



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

June 27, 2017

Five University of Missouri administrators receive new roles

The University of Missouri on Monday took the word interim off the titles of four top administrators and changed the duties of School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine in an administrative streamlining that will create several joint appointments at the system and campus levels.

Delafontaine will now report to UM System President Mun Choi on some matters, to the Columbia campus chancellor for clinical matters and to the MU provost for academic affairs. Also in the health system, Jonathan Curtright, the chief operating officer of MU Health Care who has also been interim chief executive officer since the departure of Mitch Wadsden in January, will have a combined title of CEO/COO.

The other changes announced Monday are:

- Ryan Rapp was named vice president for finance and chief financial officer for the UM System, a position he has held on an interim basis since November 2016. Rapp has been an employee of the university since 2010, working first in the controller's office and later as chief audit executive.
- System Chief Diversity Officer Kevin McDonald, who has served as interim diversity officer for the MU campus since June 2016, will serve in the dual role on a permanent basis.
- Mark McIntosh, interim vice chancellor for research, graduate studies and development, will perform a dual role as vice president for research and economic development and vice chancellor.

MISSOURIAN

MU makes several interim positions permanent

COLUMBIA — The UM System and MU announced Monday that several interim positions would be made permanent starting July 1.

MU Interim Chancellor and Provost Garnett Stokes praised the appointees in a news release Monday, calling them "energized and motivated to help the University of Missouri continue our land-grant mission."

Jonathan Curtwright's position as interim chief executive officer of MU Health Care will be permanent, and he will continue serving as chief operating officer, consolidating the two positions. Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said that move will save about \$650,000.

Curtwright arrived at MU in 2016 and began serving as interim CEO in February 2017, replacing Mitch Wasden, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Ryan Rapp's position as interim vice president for finance for the UM System also will become permanent. Rapp has been with MU since 2010 and has served as interim vice president for finance since November.

Rapp said Monday that while for him, nothing is really changing, he's honored to get the full appointment. "I'm just very excited about the opportunity."

Kevin McDonald has been chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer for the UM System and the interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion for MU. The latter part of his job is now permanent. He will report to both MU and the system.

McDonald arrived at the UM System in March 2016 as the UM System's inaugural chief diversity officer and replaced Chuck Henson as interim vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion in June 2016.



Scholars Academy presses forward despite losing state funding

Watch story: <http://krcgtv.com/news/local/scholars-academy-loses-state-funding-for-the-first-time>

By Stephanie Hirata

COLUMBIA — For the first time since 1985, the Missouri Scholars Academy has lost its state funding.

"The main concern is that the legislature for 2018 doesn't have any money dedicated to the Scholars Academy."

Director Steve Keller said the state has fully and partially funded MSA for years.

The three-week academic program is for 330 of Missouri's best and brightest students. It's an exclusive program where sophomores are nominated and their applications include an IQ test.

"It started in 1985 and, until 2009, was 100 percent funded by the state of Missouri," Keller said.

And when budget cuts triggered a need for a combination of sources to keep the program going, the University of Missouri stepped in to help and at one point there was a scholar activity fee.

Then from 2015 to 2016, the state once again fully funded MSA. But this year, things took a step back.

"We went back to the model where the University of Missouri had bridge funding to make up for the shortfall," Keller said.

Although the legislature only funded two-thirds of the program, this year's session was still free to scholars. There's a chance that could change in 2018.

"As you know it was a very difficult budget year," Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick (R- Shell Knob) said.

In a phone interview, he explained in this tight budget year, lawmakers had to cut hundred of millions of dollars as they planned for 2018.

"It's unfortunate that we are in a difficult budget situation but sometimes tough decisions have to be made," Fitzpatrick said.

He said MSA was not at the top of their list when it came to prioritizing.

"We're just trying to focus on core things like paying our bills, medicaid and trying to fully fund the formula," Fitzpatrick said.

He said the state is in a financial crisis and if the current revenue trends continue, it's unlikely money from the budget will fund MSA anytime soon.

"If it's a valuable program then I'm sure the donors will be willing to step up and hopefully some of the kids can afford and be willing to pay to go to it," Fitzpatrick said.

"There's a bunch of people who come here from rural parts of Missouri and may not have the money to pay out of pocket. I feel like if there was a crazy high fee, I probably couldn't come," said Chyanne Sandoval-Williams.

The 16-year-old is at the academic program for the 2017 session. She hopes to be a computer scientist one day.

"I love virtual reality so I thought that would be a fun field to go into," Sandoval-Williams said.

She said she values the interactions at MSA and sees it as an opportunity to meet a diverse group of students with different economic backgrounds.

"This program is unique because it's free and because the testing is trying to get people who are really going to get something out of this program," said Kai Ford.

Ford, 16, is interested in traveling the world and learning new languages. He's working on Spanish and Japanese.

Ford said he understood why lawmakers would have a hard time seeing how beneficial the program is.

He said there may not be tangible results but Ford cautioned lawmakers to consider the impact it has on some of the smartest young minds in the state.

"Without this experience, there's just no way that we'd be able to really collect, gather, share, and exchange information that we don't normally get to do," Ford said.

