

Anti-coal group gets UM's attention



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Members of the University of Missouri student group Coal Free Mizzou stand in on the public meeting of the UM System Board of Curators meeting Thursday.

By [Janese Silvey](#)

Published [September 13, 2012](#) at 3:59 p.m.

Members of the student activist group Coal Free Mizzou skipped sensationalized tactics Thursday to instead **simply ask the University of Missouri System's Board of Curators to hear them out.**

And it worked. Board Chairman David Bradley spent time talking to members about the lifespan of coal during a hallway display before Thursday's curators meeting, and later in the afternoon, he acknowledged members' presence in the audience.

It was a change of behavior for both groups.

Coal Free Mizzou has been known for attention-grabbing stunts. Last fall, members alerted reporters that they planned to conduct a coal-themed flash mob during Homecoming, and in 2010, members used goggles, floaties and other beach-themed props when delivering an anti-coal petition to Sen. Claire McCaskill's office.

On Thursday, members wore yellow T-shirts and sat quietly in the audience as curators conducted financial business.

"We're starting over in terms of imaging and positive messaging," said Alexandra Rather, a senior and president of Coal Free Mizzou. Although coal facts are scary, she said, "we don't want to be 'in your face.' I have to charge my laptop like everyone else."

Acknowledging the group, which did not secure a spot on the board agenda, also was a switch for curators. At their July meeting, members ignored a large gathering of people protesting the proposed closure of the UM Press.

On Thursday, Bradley twice acknowledged the Coal Free group during the public meeting, thanking them for their work and attention to the environment. UM President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor Brady Deaton also agreed to meet with the group at a later time, Rather said.

"They were very receptive," she said, stressing that the group wants to work with administrators and not against them.

Rather also said MU has taken steps toward becoming a more environmentally friendly campus, although she would still like to see a quicker timeline. Coal Free Mizzou, which is associated with the Sierra Club, wants MU to be coal-free by 2015.

The university's current plan is to substantially reduce coal dependency by 2016. By the end of this year, a 100 percent biomass boiler is expected to be online, said Karlan Seville, spokeswoman for MU Campus Facilities, and that will reduce MU's use of coal by 25 percent.

Additionally, crews are installing a wind turbine at the southeast corner of Stadium Boulevard and Champions Drive. The turbine will be connected to and, once online, will supply electricity need for MU's 16,000-square-foot Beef Barn.

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Board of Curators examines UM System's financial health

By Keith Reid-Cleveland, Stephanie Ebbs

September 13, 2012 | 7:33 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri System added \$48 million to its operations budget deficit during the 2012 fiscal year, according to this year's financial status report.

During its meeting Thursday, the UM System Board of Curators heard reports on finances and discussed how to improve the system's financial health.

University of Missouri System Vice President for Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz said the system is not at risk financially, but there needs to be a plan to account for the increase in debt from last year.

At the start of July 2011, the system's operations budget had a deficit of \$505 million. By the beginning of July 2012, the total deficit was \$553 million. Krawitz said this was partially due to an increase in salary and benefit spending.

The curators also discussed reports saying there was a smaller return on the system's investments than in previous years, because of poor market conditions. There was a 1.8 percent increase in return from 2011 to 2012, compared with a 9.1 percent increase from the 2010 to 2011 fiscal years.

Krawitz said Moody's, a credit rating agency, considers the system's finances to be healthy, which leads to low interest rates. Consequently, the system added approximately \$15 million in loans during fiscal year 2012, which Krawitz said must be watched closely. She also said the system needs to have a plan to increase revenue so the debt isn't paid for through the system's savings.

The curators also:

- Heard the results of audits of the MU athletics department and the PeopleSoft Human Resources software used across the system. Recommendations for athletics focused on

enhanced monitoring for purchases made with cards and ticket sales. The recommendations for PeopleSoft focused on controls to prevent errors or unnecessary user access to the system.

- Heard from representatives from Strategic Investment Solutions, an independent consulting firm hired by the curators in 2011, who recommended a new format for the system's portfolio called an "all-weather" portfolio. A portfolio of this type would balance risk with diverse investments, rather than solely focusing on return.
- Unanimously approved the development of a multidisciplinary studies degree for Missouri University of Science & Technology and a master's of educational psychology for the University of Missouri-St. Louis.
- Voted unanimously to rename the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to recognize the Regnier family, which has supported the institute since its founding.
- Unanimously voted to approve a \$1.5 million contract with Cannon Design to work on UMSL's new recreation and wellness center.

