

DEC 18 2012

AP Associated Press

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MISSOURIAN

MU opposes release of education course outlines

By: ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- University of Missouri professors' course outlines are legally protected under federal copyright law, a lawyer for the four-campus system argued Monday as the schools fight against public release of records related to teacher training.

The National Council on Teacher Quality is trying to force the university, citing the state's open records law, to release copies of course syllabuses as part of its nationwide effort to monitor what aspiring teachers learn at college. The Washington-based education advocacy group plans to publish the results next year in a joint study with U.S. News & World Report, rating schools with letter grades from A to F.

The council, which filed a lawsuit in October, wanted an immediate ruling during Monday's hearing, but Boone County Circuit Judge Kevin Crane refused. He told both sides to exchange pre-trial information and return at a later date.

University attorney Paul Maguffee told the judge that federal copyright law "includes the right to control distribution." But the council's attorney said that argument has been rejected in dozens of other cases where state universities initially objected to disclosing such records.

"The sole question in this case is whether the records are protected from disclosure by (state) law," said Chesterfield-based attorney Mary Schultz, who represents the council.

She said the university is arguing that private copyrights should be protected by a public university that "is going to have to justify tuition raises while fighting and using resources" to withhold documents its employees freely provide to students.

Maguffee declined to answer questions after the hearing.

The education group settled a similar complaint Friday against the 12 schools in the University of Wisconsin system. The agreement requires those schools not only to provide course outlines for all required undergraduate education classes, but also to reimburse the National Teacher Quality Council for nearly \$10,000 in legal fees spent trying to obtain the documents.

But the agreement requires the group to follow a confidentiality clause and not quote directly from any of the course syllabuses, or name specific professors or courses as either good or bad examples.

The group would follow similar restrictions with the Missouri system, said Arthur McKee, the council's managing director of teacher preparation studies.

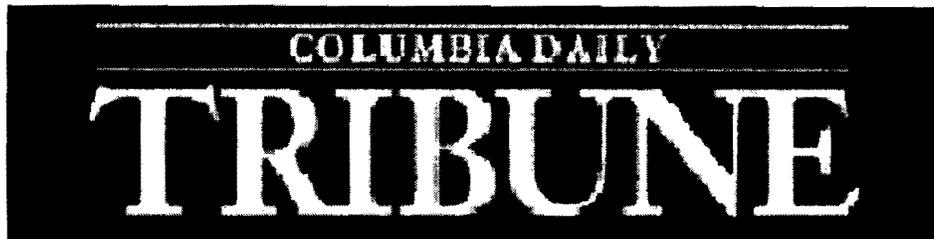
"The public needs to know about the quality of these institutions," he said after Monday's hearing. "That's all we need to know."

The council's research methods have been criticized by universities in Missouri. In a February 2011 letter to the council, 14 university presidents from Missouri declined to participate in what they called "ill-conceived 'research'" conducted "in a coercive way from outside the profession."

The leaders of Westminster College, Lindenwood University, Missouri Southern State University and the University of Central Missouri were among those who shared their objections.

That resistance has led the teacher quality council to seek course outlines in more creative ways, such as buying syllabuses from former students contacted through classified ads in campus newspapers.

At the University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia, student government leaders voted soon after the lawsuit was filed to create a "syllabus archive" that would allow students to compare their current course content to previous versions.



UM battles with research group over syllabi

Parties argue over open-record status.

By Janese Silvey

Monday, December 17, 2012

University of Missouri System attorneys this morning successfully delayed a court decision that is ultimately expected to determine whether course syllabi are public records.

The National Council on Teacher Quality filed a motion in October asking the court to require the university to release the documents under the state's open records law. On Friday, the UM System requested time to ask the group for documentation and other information. Boone County Circuit Judge Kevin Crane ruled that the case should go through a civil suit, rather than a judicial motion, to give the university time for a discovery process.

UM attorney Paul Maguffee declined to tell the Tribune what information the university is seeking.