Keller said the students take unique courses designed to make them think outside the box, such as slam poetry or math chats.

There are no tests or grades which eliminates the stress factor.

"That is so liberating. So there's no sense of competition among the scholars," Keller said. "It's a cooperative, intellectual environment that they'd probably have never experienced before."

Keller said the news of "no" funding for the first time in the history of MSA was disappointing but they are not giving up.

"There's the sense that gifted students are going to be fine. We don't need to have programs for them because they're going to be fine," Keller said. "And what I told them is 'I don't want them to be fine, I want them to be great.'"



[Server Perceptions and Tipping](#)

Generated from an MU News Bureau press release: [Servers Perceive Well-Dressed Diners as Better Tippers, May Result in Better Service, Study Finds](#)

By David Hopper June 27, 2017

Are you a big tipper? In today's Academic Minute, the University of Missouri's Dae-Young Kim examines whether what a customer wears correlates to the amount they leave. Kim is an associate professor of hospitality management at Missouri. A transcript of this podcast can be found [here](#).

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU grad drives onto court at Mizzou Arena, causes \$100K in damage

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • **Fans are expected to flock toward Mizzou Arena for the upcoming basketball season — but not like this.**

A Columbia man drove his Volkswagen Passat through Mizzou Arena and onto Norm Stewart Court early Sunday and caused an estimated \$100,000 worth of damage, MU police Maj. Brian Weimer said Monday.

At 7:15 a.m. Sunday, MU police were dispatched to Mizzou Arena for a report of property damage. Officers determined that around 4 a.m., the suspect drove his vehicle through a closed gate on the south side of the arena. He ran through a garage door and drove into a dock area where he damaged several golf carts that were stored in the area. He also drove his car onto the basketball court.

The man couldn't leave through the area he used to enter the building, so he drove through the arena's press gate.

Nathaniel Conant, 23, a recent MU graduate and temporary worker in the athletics department, turned himself in to MU police Sunday afternoon after officers identified Conant as a suspect and contacted him. He was arrested on suspicion of second-degree burglary and first-degree property damage, both felonies.

He posted bail of \$4,500 for the burglary charge and \$6,000 for the property damage charge, according to the Boone County sheriff's arrest log.

Conant graduated from Mizzou in December 2016 with a bachelor's degree in English, the university confirmed. He was hired by the athletics department on March 26 in a temporary position as an events assistant but is no longer employed by MU as of Monday, university spokesman Christian Basi said. Conant had been a utility worker at Mizzou and was assigned to pull cables during MU home events, athletics department spokesman Nick Joos said.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Columbia man allegedly does \$100,000 in damage during Mizzou Arena joy ride

BY TOD PALMER

tpalmer@kcstar.com

A 23-year-old Columbia man, Nathaniel J. Conant, was arrested Sunday after he allegedly went for a joy ride in a Volkswagen Passat on Norm Stewart Court inside Mizzou Arena.

University of Missouri police were dispatched around 7:15 a.m. to investigate a report of property damage.

“Through investigation, we were able to determine that just after 4 a.m. a vehicle was driven through a closed gate on the south side of Mizzou Arena and then went through a garage door in the back dock area,” MUPD spokesman, Maj. Brian Weimer, told The Star.

Several golf carts also were damaged before the driver drove onto the basketball court inside the arena and exited through the same dock entrance.

Unable to get back through the gate the car originally plowed through, the driver smashed through a second gate — “the press gate in the back,” Weimer said — before fleeing the scene.

“The car did make it to the court and back out,” Weimer confirmed.

Conant was identified as the suspect and contacted by MUPD. He subsequently turned himself in and was arrested at 3:55 p.m. Sunday.

After being transferred to Boone County Jail, Conant charged with second-degree burglary and four counts of first-degree property damage.

The burglary is a class D felony, while the property damage is a class E felony.

Conant was released at 7:09 p.m. after posting a \$10,500 bond.

Weimer said the estimated damage is \$100,000, “but they’re still putting it together,” he said. “Those gates are extremely expensive.”

Conant, who enrolled at Mizzou in 2013 and graduated with a degree in English in December 2016, is listed as an events assistant for the SEC Network on the Mizzou student directory.

A spokesman for the university confirmed that Conant worked as a student employee in athletics prior to graduation and had been hired March 26 as a temporary employee.

Conant was a utility worker, helping wrangle cables for broadcasts, according to a spokesman for the Tigers athletic department, but Conant hadn’t worked an event at Mizzou Arena since February.

As of Monday afternoon, Conant is no longer employed by MU.

No one was believed to be present inside the area at the time of the incident.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MU employee accused of driving through Mizzou Arena

By Daniel Jones

A University of Missouri employee turned himself in to authorities after he allegedly drove a car through Mizzou Arena and several gates on the premises early Sunday.

University of Missouri Police Department Maj. Brian Weimer said police arrested Columbia resident Nathaniel J. Conant, 23, when Conant came into the department Sunday afternoon.

Weimer said Conant drove a Volkswagen Passat through a closed gate on the south side of Mizzou Arena early Sunday. Conant then entered the basketball arena by driving up a ramp and through a loading dock door.