Also during the meeting, about 35 members of Coal Free Mizzou silently entered the room wearing matching yellow shirts for the "Beyond Coal" campaign. The student organization has been trying to get MU away from its coal-powered plant for three years, and members said they hoped today's appearance would push the curators toward cleaner energy for the system's flagship campus.

The Board of Curators spoke to members of Coal Free Mizzou before the meeting was called to order. Chairman David Bradley said UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton will sit down with members of Coal Free Mizzou to look at what can be done in the future about the power plant.

The Board of Curators meeting will continue 9 a.m. Friday at Stotler Lounge in Memorial Student Union, North.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.



The Tribune's View

UM Press

The fight over Willcox

By Henry J. Waters III

Thursday, September 13, 2012

On Friday I wrote in praise of the **decision by University of Missouri officials** to reinstate the UM Press and suggested critics avoid a continuing fight over who is selected to serve as editor in chief.

Those critics would have none of it, continuing to protest in behalf of Clair Willcox, the former editor who was the first — and after a reversed decision, the only — press employee to be laid off in the initial dismantling of the operation. I heard from quite a horde, lobbying for the rehiring of Willcox as strongly as they lobbied for saving the press itself.

I was writing with neither firsthand knowledge of nor intent to impugn Willcox's earlier performance. Instead I thought campus officials should be allowed to do their personnel selection duty without intense lobbying that seemed more appropriate for saving the operation than for naming an editor.

I don't know what the vast and distant masses thought of this comment — probably nothing at all — but the aforementioned lobbyists made themselves clear: They want Willcox back on the job and are willing to keep pushing Jesse Hall to that end. To keep from being stoned to death, I reiterate no negative attitude about Willcox as editor. Indeed, from the intensity of support from people with former ties to the operation, obviously he did a very good job from their perspective. Maybe MU managers should reinstate him.

Or maybe they have their own reasons for not doing so. The critics say the administration has demonstrated its incompetence on this and other matters and can't be trusted to make the right decision, a contentious posture that probably does nothing to enhance Willcox's chances. For their part, MU officials should fairly and openly consider arguments for rehiring the former editor, beginning with the obvious strength of support he is receiving from estimable sources.

Personnel decisions can't be made from the streets, yet history is littered with examples of official action influenced or errors corrected from such agitation. Since I am unqualified to judge and never intended to comment on his fitness, I hereby declare independence in the fray involving Clair Willcox himself. May he prosper no matter what his ongoing vocation, and may the UM Press prosper no matter who is its next editor.

HJW III



MU police warn of fake football tickets

By Janese Silvey
Columbia Daily Tribune
Published September 13, 2012 at 10:31 a.m.

Hundreds of fake tickets were floating around at Saturday's Missouri football game against Georgia, campus police say.

The University of Missouri Police Department received several reports from people who were turned away from the game because they unknowingly purchased counterfeit tickets, Capt. Brian Weimer said.

A review of ticket scanners afterward showed more than 400 "missed scans." Although, in a few cases, scanners might have had problems reading legitimate tickets with smudged bar codes, most were probably from fake tickets, said Chad Moller, MU Athletics Department spokesman.

"I can't give an exact number, but I would be comfortable saying a majority of that number did come from counterfeit scans," he said.

The counterfeits turned in to police had the same look and feel as real tickets, Weimer said.

"Holding them in your hand, you can't tell the difference," he said. "The only difference is the bar code on the bottom, obviously, doesn't work."

That means victims wouldn't realize their tickets were fake until they tried to get into the stadium.

Although counterfeit tickets aren't a new problem — Moller remembers similar issues at the 2010 Homecoming game against Oklahoma — the number of fake tickets recorded Saturday was abnormally high, he said. And although he doesn't expect as many problems this weekend when the Tigers take on Arizona State, Moller does suspect more fake tickets will crop up for the Alabama game next month.

MU police officers are looking into the situation but do not have any idea where the tickets originated.

