



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

May 12, 2017



TARGET 8: Missouri Gymnastics posts abnormally high departure numbers

By: Mark Kim and Mitchel Summers

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/target-8-missouri-gymnastics-posts-abnormally-high-departure-numbers>

COLUMBIA - Since the end of the 2013-2014 season, eight Missouri gymnasts have left the team for non-injury concerns, which is one of the highest rates in the SEC during that time frame, according to public information.

Missouri led the SEC in non-injury related departures in both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons.

The gymnastics team is also second in non-injury related departures among non-revenue women's sports at Missouri, according to data collected by KOMU 8 News.

KOMU 8 News has been comparing Missouri gymnastics rosters since the 2013-2014 season. That was the first season of head coach Shannon Welker.

We've noticed that a high number of gymnasts with eligibility remaining would disappear from the roster for unclear reasons. We labeled these "non-injury related departures." To be considered for this statistic, an athlete had to have either transferred schools or left for unclear reasons. If an athlete left the team for reasons like career-ending injuries, academic issues or left the team but stayed as a manager, they were not included in this statistic.

In the past three seasons, Missouri has lost Anna Bowers, Rachel Henderson, Lark Pokladnik, Rachel Updike, Sasha Sander, Jordyn Doherty, Kelli Martin and Storee Yzaguirre.

Welker used phrases such as “[pursuit of other interests](#)” and “[personal reasons](#)” as reasons for those gymnasts leaving.

KOMU 8 News spoke to some of these former gymnasts, and they said Welker’s depictions of their departures aren’t necessarily true. Yzaguirre can’t help but look back at the memories of her Missouri gymnastics career.

“When I visited Mizzou, there was something different about it. Everything just seemed right. It seemed like it was a place that was for me,” Yzaguirre said. She performed in exhibition twice and [once scored a 9.775](#) on beam. She said her coaches, especially [Welker](#), took notice.

“He told me at one point last year that I had the potential to have one of the best beam routines in the NCAA.”

But Yzaguirre’s future in gymnastics changed in the summer of 2016 when she noticed an incorrect charge in her bank account in June.

According to court documents, the financial charge came from Morgan Porter, Yzaguirre's teammate on the gymnastics team. At first, Yzaguirre said, she couldn't believe Porter was connected with the charge.

“Like, there’s some kind of mistake. This couldn’t have happened. There was no part of me that actually thought it was her,” Yzaguirre said.

According to court documents, Yzaguirre and Porter were roommates the year prior. Yzaguirre said she believes that’s when Porter took her account information.

She said Porter was initially dismissive of the claims. From there, she said, she approached Welker.

“He told me that he wanted to have us handle this internally,” Yzaguirre said of the meeting.

Yzaguirre’s mother also emailed Mizzou Compliance asking about the situation. Representatives from Missouri's athletic department and student conduct departments

were in touch with Yzaguirre. Sarah Reesman, Missouri's athletic director at the time, was also involved in these conversations.

As the summer passed by with little change on the situation, Yzaguirre switched her focus back to gymnastics. She was preparing to compete in the upcoming 2016-2017 season on the beam, where she said Welker had previously told her she would be featured.

However, Yzaguirre said her next meeting with Welker took an unexpected turn.

“We had another conversation and immediately, basically just told me that I was never going to compete, and he wasn't going to let me and if I wanted to do college gymnastics that I couldn't do it here at Mizzou. I was released from the team about two and a half weeks before school started, kind of leaving me without time to transfer,” Yzaguirre said.

Yzaguirre said she [saw no other option but to file a police report](#).

Prosecutors then filed charges accusing Porter of misdemeanor Fraudulent Use of Credit/Debit Device over \$500.00. Months later, Porter pleaded guilty to misdemeanor passing of a bad check.

Porter received probation and community service from the courts. She was given [a small suspension](#) by Missouri gymnastics and allowed back on the team, while Yzaguirre was removed.

“I feel like Shannon is working pretty hard against me in this case. Morgan is probably the best one on the team, so I think he's fighting really hard for her,” Yzaguirre said.

While athletes being removed from a team isn't abnormal, especially when there are changes in coaches, former gymnasts say this situation is different.

Several former athletes told KOMU 8 News they had problems with Welker's coaching and saw issues no matter whether the woman was a walk on or a star athlete.

“I could see the way he treated other girls. I knew it wasn't right.” said [Rachel Updike](#), an All-American gymnast who starred at Missouri from 2011-2014.

When [Lark Pokladnik](#) was on the team from 2013-2014, she said, she felt Welker created an uncomfortable environment for his team.