The NCTQ is a research group that has teamed with U.S. News & World Report to evaluate colleges of education, in part, by analyzing course syllabi, which are essentially outlines of what topics are covered throughout a semester. Maguffee said the university believes copyright laws protect syllabi.

NCTQ attorney Mary Schultz said she doesn't believe the documents fall under copyright laws. She argued that the university is too broadly applying exemptions in the state's open-records law, which says exemptions should be applied narrowly.

Arguments in court this morning quickly turned from whether the records are open to whether Crane had the authority to make that decision today. Maguffee successfully argued that the Sunshine Law cites "civil action" as a remedy when public entities are suspected of violating the law. He called today's attempt to get judicial enforcement a "made up" procedure.

Schultz called it a "strategic" move by the university to delay a decision, making it tougher for NCTQ researchers to analyze all of the university's data before evaluating the programs. That doesn't mean MU or educational programs on the other campuses won't be included: The NCTQ has been able to obtain some syllabi by contacting students, said Arthur McKee, managing director of the group's teacher preparation studies.

The NCTQ is collecting information nationwide, and most universities have complied with requests for course syllabi, McKee said. After a similar legal challenge in Minnesota, the group was able to get a summary judgment that found syllabi to be public documents, he said.

McKee expects the Boone County Circuit Court to come to the same conclusion. By forcing it to go to trial, he said the university might be hurting itself in the long run. The NCTQ, in a settlement offer, vowed to keep syllabi private, he said. If Crane ultimately decides syllabi are open records, anyone will be able to request and obtain them.

NCTQ's next step will likely be its own discovery request to determine the relationship between faculty members and the university, McKee said. If syllabi are protected by copyright, he said, then the public university is paying to defend private copyrights.

Schultz also questioned the resources being used to continue the legal fight and keep the records closed.

"The public university is going to have to justify tuition raises while fighting and using resources," she said, to protect documents that are "handed out to students."

MU holds memorial for shooting victims at Sandy Hook Elementary

By [Ayano Shimizu](#)

December 17, 2012 | 5:42 p.m. CST



MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and his wife, Anne, laid a wreath in honor of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in front of the columns on Francis Quadrangle on Monday afternoon. | [Greg Kendall-Ball](#)

COLUMBIA — More than 130 people gathered on the north porch of Jesse Hall on Monday afternoon to remember the victims of shootings Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

People came with family, coworkers and friends to stand together. "Enough is enough," Chancellor Brady Deaton told the gathering. "We can't allow this to happen again."

More people joined in as the group slowly followed Deaton and his wife, Anne Deaton, who together carried a wreath and laid it at the MU Columns.

The wreath had a green and white ribbon — green for harmony and white for purity, the chancellor said. He said the wreath represents "unyielding hopes for the future." A sign next to it said, "The Mizzou Family honors the children and staff of Sandy Hook Elementary."

On Friday morning, 20-year-old gunman Adam Lanza shot 26 people at the school, including 20 children. Before that, Lanza shot his mother at their home. Afterward, Lanza committed suicide at the school.

As the wreath was placed at MU, the bell in Switzler Hall rang 26 times.

Lauren Francis, a graduate student in music history, came to the memorial. "My brother is a teacher, and he would have done the same things as the teachers did," she said. "I don't have kids, but I have a nephew. I know that the children won't be back, but I want to do anything to help."

Charlie Allen was introduced by Deaton as a former resident of Newtown, Conn. Later in an interview, Allen, who works at the MU Research Reactor Center, said he attended Sandy Hook Elementary School from 1958 to 1962.

"I wanted to come to thank the people of the state of Missouri for expressing sorrow and grief," Allen said.

"(The shooting) really caused me to be reminiscent over my childhood," he said. He remembered where he grew up, the teachers and how he used to get in trouble because he "wasn't a good student."

"That's where I started my educational career," he said. "I recognized a last name (of one of the victims) — it could've been a grandson of one of my classmates."