"It's unfortunate," Moller said. "That's why we always encourage people to buy directly from us. Even the legitimate second-party resellers like StubHub or other outlets that are reputable can come across, unknowingly, counterfeit tickets and sell those thinking they have legitimate tickets."

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Fraudulent tickets keep fans from Missouri-Georgia game

By Lizzie Johnson

September 13, 2012 | 4:44 p.m. CDT



This image from the MU News Bureau shows the real and fake tickets to the Missouri football game against Georgia on Saturday. | Courtesy of the MU News Bureau

COLUMBIA — Fraudulent tickets kept some spectators from Saturday's Missouri football game against Georgia.

There were errors in more than 400 ticket scans at the game, many of which MU director of athletic media Chad Moller attributes to fraudulent tickets.

"I do believe a large number of that total was fraudulent tickets," he said Thursday. "This is the biggest instance of it in a couple years. We are bracing for when Alabama comes for a lot of people to try using them again."

Spectators with invalid tickets were not admitted to the game.

The fraudulent tickets, which are nearly identical to the ones produced by MU, have the same design, picture, color scheme and correct disclaimers on the back sides.

"There is not any significant difference," Christian Basi, associate director of the MU News Bureau, said. "Typically, it's the bar code. The correct ticket has a bar code that will be authenticated through the scanners. The false ticket doesn't."

Invalid tickets cannot be read by the scanners and are recorded as a missed scan.

While the scanning errors could also be attributed to smudged or damaged bar codes, Moller said it is unlikely to be the cause of the high number of ticket errors.

"One of the only ways to check the validity of a ticket is through the scanning process," Capt. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said. "That is why we are not wanting spectators to purchase tickets from other sources."

An investigation regarding the fraudulent tickets is under way, Weimer said.

Spectators are advised to purchase tickets through MU, rather than other sources.

"You have to have a true ticket to be admitted to the game," Basi said. "That is why we are really concerned. We don't want people to go out and be a victim of the scam."

Supervising editor is John Schneller.



MU Extension redraws districts

By Janese Silvey
Columbia Daily Tribune
Thursday, September 13, 2012

University of Missouri Extension is redrawing its boundaries across the state, eliminating two districts and creating a new one focused solely on Missouri's urban populations.

The change is part of an administrative restructuring that should help MU Extension operate more efficiently in light of changes in the state's economy and demographics, said Director and Vice Provost Michael Quart. Starting Jan. 1, MU Extension will have six regional offices rather than the current eight, with the central and south central regions being folded into contiguous districts. A seventh, the urban region, will consist of six counties around Kansas City and St. Louis, including the City of St. Louis. Administrators have not yet decided where the urban district's main office will be housed.

It's a good time to implement the change because several of the eight regional directors are serving on an interim basis, Quart said. Those who are in permanent positions will have the option of working in one of the newly drawn districts, and once those decisions have been made, Extension will conduct a search to fill the remaining directorship slots.

MU Extension also plans to launch a new budgeting model this coming year. Instead of allocating money for a specific number of positions in each region — the process used now — Extension administrators will allocate funding to each region, letting managers deem the best way to spend it in their specific regions.

"The focus will be on program impact, not the position," Quart said. "Decisions about where to invest in positions will be based on citizens' greatest opportunities and needs and MU Extension's available resources to fill those needs."

There also will be an emphasis on new revenue streams in the future, Quart said, with a focus on boosting the number of grants, gifts and fee-based services to offset unpredictable state allocations. MU Extension has been revamping its mission for the past couple of years. One of the most visible changes began last year when distance and online learning shifted from Extension to the MU campus in the form of the year-old Mizzou Online.

That transition is still under way, MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken said. In the interim, Jim Spain, vice provost of undergraduate studies, is serving as interim director of e-learning. Mizzou Online administrative positions will be filled, Banken said, once the transition is complete.

Three MU radio stations and the Missouri Film Office also have been removed from MU Extension during the 2011 budget year.

St. Louis Business Journal

U.S. News ranks local business schools

Washington University's Olin Business School ranked No. 14 in U.S. News & World Report's latest ranking of the best undergraduate business programs in the country; **the Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business at the University of Missouri ranked No. 47.**

The business school at Washington University remained unchanged from its No. 14 ranking last year. The business school reported undergraduate enrollment of 171 students this year, compared with 168 last year. Washington University's graduate business program was ranked at No. 22 this year, compared with 20th last year.