“There was not a day that I walked into the gym excited to be there. Every day I went in I was like, ‘What torture am I going to experience today?’” Pokladnik said.

Pokladnik said she immediately ran into problems with Welker’s coaching style.

For their first away meet at Alabama in 2013, she was told there wasn’t space on the flight; however, she said, she remembered an injured athlete and a team media person being taken instead of her.

“He was definitely intentionally trying to keep me out. Like, just to get me off the team. Just to say that there wasn’t proof that I was contributing,” Pokladnik said.

Several athletes said once they were injured, Welker would either force them to compete or cast them aside. For former Missouri gymnast [Jordyn Doherty](#) she dealt with both situations as a Missouri gymnast from 2014-2015.

Doherty landed awkwardly at a scrimmage and tore ligaments in her foot. She said, even though her foot was black and blue and in a boot for a month, Welker didn’t relent.

“I was trying to get across to Shannon that ‘I can barely walk. Like I really need you to work with me here,’” Doherty said.

Athletes inside the gym said extreme pressure made them adopt harmful dieting habits. Doherty said the pressure pushed her to extreme lengths.

“I was going to the extent of taking laxatives and not eating. And when I was eating, I was eating celery, and I don’t like celery at all. But I was holding my nose just to get celery down just to get something in my body,” Doherty said.

A head coach can add or remove players at their discretion, but Welker’s approach left many athletes feeling without clear reasoning. Privacy laws and other collegiate athletics policies make it even more difficult for the media and general public to know what is happening inside programs.

Doherty didn’t compete in the 2014-2015 season because of her foot injury. She had made it to the end of year banquet, and she said the coaching staff spoke highly of her return.

“At the banquet in front of my friends, my family, my teammates, staff, [Coach Welker] said, ‘We’re so excited to have you, Jordyn, back. She’s gonna be a great aspect to the team when her foot is healed,’” Doherty said.

A few days later, Doherty said, she was called into Welker's office where he told her she was removed from the team.

"There was no reason behind it. He said 'I don't have words. I don't know what you want me to say,'" Doherty said.

In a phone call recorded by Doherty's family, Doherty asked Welker why she was removed. Between long pauses, he mentioned that they didn't see eye-to-eye on objectives and there was an issue with her attitude. His response ended with "You know, I don't know what you want specifically on there."

After competing in some anchor positions for MU, Pokladnik said, she was called into Welker's office for end of year meetings where she learned she would no longer be on the team.

"He told me that I wasn't good enough, that I didn't try hard enough and that I wasn't a good fit for the team. You know how hard I work, you know what I came in here to do and everything you just said was not true. He had nothing to say. He basically sat there and almost nodded his head at me in agreement," Pokladnik said.

Pokladnik said Welker told her she had a spot as a walk on, but Pokladnik declined the offer and transferred to Iowa State the following season.

Doherty and Pokladnik left the team following a decision from Welker, but Updike chose on her own to leave the team.

Updike - an All-American and one of MU's most decorated gymnasts - walked away from the gymnastics team before her final senior season. She attempted to transfer schools after leaving the team, but Mizzou Athletics barred her request.

After she left, Welker said [in interviews](#) that Updike had "personal reasons" to leave.

"He knew why I wasn't on the team anymore. It was because I wouldn't sign that contract. That's the only reason why I wasn't there," Updike said.

When reflecting on their time at MU, all of the gymnast shared the same though.

"There just has to be a change with the family aspect of it, and I don't know if he can do that," Updike said.

Pokladnik said, "I remember a girl from my club team who was visiting Missouri for like an opportunity to go there and I remember like texting her and being like 'Do not go there.'"

Doherty said, "To the recruits that are coming in, don't. Don't even try. Go somewhere you're gonna have an amazing experience. Go somewhere where you're gonna get that because you're not gonna get that here, not with Shannon."

Yzaguirre said, "I would want to find a gymnastics program with a coach that I knew truly cared about me as a person and I don't think that that is found here with Coach Welker"

KOMU 8 News reached out to Welker, Morgan Porter, Athletic Director Jim Sterk and former Athletic Director Mike Alden multiple times. They all either declined to comment or did not respond to requests.

Nick Joos, Missouri's Senior Associate Athletic Director for Strategic Communications, said in an email to KOMU 8 News: "Our goal is to provide the best possible student-athlete experience, and we utilize a variety of scheduled and informal opportunities to gather feedback from our student-athletes."