"I'm the kind of person that would say that it would never happen at my hometown," Allen said.

He said Newtown's historical significance was that the French general Rochambeau camped there on his way to the Battle of Yorktown in the Revolutionary War.

"Now it's overshadowed," Allen said. "Now it will be remembered as a place of atrocity."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.

Reforestation seen as solution for Hinkson Creek

By Gwendolyn Girsdansky

December 18, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — As a scientist, Jason Hubbard has not been a political player in the three-year standoff between local government agencies and MU with the federal government over the water quality in Hinkson Creek.

But the MU assistant professor of forest hydrology sees a potential solution in floodplain reforestation as an affordable way to meet a federal mandate to reduce pollution in the stream. The city likes his idea.

Hubbart, a member of the Hinkson Creek Science Team, is working with the city on plans to return part of the Forum Nature Area along Hinkson Creek to forest. In his EPA-financed research at the site, Hubbard found that trees can increase the soil's ability to hold water by as much as 30 percent.

The pilot project would divert rainwater from Hinkson into the field targeted for reforestation that would act as a natural filtration system, preventing pollutants from entering the creek and reducing the amount of water flowing into the stream.

Plans call for a swale, a low stretch of land, planted with native plants to carry water away from the creek. Water from the swale would enter into a concrete curb, or "level spreader," which spreads the water out over a large area so it can be absorbed faster. Once trees are allowed back, they would consume more water through transpiration.

"I don't think this solution will solve all of our water quality problems," Hubbard said. "But it could help a lot, and it's cheap. Really cheap. If we just step back from the floodplain, and don't touch it, trees are going to come back all by themselves."

The Environmental Protection Agency declared Hinkson Creek to be impaired, or polluted, in 1998. To help relieve pollution and erosion, the agency ordered the city to reduce runoff by nearly 40 percent. Ideas included the construction of large reservoirs and other holding basins and cost estimates to meet the targets ranged from \$30 million to \$300 million.

The reforestation and level spreader would cost an estimated \$25,000. If the Forum Nature Area project is successful, the approaches used there could be implemented up and down Hinkson Creek.

"It's inexpensive compared to other storm drain projects," said Tom Wellman, an engineering specialist with the city Department of Public Works and a member of the Hinkson Creek Science Team. "This concept is pretty adaptable."

In a historical context, floodplains were normally forested, Hubbart said. But agriculture and urban development led to deforestation. This image of non-forested banks has been around for hundreds of years and has become a popular conception of how they should look, he said.

"As it turns out, in our area, having anything other than forest next to a creek takes a lot of maintenance," Wellman said. The Department of Parks and Recreation manages the Forum Nature Area and would like to "bow to the obvious" and start letting that southeast area reforest, he said.

Although the soil has been drained of nutrients from agriculture, enough remain to allow trees to grow, Hubbart said. Bottomland trees such as cottonwood, willow, poplar and sycamore would work well because they tolerate flooding, consume a lot of water and transpire a lot.

"It's such a no-brainer; it's so cheap," Hubbart said of reforestation. "You have marginal floodplain lands, plant trees, and there is virtually no maintenance cost."

Deforestation and urbanization have led to increased erosion, which can pollute streams with soil and other pollutants. Erosion causes smaller particles that have more surface area, which allow more chemicals to be absorbed and washed into the creek.

Reforestation would slow down the volume of water going into the creek, therefore the peak flows may be lessened, and therefore the amount of erosion in the stream and the amount of suspended sediment might be reduced, Hubbart said.

To make the reforestation more effective, water would be diverted into the nature area with a 250-foot concrete curb that would release water slowly into the field, which would act as a natural filtration system. The plan would address about 115 acres, a fraction of the 90 square miles that drain into Hinkson Creek.

"The importance of something like this is more in what we can learn from it and how it can be applied in other areas," Wellman said.

The spreader would be designed to accommodate small- and medium-sized storms. These storms, 1.3 inches or less, make up 90 percent of rainfall in Columbia, according to Wellman.