MU's business school moved up eight spots from its No. 55

SEC historian explains colorful culture of Missouri's new conference

By Dan Burley

September 13, 2012 | 11:09 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — From 1966 until 1991, 10 football teams competed in the Southeastern Conference. Mark Windham, an expert on SEC history, referred to them as the "happy 10."

"That is until we let the chickens and the pigs in," Windham said, referring to the South Carolina Gamecocks' and Arkansas Razorbacks' inclusion into the conference in 1991.

Windham, a professor of plant pathology at the University of Tennessee, came to Columbia to lecture on his other area of expertise — the history of SEC football.

Roughly 60 spectators sat in the Missouri Theater on Thursday night for Windham's presentation, which outlined the origins of the SEC and explained some of the cultural eccentricities in Missouri's new conference.

Windham spent particular time on the lavish life of SEC mascots. "Uga" — Georgia's bulldog, for example — flies to every away game on a chartered plane and has air conditioning in his doghouse in the Georgia stadium. Mike the Tiger, LSU's half-bengal, half-siberian tiger mascot, lives in an outdoor compound the length of half a city block. He can be viewed 24 hours a day on a live webcam on the mascot's official website, Windham said.

"He has paid dental and medical and goes to the ballgame for free," Windham said. "There's not a Cajun in the state that wouldn't trade places with him."

An avid SEC football fan for the last 50 years, Windham founded a freshman course about the history of SEC football seven years ago at the University of Tennessee after he was stunned by how little his students knew about the conference.

He has since spoken at University of Tennessee alumni chapter meetings, private business gatherings and regional conferences. **He said he's using his visit to Columbia as a chance to learn about MU's traditions and develop a lecture for his class.**

Windham has toured campus, the athletics facilities and made stops at Sparky's Ice Cream, The Heidelberg, and Addison's during his stay.

"The first time I saw the columns, they flashed on the screen during an SEC commercial," Windham said. "My wife and I thought, 'where the heck is that?' When I pulled up to campus Wednesday, there they were. They are magnificent."

Windham said he's fielded lots of questions about SEC traditions from MU students, who seem worried about what to wear to SEC games.

"I just say, 'Be yourself,'" Windham said. "The fans at Ole Miss wear blue blazers and eat off sterling silver plates. At Tennessee, we're thankful if our students show up with shoes."

Unlike MU fans he's talked to, Windham isn't worried about the Tigers fitting in.

"Once you've played every team, it's old hat," he said. "You're new, you're novel, but it's not going to last. I guarantee you, every SEC fan sees the Tigers as standing in between them and Atlanta (the location of the SEC conference championship)."

Supervising editor is John Schneller.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Burwell: Alden enjoying Mizzou's big move



Missouri athletics director Mike Alden on the sidelines during a game between Missouri and Southeastern Louisiana on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at Faurot Field in Columbia, Mo. Photo by Chris Lee, clee@post-dispatch.com

7 hours ago • BY BRYAN BURWELL, Post-Dispatch Sports Columnist

COLUMBIA, Mo. • After all the months of planning, all the nervous tension involved in Mizzou's uncertain future because of the whirlwind of conference realignment, late last Saturday night, Mike Alden was roaming the Faurot Field sidelines glad-handing his new friends from the Southeastern Conference like cordial Midwest folks are known to do, finally able to exhale and enjoy the fruits of all his tireless efforts.

This was the first time in months that Alden was able to truly take in the incredible scene under the hazy Saturday night lights. It was halftime of Mizzou's SEC debut, and the MU director of athletics saw an elderly gentleman from Georgia on the sidelines holding the team's famous bulldog mascot on a leash and decided to give him a good old fashioned Missou-rah welcome.

Alden shook the man's hand, and they chatted briefly until finally the old man just shook his head almost quizzically and laughed, catching Alden a little off guard.

"Son," the old man said in a smooth, syrupy southern drawl, "You people sure are nice. It's unbelievable. But don't expect us to be like this to y'all when you come down our way, okay?"

Ah yes, welcome to the SEC, Mizzou.

On Thursday afternoon, the Mizzou AD sat down for an hour-long Q&A to reflect on the early days of the university's move to the SEC. Here are highlights of that conversation:

Q: What's the most noticeable difference you've seen about life in the SEC?