KOMU 8 News reached out again for comment on specific on-the-record claims by athletes, but Joos said Mizzou Athletics wouldn't comment on anonymous allegations.

Despite being told the sources are named and on the record, Joos responded, "They are anonymous in the fact that they have not brought their concerns to the appropriate staff within the athletic department."

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Report: MU gymnasts claim unfair treatment

By [Joe Vozzelli](#)

A KOMU report on the Missouri gymnastics program that aired Thursday included allegations from former gymnasts that they were treated unfairly by Coach Shannon Welker.

Among the accusations by the former gymnasts was a complaint from Storee Yzaguirre that Welker pressured her to leave the team after she pressed charges against teammate Morgan

Porter for stealing her bank account information when they were roommates and later used it to pay rent at Log Hill Properties on June 8.

“He told me that he wanted to have us handle this internally,” Yzaguirre said of Welker in an interview with KOMU. ... “We had another conversation and immediately, basically just told me that I was never going to compete, and he wasn’t going to let me and if I wanted to do college gymnastics that I couldn’t do it here at Mizzou.”

Porter was arrested Aug. 30. The athletic department suspended Porter for MU’s season-opening triangular meet Jan. 6. Porter returned for Missouri’s next meet Jan. 13 at Arkansas. A week later, she suffered a season-ending Achilles injury.

On March 2, Porter pleaded guilty to passing a bad check with a value of less than \$500. Porter received two years of unsupervised probation, 40 hours of community service and isn’t allowed any contact with the victim.

“I feel like Shannon is working pretty hardly against me in this case,” Yzaguirre told KOMU. “Morgan is probably the best” gymnast “on the team, so I think he’s fighting really hard for her.”

Welker, who has been Missouri’s gymnastics coach since 2013, declined the Tribune’s request for comment on Thursday evening.

The athletic department released a prepared statement addressing the KOMU report: “All of our coaches, including Coach Welker, have tried to create a culture of accountability within their respective programs in order to achieve at the highest levels possible, academically, athletically and socially. One of our goals as an athletic department is to provide the best experience for our more than 500 student-athletes and we annually use a variety of both scheduled and informal opportunities to gather feedback from them in order to make our programs better.”

Another former gymnast, Jordyn Doherty, told KOMU that Welker pressured her to compete after she tore ligaments in her foot in 2015.

“I was trying to get across to Shannon that ‘I can barely walk. Like, I really need you to work with me here,’” Doherty told KOMU.

Former All-American Rachel Updike said that when she wished to transfer in 2014, she requested permission to contact Auburn, Iowa, Southeast Missouri State and Kentucky. The university denied the request. KOMU obtained the letter from Missouri’s compliance department

that said she was blocked from transferring to a Football Bowl Subdivision school or a school in Missouri.

“There are also many avenues available to all Mizzou student-athletes to pursue issues without the risk of retribution,” the athletic department said in a prepared statement. “For example, a student-athlete who has restrictions placed on a transfer request is allowed by NCAA rules an impartial hearing with institutional staff members who work outside the athletics department to resolve the issue.”

Data from the investigation conducted by KOMU indicated that the Missouri gymnastics team led the Southeastern Conference in “non-injury related” departures during a four-year period.

Under the watch of Welker from 2014-17, eight Tigers left the program before completing their eligibility, including Anna Bowers, Rachel Henderson, Lark Pokladnik, Updike, Sasha Sander, Doherty, Kelli Martin and Yzaguirre.

The Tribune’s attempts to contact Doherty, Pokladnik, Updike and Yzaguirre were not successful.

Welker replaced Rob Drass in 2013 after the program failed to qualify for an NCAA regional for the first time in 12 years. Pokladnik, Sander, Updike and Henderson were holdovers from the previous coaching staff while Welker recruited Bowers, Doherty, Martin and Yzaguirre.

Welker, a St. Louis native, has led the program to three consecutive NCAA regionals. He arrived at MU after five seasons as an assistant coach at Michigan State. Under the provisions of his five-year contract, which expires on April 30, 2018, Welker makes \$125,000 annually.

Email Joe Vozzelli Jr. at jrvozzelli@columbiatribune.com or call 815-1788



MU interim chancellor gives update

By: Justice Henderson

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-interim-chancellor-gives-update-on-budget-allocations>

COLUMBIA - Some deans on MU's campus said they were disappointed about budget cuts that were announced on Wednesday, while others said they are prepared for changes.

MU Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes said in an email Wednesday that changes will be made to various university programs following a 12 percent decrease in funding attributed to state budget cuts and lower projected enrollment.

The dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Neil Olson, said he has already started having open conversations with his staff.

"I started with the chairs of the departments in my school, we talked about these changes and prepared ourselves for the loss that was to come," Olson said.

MU News Bureau spokesman Christian Basi said "this 12 percent budget cut decision came out after the university finalized their projected enrollment numbers for next year, and found how much state finding was going to be cut."

The School of Medicine will be contributing 3.1 million dollars to the University of Missouri from its reserve funds.

That school's public relations manager, Mary Jenkins, said, "While we consider the amount to be significant, at this time we have not identified any programs that will be cut."

The School of Medicine will be using some of its reserve funds to make up the difference and is in the process of identifying opportunities for revenue.

Other deans across the campus were either not ready to speak on the issue, or did not reach out in time for publication of this story.

Expected program changes include eliminating the Environmental Health and Safety Department building from the MU Education and General-use faculties portfolio and relocating it to the General Services building, relocating the Truman School of Public Affairs to the College of Arts and Science's administration and "sharing common services across units."

Stokes said she understands this 12 percent budget cut is going to have substantial impact, but wants to bring to everyone's attention the progress that is being made on campus.

The final budget plans are due to UM System President Mun Choi on May 19. Stokes said the university's senior leadership teams are encouraging the public to participate in a series of forums regarding opinions on budget priorities leading up to the turn-in date.

Those forums are being held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on May 15 and 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on May 16 in Jesse Wrench Auditorium.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

[Hefty budget cuts in store for University of Missouri campuses](#)

MAY 11, 2017 8:20 PM

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Bracing for a loss in state funding and tuition dollars, University of Missouri System campuses this week are announcing some broad budget cuts.

For the University of Missouri's Columbia campus, the cuts will be the largest in recent memory, officials said. MU has decided to slash 12 percent of its budget from all schools, colleges and divisions on campus in fiscal year 2018.

The University of Missouri-Kansas City isn't looking to cut as deep, but rather going for a 3 percent reduction from each school, college and division.

MU officials said the cuts are to deal with revenue loss because of state funding reductions and [enrollment declines](#) on the Columbia campus.

A UMKC email from administrators said the university isn't certain "exactly how much funding UMKC and the UM System will receive from the state." It is signed by Chancellor Leo Morton, Provost Barbara A. Bichelmeyer and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Sharon Lindenbaum.

The email also said the university's anticipated revenue reduction is based on recent and past governmental action.

"Last week, the Missouri Legislature passed a budget with a 6.58 percent decrease in core funding for universities statewide. That's after a 7.6 percent withholding announced by the governor in January 2017," the email said.

"We still have unknowns including tuition and enrollment for FY 2018, so we're working from best projections."

Absent precise revenue numbers, UMKC officials said they've asked department heads to build a projected budget based on the current year's numbers minus the 3 percent.

The cuts will mean a staff reduction.

"The campus plans to achieve significant savings through attrition," UMKC's notice said. "Some positions will remain unfilled. Others will stay open for at least 60 days to accrue savings."

Officials anticipate "a small number of layoffs," described in the email as "fewer than 30 people across campus."

UMKC leaders determined it will take more than one fiscal year to adjust to such sizable decreases in funding. This week's email reminds department heads to "address these matters strategically, rather than simply cutting for cutting's sake."

MU officials have given out the same instruction, asking departments to "identify the priority and critical needs of each unit and then make the appropriate budget reductions," said Christian Basi, MU spokesman.

MU Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes, in outlining the cuts — amounting to roughly \$55 million — noted personnel losses and the reallocation of certain programs but did not say which departments or programs specifically stood to face the most cuts.

Last month, anticipating financial woes for the university, [MU's division of operations announced](#) it would be eliminating about 25 administrative-level jobs effective July 1.

Stokes said she won't provide more specifics on the cuts to protect personnel. Final details won't be shared until after June 1.

Until then, MU will hold two forums next week for feedback. UMKC leaders will continue campus discussions about the budget with its faculty and staff leaders between now and May 19, when the budget goes to UM System President Mun Choi.

MISSOURIAN

[MU's budget proposal breaks with UM president's guidelines](#)

ANDREW KESSEL, 11 hrs ago

MU's budget proposal for the coming year calls for 12 percent cuts from each division on campus, contradicting University of Missouri System President Mun Choi's call for no across-the-board cuts.

The proposal, [announced in an email Wednesday by Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes](#), distributes the burden of cuts across all MU divisions. That differs from the budget planning principles laid out by Choi in April. He proposed preserving funding for "programs of excellence" and cutting or even eliminating programs that aren't measuring up.