Although smaller storms don't place as much stress on streams as bigger rains, more erosion occurs as a result of small storms because of their regularity.

"In the past, someone like me would have been focusing on 3.5-inch storms or 5-inch storms, the big ones, to prevent flooding, but in the meantime, all these little ones have been causing damage," Wellman said.

Wellman also needs to keep a small amount of water running through the original ditch that leads into Hinkson Creek to support the ecosystem there.

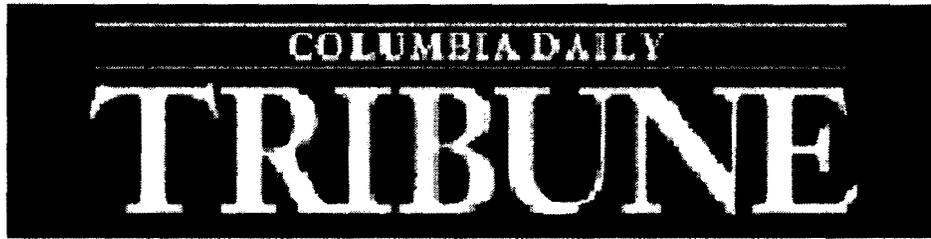
"There are critters living in that creek, in that little flow line, that depend on that water," Wellman said. "So, we don't want to cut it off entirely."

The next step for the reforestation and the level spreader would be getting approval from the Hinkson Creek Stakeholder Committee and, eventually, Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation. A public hearing would precede a decision by the Columbia City Council.

Wellman said that a lot of people view Hinkson Creek as a large drainage ditch that is terribly polluted.

"It's not lifeless," Wellman said. "It's actually really pretty. It's a beautiful resource right through the center of town. We think it's one of the better urban streams you could ever find, so it's a resource worth protecting."

Supervising editor is *John Schneller*.



Bus route has a slow first term

School partners might aid service.

MU Mention Page 2

By Andrew Denney

Monday, December 17, 2012

The FastCAT Express bus route, a student-centric service for the downtown Columbia and campus areas, fell short of city officials' expectations for its first semester in operation.

"The roll-out didn't go as well as I wanted it to," said Mayor Bob McDavid, who has made improving bus service one of his priorities.

The route was modeled somewhat after student-centric routes in other university towns where bus systems are funded partly by student fees. Such a funding model was pitched to and rejected by University of Missouri student leaders and administrators.

Ridership for FastCAT's two buses in the inaugural semester represents a fraction of the numbers reported for the downtown orbiter route that previously served roughly the same territory but offered free rides. According to a report last month, average weekly ridership on FastCAT was 546 in September and 621 in October. The average weekly ridership for the downtown orbiter during the same period in 2011 was 1,718.

The city is still searching for a vendor to develop a GPS tracking system for Columbia Transit's fleet, and officials are still working to better market FastCAT to students to attract riders and sell them semester passes.

Cheryl Landry is a Columbia resident who is not a student but uses FastCAT for part of her ride to and from work at Patricia's Foods in northeast Columbia. She said she supports the idea behind the route but is bothered by aspects of it. For one, FastCAT runs later than other routes, although many residents use those other routes for essential purposes.

"There are so many other working people," Landry said. She also thinks it's wasteful that FastCAT buses feature flat-screen TVs and said the buses are often empty when she boards.

But, McDavid said, there are reasons for those who want to see better bus service in the city to be optimistic. The city has been in talks with Stephens College to arrange for a trial in which students would purchase FastCAT passes, he said.

In addition, McDavid said, city officials have begun discussions with Columbia Public Schools about the possibility of a collaboration in which city buses could provide rides to public school students. McDavid said there are portions of city bus routes that overlap with school bus routes, and offering students rides on city buses could help the school district to save money on transportation.

