which he envisioned how newspapers might look in the year 2000, suggesting they may appear on "portable flat-screen displays." Since then, he has discussed and displayed his tablet designs at media conferences worldwide and on radio and TV programs, he said.

Fidler testified that a later version of his tablet, built in 1994, featured “rounded corners” and slots for memory cards, again with a “flat touchscreen.”

“My original assumptions were that it would be a touchscreen without a stylus,” he said.

In a session without the jury present, Samsung lawyer Charles Verhoeven, defending the company’s attempt to show the testimony, told U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh it was central to the company’s case and that Apple had successfully blocked Fidler from testifying in person. He didn’t explain how or why. The jury didn’t see any videotape recording of Apple’s lawyers questioning Fidler.

Apple is claiming at least \$2.5 billion in damages for patent and trade dress infringement. Apple also wants to make permanent a preliminary ban it won on U.S. sales of a Samsung tablet, and extend the ban to Samsung smartphones.

Samsung is trying to persuade the jury to find Apple’s patents invalid and to award unspecified damages for Apple’s infringement of its patents.

Koh has limited each side to 25 hours to present their cases. The trial is expected to conclude late this month.

The case is Apple Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., 11-cv-01846, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (San Jose).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Letters to the editor, August 15

Access Missouri help students afford higher education

NO MU MENTION

As Missouri residents know and Tim Barker accurately points out in "UMSL develops 'Plan B' to renovate science lab complex" (Aug. 10), economic realities have forced difficult choices when it comes to funding higher education. We applaud the continued investment in residents of the state by supporting need-based financial aid through the Access Missouri program. Access Missouri provides a critical piece of the financial mix required for financially needy students to access higher education in our state.

Thanks to the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, Gov. Jay Nixon and members of the Missouri Legislature, funding of the Access Missouri program overall has remained stable for the past two years. Because of increased demand for need-based aid and a decline in available resources, students already have seen average awards decline. The infusion of MOHELA funds coupled with state resources has ensured that awards have not become obsolete.

Recently, the University of Missouri-St. Louis announced it completed its \$100 million capital campaign two years early and raised \$50 million more than its goal. It has demonstrated its willingness to raise funds and find investment partners to build campus infrastructure like the science building. Students do not have as many financial options as colleges and universities, therefore, they rely heavily on funding from need-based aid. We encourage Missouri policy makers to continue to invest in the ability of students to access higher education in our state through Access Missouri.

Misty Todd • LaGrange, Mo.

President, Keep Me in College Coalition