MU might not have had enough time to figure out which programs to prioritize, MU Faculty Council Chair Ben Trachtenberg said. Eliminating a program isn't easy to do, he said.

"It is almost impossible to eliminate an academic program on a couple of months notice," Trachtenberg said. "You've got students who go there. You've got students signed up to come next year."

In order to significantly cut or eliminate programs, campus leadership would need to conduct a thorough review of each program before any decisions could be made, Trachtenberg said. That process didn't start soon enough.

"I think a lot of people are frustrated that we didn't start planning far enough in advance that we could have been ready to make some vertical cuts by now," Trachtenberg said.

“It's one thing to say we need to think seriously about what programs we might not be able to continue. It's another thing to say I want you to close a program by June 1.”

MU and the other three UM campuses had about five weeks to figure it out. [Choi outlined his priorities in an email on April 3](#), and the campuses had until Wednesday to release their proposals to the public for feedback. Final plans are due to Choi on May 19.

Next week, MU will hold two open forums for suggestions and input. The forums will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday and from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in Jesse Wrench Auditorium in Memorial Student Union.

Joseph Moore, outreach officer for the Coalition of Graduate Workers at MU, questioned the timing of the forums.

“They've scheduled these forums for the week after the spring semester has already ended, when many students and staff and faculty are not even on campus,” Moore said.

“And I don't think that's a coincidence,” he said.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers is an employee union for graduate workers that formed in the fall of 2015. Many members plan to attend the forums, Moore said.

Even if the forums do provide constructive feedback, there isn't enough time to make changes before the final plans have to be submitted, Moore said.

Tuesday's forum is three days before the final budget is due to the president.

“That doesn't seem like a whole lot of time to carefully consider feedback and then incorporate that into the final proposal,” Moore said.

MU faces declines in both funding and enrollment. This month, the Missouri General Assembly voted to cut UM System funding by 6.5 percent. On May 5, the MU News Bureau announced that freshman fall

enrollment is expected to be about 4,000 students, down from 4,772 last year and 6,191 the year before, [according to previous Missourian reporting](#).



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

[University of Missouri-Columbia to cut 12 percent of budget](#)

11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The interim chancellor of the University of Missouri in Columbia campus is planning a 12-percent budget cut from all schools, colleges and divisions on that campus in fiscal year 2018.

Budget plans for 2018 were released by all four of the university system's campuses Wednesday, the Columbia Missourian (<http://bit.ly/2poaoXS>) reported.

Interim Columbia Chancellor Garnett Stokes sent an email outlining the cuts at her campus. She also noted personnel losses and the reallocation of certain programs. She didn't say which departments or programs specifically stood to face the most cuts.

"Throughout this process, it will be important to recognize the balance between transparency and respecting personnel who might be affected," the email said.

One of the proposed cost-cutting measures would be to reassign the Truman School of Public Affairs under the College of Arts and Sciences. Previously, the Truman school had been an autonomous unit.

Other proposed changes include moving the Environmental Health and Safety Department to the General Services building and sharing common services across units.

"Good people and good programs will be affected," Stokes said.

Final details won't be shared until after June 1. Until then, the system will hold two forums next week for feedback before the budget is submitted to University of Missouri System President Mun Choi on May 19.

The cuts come after an expected decline in fall enrollment and a decrease in state funding. The Missouri General Assembly voted May 3 to reduce the University of Missouri System's core funding by 6.5 percent for the coming fiscal year. The University of Missouri in Columbia also announced Friday that freshman fall enrollment is expected to be nearly 800 students fewer than last year.

Similar stories ran statewide.

MISSOURIAN

[Speakers for MU commencement include Missouri Supreme Court justice, award-winning journalist](#)

CLAIRE MITZEL, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **Graduating MU students will hear from former administrators, experts and MU alumni during commencement weekend.**

Each school and college within MU has [its own commencement ceremony](#) with speakers who range from entrepreneurs to conservationists. Many speakers are also MU alumni. One honorary degree will be given to conservationist Pat Jones.

Commencement ceremonies will take place from Friday to Sunday, and 4,450 bachelor's degrees and 967 master's degrees will be awarded.

Speakers:

College of Arts and Science: Former interim University of Missouri System President Mike Middleton. Middleton worked first as an attorney for the Department of Justice and later as assistant deputy director of the Office for Civil Rights, among other positions at the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. He then became a law professor at MU, where he also served as deputy chancellor and later interim UM System president. He graduated from MU with his bachelors and law degrees.