Starting Friday, FastCAT began an abbreviated schedule while MU students are on winter break. Only one bus will provide midday service on weekdays, and the buses will stop regular service at 5:55 and 6:10 p.m. One bus will provide service Thursday and Friday nights until 8:55 p.m.

On Saturday, one bus will provide service on the route from 9:55 a.m. to 6:50 p.m. There will be no Sunday service.

Christa Holtzclaw, a marketing specialist with Columbia Transit assigned to market the service, said the city is tentatively scheduling a fare-free week for FastCAT when MU students start the spring semester in January.

MU's Tiger Calling Club fosters alumni giving

By Rebecca Reno

December 18, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU junior Rachael Meyr said wearing a headset makes her feel important.

This is Meyr's third year working at the student-operated Tiger Calling Club. The 60 to 70 students per semester call some 2,880 MU alumni daily to ask for donations to the university, said Beverly Smith, who oversees the students.

The club raises about \$2.3 million annually for MU, said Catey Terry, director of development communications. Alumni can give to specific schools and colleges. The money is used for a range of expenses, notably scholarships, unrestricted support to schools and colleges and the Chancellor's Fund for Excellence.

Meyr is one of about two dozen student callers working the phones at the club in McReynolds Hall. Meyr sometimes asks senior Cassie Simpson, a floor supervisor, for help with difficult calls she has with alumni.

Simpson's job includes fielding such questions. It rarely includes sitting down.

"As callers, we just want to make sure that alumni still have a close relationship with the university and encourage them to give back," she said.

"There are so many success stories about Mizzou alumni who have bright careers due to the wonderful education they received at MU," Smith said.

Smith said the fully trained, better callers have learned to take more time with the alumni and average 17 donations per shift.

As with any telemarketing operation, the student callers learn to deal with all types of personalities and situations.

"I've received calls from several of my graduates and former Tiger Callers who have said that the experience they received dealing with people has helped them tremendously with their first jobs," Smith said. "Cold calls are a piece of cake for former TCC callers."

Experienced callers have a tenacious attitude in calling back alumni who weren't available for earlier calls and working until they get a donation.

The students call on behalf of certain groups such as the Mizzou Annual Fund, special projects and the Parents Fund. They also call for Mizzou Alumni Association memberships.

The students also update biographical information the university keeps on alumni and talk with them to find out interesting facts about them. Terry said MU has almost 267,000 living alumni.

"It's important alumni know that when they talk to us, we listen," Smith said.

When MU student Sam Gall transferred in 2011, his friends said Tiger Calling Club was a great place to work. Gall said he needed a job, and the club sounded like a good student position. Pay starts at \$7.35 an hour.

Gall plays the double role of caller and supervisor and enjoys the club's camaraderie. "They are a great group of people, and they make every shift very enjoyable," he said.

Gall said it is important for alumni to support the university to ensure the next generation of students is presented with the same or better opportunities.

"Alumni had generous people behind them in many different ways while they attended Mizzou, and I think they should do their best to return the favor," Gall said.

His favorite calls are when he gets to speak with engineers about their careers and what they have found helpful in making a career.

"Most of the time these prospects have really interesting advice for me in advancing my career, and I greatly appreciate their input," he said.

Gall said his most difficult calls have been when alumni have made their mind up before they answer the phone and aren't going to trust whoever is on the other end.

"Sometimes people are just having a really bad day, and there is nothing I can do to change their mind," he said. "Those type of people are very challenging to call."

Terry said alumni donations are more important than ever.

"Traditionally, the state used to provide greater support to the university," she said. "In 1980, we received 43 percent of our operating budget from the state, but now we receive less than 14 percent of our funding from the state. We depend more than ever on private donors."

Terry said about four out of five undergraduates at MU receive some type of financial aid.

"In the late 1990s, the markets crashed in Asia, and our international students had a tough time paying," said Terry, who was the director of development at the Missouri School of Journalism at the time. "(Journalism School Dean) Dean Mills used money from donations to help them stay here. That is the type of flexibility you need with unrestricted funds."

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.