Alden: I think I didn't expect the energy level and the intensity to be that high. I know there were a lot of dynamics at play on Saturday. Our first SEC game. Georgia ranked in the Top 10 and all that. But in all the big games we've been in over the course of the last several years, the energy and intensity I saw (on Saturday) was a little different. It was almost a pride thing from our fans. It was amazing. I wasn't prepared to see that sense of pride to be in the SEC. You can't know about it until you experience it, and it was special.

Q: From a personal level, looking back as far back as seven years ago when you were fighting to save your job, and now you have a new contract extension, you've led Mizzou out of the Big 12 and into a prominent place in the SEC. What did Saturday night mean to you?

A: "I think there is a certain sense of satisfaction. You know we love Mizzou. When we were going through those challenges you referred to, we still loved Mizzou. But knowing that you had some of these hurdles you had to overcome, and they were some big ones, too, and now you're standing on the field, looking up at 71,000-plus people in the stands, playing on national TV, moved to the SEC, there is a tremendous amount of satisfaction. When you have a chance to do exactly what you want to do, exactly where you want to do it, that's pretty special. That doesn't happen too often in people's careers. ... To see it all come into play and to know you're still a part of it, that's very humbling."

Q: Last week was a big event, and in the past this football program has filled the stadium up for big events. But do you get the sense that the attendance is not going to fluctuate any more based on the name and rank of the opponent? Is Mizzou's fan base ready to show up 71,000-strong every week?

A: We are. We will sell it out against Arizona State. We only have a few tickets left, and we're expecting 71,000 plus on Saturday night. We're pretty confident we'll sell it out for Vanderbilt. We know we'll sell it out for Alabama and Kentucky. ... This is the first time we sold out a non-conference game since 1984 — I think it shows that people are really pumped up. ... We're getting to a point where we will see 65,000 to 71,000 for every home game. That's really special."

Q: How would you best articulate why moving to the SEC made the most sense?

A: "I think institutionally, the biggest reason was the opportunity to be able to collaborate from a research and academic standpoint with Florida, Vanderbilt, Georgia, University of Tennessee. This provides us an ability to expand as an institution. ... A second thing is the television household footprint for the Big 12 was approximately 45 million. The household footprint in the SEC is 89 million. So we know from a promotional standpoint, we are able to impact twice as many people because our TV footprint has changed. ... There is no doubt in my mind with the

television exposure already from the SEC and the opportunities that I think are going to exist in a couple of months (bowl games, basketball coverage, etc), we're going to be able to expose the University of Missouri to more people than we've ever been able to both nationally and internationally."

Q: I always felt you guys were not treated on equal footing with Texas and Oklahoma by the Big 12. Was that ultimately the problem with life in the Big 12 and the reason you fled to the SEC?

A: "I would say that the opportunity to be associated with a group of institutions where everybody is looking out for each other's best interests. Now, on Saturday, they're still trying to kick your tail. But when you know that the University of Florida is looking out for the best interest of the University of Mississippi, which is looking out for the best interest of the University of Alabama, and they're looking out for the best interest of the University of Kentucky and on and on, that is something we were not familiar with. Going into the SEC, we viewed that as not only something that was refreshing, but something that can provide unbelievable opportunities in the future."

Q: What is the accurate number that best quantifies the advantage of moving to the SEC?

A: "We are trying to measure apples to oranges, which is a hard thing to do. But in our analysis, and we're pretty confident in that, to the best of our ability we believe we're getting about \$2.5 million more per year. ... Even with the \$14 million exit fees that we start to pay back in fiscal year 2016 at about \$2 million per year back to the institution, even with all those improvements we have in place (for the football stadium), we will make immediately that \$2.5 million per year. ... We will in future years not only absorb the repayment, but make significant gains in income from the first two years in the league."

Q: And finally, any discussions with Kansas about renewing the rivalry?

A: "There have been no new discussions, but (KU officials) are fully aware that Mizzou at any point would love to be able to start that series again in every sport. We're prepared to do that, and we hold out hope that at some point that's something they'll eventually want to do. In the heat of the moment, sometimes it's helpful if you take a step back and take a breath. And I'm hopeful that over the course of some time, they would have interest in doing it, because we would love to do it."