School of Journalism: Marina Walker Guevara, deputy director of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. ICIJ is a world-wide network of investigative journalists. ICIJ published the

Panama Papers in 2016, which won a Pulitzer Prize. The Panama Papers was the largest collaborative investigative journalism project in history. Walker Guevara graduated from MU with her master's degree.

School of Law: Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Breckenridge. Breckenridge was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2007 and previously served as a judge on the Western District Missouri Court of Appeals. Breckenridge is an MU graduate.

Honors Convocation: Pat Jones, honor degree recipient. Jones, a conservationist, has been called the "mother of the Katy trail," according to an MU News Bureau news release. Jones and her husband donated \$2.2 million toward the creation of the Katy Trail. She has also donated land to the Department of Conservation and established endowments toward conservation.

College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources: UM System Board of Curators member Darryl Chatman. Chatman is an attorney and former deputy director of Missouri's Department of Agriculture. An MU alumnus, he was a linebacker for Missouri football.

College of Veterinary Medicine: Ron Cott, former associate dean for student and alumni affairs and executive director for advancement at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Cott received his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from MU.

College of Human Environmental Sciences and School of Social Work: Jim Spain, vice provost for undergraduate studies. Spain has worked at MU since 1990, first as a professor and later as an assistant dean before becoming vice provost.

School of Medicine: Rachel Brown, professor of clinical psychiatry, associate dean for student affairs and diversity and inclusion officer at Central Michigan University College of Medicine.

Trulaske College of Business: Andy Miller, who worked for over 30 years at professional services firm Ernst & Young LLP as a global mining and metals tax leader. Miller is an MU alumnus.

School of Natural Resources: Missouri Department of Natural Resources Director Carol Comer. Comer was named director of the department in January. Previously, she served as the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

School of Health Professions: Richard Oliver, founding dean of the School of Health Professions. Before being appointed the dean of the School of Health Professions, Oliver was director of the School of Health Related Professions. Oliver is an MU graduate.

College of Engineering: Thompson Lin, founder, chairman and CEO of Applied Optoelectronics, Inc. Applied Optoelectronics designs and manufactures laser systems and fiberoptic transceivers. Lin graduated MU with his master's and doctorate degrees.

Sinclair School of Nursing: Assistant teaching professor Pam Evans-Smith. Evans-Smith is an Albery Richardson Faculty Scholar in Medical/Surgical Nursing and specializes in critical care. An MU graduate, she first worked at University Hospital before teaching.

College of Education: Carla London, director of student services for Columbia Public Schools.



MUPD: Heavy traffic, limited parking expected for graduation weekend

By: [Kelsey Kerwin](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mupd-warns-graduation-attendees-to-allow-extra-time-for-heavy-traffic-limited-parking/494501576>

COLUMBIA, Mo - Those in Columbia can expect some crowded streets this weekend as friends and family make their way into town for graduation.

Mizzou graduation celebrations get underway starting Friday afternoon.

ABC 17 News asked university police about how they're preparing for the extra traffic in town.

Police say those attending graduation should allow for plenty of extra time to get around this weekend.

They say they're going to do everything they can to keep the flow of traffic moving, but they did ask ABC 17 News to remind people to leave early.

Police say parking will be limited, so try to carpool if you can and plan on having to walk a bit.

The university is expected to award more than 6,000 degrees this weekend. Those include online degrees for students in 45 states and 8 different countries.

Each department will hold separate ceremonies for commencement, and many will have notable speakers.

The former Interim UM System President Michael Middleton will deliver a speech Saturday, and a chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court will speak at the school of law ceremony on Sunday.

University police also tell us they'll have a few officers at each ceremony, however they say they are not doing anything different as far as security goes compared to years past.

The first ceremony gets underway at 1:00 Friday afternoon in the Hearnes Center.



MU strategic enrollment committee to hold first meeting in June

By: [Alyssa Toomey](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mu-strategic-enrollment-committee-to-hold-first-meeting-in-june-1/493553089>

ABC 17 News has learned that MU's new strategic enrollment management committee will hold its first meeting in early to mid June.

The university [announced the creation of the committee in April](#). An MU spokesperson says invitations have been sent out to individuals on campus who are being asked to join the committee. The committee is being co-chaired by Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management and Pat Okker, interim dean of the College of Arts and Science.

"This committee will help us create our strategy for the future in the years to come," Morrice said in a statement in April. "We continue to expect high-quality, but fewer, first-time college students for the next year or two. We expect this committee to complete its work over the next 12 to 18 months."

Morrice's remarks were later confirmed when [MU released its enrollment numbers for the fall 2017 semester](#). The university is expecting the smallest incoming freshman class in nearly two decades.

Five days after enrollment numbers were released, the university announced that each college, school and division [will have to cut its budget by 12 percent](#).

"There will be programs that we're going to have to phase out because they no longer meet the mission of the university or the goals that we've established for excellence," President Mun Choi said at last month's curator's meeting. "We're going to find ways to become more efficient, but at the same time, reallocation so that we can grow the programs that need to grow."

In spite of the cuts, Choi said there will be growth at Mizzou.

"In the school of business, engineering and medicine...they are going to be hiring faculty members that elevate the research and the teaching mission of the university," he said, adding, "So no retrenching, we're moving forward."

[As ABC 17 News previously reported](#), Mizzou has spent more on advertising and marketing following the 2015 protests on campus. Last year, spending in that area jumped by more than \$200,000.

Tuition is one of the primary ways the university generates revenue, so increasing enrollment will be crucial to the university's success moving forward.



Stroke specialists teach students to act F.A.S.T.

Generated from MU Health press release: <http://www.muhealth.org/news/releases/mu-stroke-specialists-teach-students-to-act-fast/>

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=c6289a4b-5974-4cf2-83a6-aa9e822632dd>



MU Health Care offers scholarships to high school graduates

By: Shaletta Norwood

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-health-care-offers-scholarships-to-high-school-graduates>

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri Health Care is partnering with Columbia College and Columbia Public Schools to offer scholarships to 20 graduating high school students for the Medical Assistant Training program.

The scholarship will cover the students' tuition and equipment costs for a one-year, online course through Columbia College and training through MU Health Care.

Peter Callan, the director of talent acquisition, said students will receive computers, one-on-one support and a part-time job through the program.

Callan said he is thankful MU Health Care can fund this program and prepare students for career and higher education opportunities.

"Many of the students did not have plans to go to college, so it is our pleasure to do this," Callan said.

Callan said the program will meet the health centers employment needs and give back to the community.

"It meets the need of our organization to have more health care professionals to meet the needs of our patients," Callan said.

"But it also gives us a unique opportunity to give something back to the community by giving this opportunity to students."

Callan said students who complete the program successfully will graduate as certified medical assistants.

MU Health Care and Columbia College will hold information session at high schools in Columbia. Students who are interested should attend the information sessions.

Students can ask their principals and counselors about more information at their specific high school's information sessions. Students can also log on to MU Health Care's on line page and click on high school graduates for more information.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Women Who Broke the Glass Ceiling in College Sports Tell How They Did It

NO MU MENTION

BY TOM HESSE May 12, 2017

When Patty Viverito addressed a meeting of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics here last week, she knew her audience would be "far more interested" in hearing from the commissioner of the Big 12 Conference than from her. So to make her message stand out, the commissioner of the lower-tier Missouri Valley Football Conference added a touch of comedy — and a Donald Trump impression.

"I'd suggest giving women a chance to make college sports great again," Ms. Viverito told her audience.

Paraphrasing the president, Ms. Viverito joked that women alone could fix the long-running problems in college athletics. But in comedy, there is often truth, and Ms. Viverito believes that if women can't fix the problems plaguing college sports, they can at least provide a new lens through which to view them.

"We need to bring different perspectives into the decision making when the decision making isn't sound," Ms. Viverito said in an interview with The Chronicle.

Fewer than 10 percent of athletic directors in Division I college sports are women, according to data from the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, which issues annual report cards on race and gender in hiring.

The Missouri Valley conference competes in the Football Championship Subdivision, which sits a notch below the top-tier Football Bowl Subdivision. Ms. Viverito is one of nine female commissioners in that second-tier football subdivision, according to the institute's report. At the sport's highest level, just one woman holds a commissioner's seat.

Ms. Viverito said the split between the upper- and lower-competition levels highlights one of the many areas in which she thinks men and women view sports administration differently. Colleges trying to jump from the championship subdivision to the bowl subdivision have been a bugaboo for Ms. Viverito, who has criticized the moves for driving up costs, which often then fall on the students. She said it's hard not to think that stereotypically male views on competition impact the decision by some colleges to play in the more famous subdivision.

"It's madness," she said. "If you look at it from a purely logical perspective, the decisions that are being made are crazy. And you have to wonder what the motivations are, and I don't know how you take ego out of that."

Story [continues.](#)



[Linking Evaluations to Equity Contributions](#)

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire policy will require all faculty and staff members to work toward equity, diversity and inclusion, for consideration in their evaluations. It's controversial, but proponents say it's an efficient way to put values into action.

NO MU MENTION

BY COLLEEN FLAHERTY May 12, 2017

[Big-budget diversity initiatives](#) on a number of campuses have drawn praise and skepticism in recent years. The praise sounds like this: money dedicated to a cause signals its value and enables needed change. The skepticism centers on questions such as whether all students will benefit from, say, the hiring of 20 new professors who contribute to an institution's diversity goals, or whether well-funded campuses will simply poach inclusion-attuned scholars from others, leaving winners and losers.

What if there was a more efficient, inexpensive way for institutions to live up to their diversity and inclusion goals? An unlikely institution says it has one.

“After 30 years in administration, I don't have much tolerance for window dressing or lip service. If you're going to put a value out there, you need to do something with it,” said James Schmidt, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and champion of its new policy requiring that all periodic evaluations of staff and faculty members -- including tenure and promotion decisions -- consider the employee's contributions to equity, diversity and inclusion on campus.

Not exactly a hotbed of diversity, Eau Claire is a small, overwhelmingly white (upward of 90 percent) city in western Wisconsin, and the regional university there reflects its setting. Schmidt also described himself as an unexpected leader on equity, diversity and inclusion, saying that he didn't come to Eau Claire four years ago with the initiative in mind. And as a straight white man, he felt relatively unequipped to head it, he said.

But as his campus, like so many others, faced calls for attention to climate, recruitment and retention issues for underrepresented groups over the past few years, it became clear it had to do something, he said.

Unfortunately for Eau Claire, the new desire coincided with dramatic state budget cuts to higher education, in 2015. Financially tethered, the institution quietly started discussions about how it might put its diversity goals -- including having a 20 percent minority student population within a decade -- into action anyway (something like satisfying champagne taste on a beer budget).

Through discussions with the faculty and, ultimately, through the University Senate's Faculty Personnel Committee, Eau Claire proposed a policy saying that in addition to teaching, research and service -- the three pillars of faculty work -- all professors “are expected to contribute to university efforts towards equity, diversity and inclusivity.”

Such contributions “can be included in any of the three primary criteria for periodic review,” the policy said, but “all periodic reviews shall include an evaluation of the faculty member's EDI engagement.” Contributions can be demonstrated through teaching and curricular development; scholarly activity; engagement in initiatives that directly serve underrepresented students, underrepresented faculty and/or underrepresented communities; professional development; or any other activities as defined in the approved evaluation plan.

While ethnic minorities are an important part of the university's efforts, the policy also pertains to gender, sexuality, disability, economic status, religion and other perspectives.

“This is to give us credit for what we’re already doing,” said Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, an associate professor of history at Eau Claire who supported the policy in the senate. Far from a fourth tenure criterion, she explained, the new policy ensures that professors across fields who write on things such as inclusive pedagogy or participate in diversity-focused reading groups on campus are in some way rewarded for their attention to educational access.

For example, she said, the policy applies to mental health status -- things all instructors would benefit (and benefit their students) from knowing more about.

“This will also make us teach better and do better research and make us better faculty in all of our areas,” said Ducksworth-Lawton.

A policy very similar to the one originally proposed recently passed the senate by an overwhelming voice vote. It defines equity “as the fair and impartial treatment of all individuals” and diversity as the “structural and power differences among people, including, but not limited to, for example, differences in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, economic status or perspectives.” Inclusivity is defined as “valuing the perspectives and contributions of all individuals.”

Individual departments and programs have the next year to determine exactly how their personnel committees will evaluate such work. The policy takes effect in 2018.

The policy had significant support but also, expectedly, for something dealing with personnel decisions, opposition. Major criticisms were that mandating equity and inclusion work might turn something innovative and enjoyable into something perfunctory, and that the policy language is unnervingly vague. How exactly will professors be evaluated, and what might happen if they don't meet some yet-to-be articulated standard? Might they not get a promotion, or a raise?

One senator proposed a failed amendment saying that contributions to equity and inclusion were “encouraged,” instead of “expected,” for example. The debate recalls, to some extent, a [recent skirmish](#) at Duke University’s Divinity School over a scholar’s harsh response to an invitation to a diversity awareness training session. The professor, who has reportedly since signaled he will resign, called such training a “waste” and a distraction from the central spiritual and academic missions of the school.

Story [continues](#).