Conant damaged at least two golf carts while driving around inside the arena and continued onto Norm Stewart Court through another open loading dock door. A skid mark was visible on the hardwood Monday afternoon.

The joyride did not stop Missouri basketball practice. The women's basketball team practiced as usual Monday morning and the men's team conducted camp on Norm Stewart Court on Monday afternoon.

Conant exited the arena through the same loading dock gate, Weimer said. While driving from the property, Conant rammed through the press gate on the northwest side of the arena.

Investigators determined Conant was a suspect, and he came into the station at the request of police, Weimer said. Weimer said authorities believe Conant was the only person in the vehicle at the time of the incident.

The total cost of repairs hasn't been finalized, but Weimer estimated there were about \$100,000 in damages. He said police haven't taken possession of the vehicle but know where it's located and have collected evidence from it.

Conant was a temporary employee with the university as an events assistant for the SEC Network, a position he was hired to on March 26. Though he had not worked since January, he was fired Monday. Conant graduated from MU in December with a bachelor's degree in English.

Efforts to contact Conant were not successful.

Conant posted a \$10,500 bond shortly after being booked into Boone County Jail on Sunday evening on suspicion of four counts of first-degree property damage and second-degree burglary. It was unclear whether Conant had an attorney.

DAILY @ NEWS  **Associated Press**
NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

THE KANSAS CITY STAR. 

 **Sports Illustrated**

University of Missouri grad arrested for driving car through school's basketball arena

A 23-year-old man has been arrested after smashing through two gates and driving onto the basketball court at the University of Missouri over the weekend, causing an estimated \$100,000 in damage.

Police were called early Sunday after a Volkswagen Passat was driven through a closed gate on the south side of Mizzou Arena. Maj. Brian Weimer says the driver then went through a garage door in the back dock area and damaged several golf carts before heading onto the court, where the tires left skid marks in places.

After exiting through the same dock entrance, the driver is accused of smashing through a second gate near the stadium and fleeing. The suspect is a December 2016 university graduate. He was released Sunday night on \$10,500 bond after being booked on suspicion of four counts of first-degree property damage and second-degree burglary.

Similar stories ran nationwide

MISSOURIAN

MUPD says man who drove through Mizzou Arena caused \$100,000 in damage

COLUMBIA — A man turned himself in to MU Police after allegedly driving a Volkswagen Passat through Mizzou Arena early Sunday morning, breaking several gates and a garage door and damaging golf carts.

MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said the incident happened a little after 4 a.m. Sunday. He said Nathaniel Conant, 23, drove through a closed gate on the south side of the arena and through a closed garage door that led to the dock area before driving onto the basketball court, damaging several golf carts then driving out through the same dock door and through the press gate on the back side of the arena.

Damage to the court was still being assessed. Weimer estimated the total damage at about \$100,000.

MU Police were dispatched around 7:15 a.m. Sunday and identified Conant as a suspect. Weimer said Conant turned himself in after being contacted.

Conant, of Columbia, was arrested at 3:55 p.m. Sunday on suspicion of second-degree burglary and first-degree property damage. He was released from Boone County Jail on \$10,500 bond.

*Conant was listed in the MU directory as an events assistant for the SEC Network in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. Christian Basi of the MU News Bureau said Conant was a temporary employee who was hired in March and that his employment had been terminated as of Monday.



Police: Suspect drove through gates and onto Mizzou Arena floor

By Greg Dailey

COLUMBIA — A drive to the bucket did not result in a winning effort at Mizzou Arena.

University of Missouri Police said 23-year-old Nathaniel Conant drove through two gates, damaged golf carts and drove on to the Mizzou Arena floor Sunday morning.

Police said Conant drove his vehicle through a closed gate on the south side of the arena and went into the garage. After damaging a few golf carts, he drove on to the floor, leaving behind a few marks on the wood surface.

He drove out through the press gate.

According to the university directory, Conant is an events assistant for the SEC Network. Police said they identified Conant and his vehicle; he turned himself in Sunday afternoon.

Conant caused an estimated \$100,000 in damages, according to MUPD.

He was booked into the Boone County Jail on suspicion of second-degree burglary and four counts of first-degree property damage.

His combined bond for the two charges was \$11,000.



Police: Man turns himself in after driving through, damaging Mizzou Arena

By Claire Peralta

COLUMBIA - A man drove into Mizzou Arena through a closed gate on the south side early Sunday morning and then turned himself in later that afternoon, according to the MU Police Department.

Police said Nathaniel Conant was driving a Volkswagen Passat and entered the arena through a garage door on the dock area and drove around damaging golf carts before driving out of the arena through the press gate in the same dock area.

Police said Conant drove into the arena at 4 a.m. and the damage was first reported three hours later. Conant reported to police just before 4 p.m., a statement said.

MISSOURIAN

Nursing shortage in Missouri hospitals reaches an all-time high

By [ELIZABETH CASSIDY](#)

COLUMBIA — Ashley Hulet applied for just one job after graduating in May from the Sinclair School of Nursing. Because the job outlook was so promising, one application was all she needed.

A student position in the intensive care unit at University Hospital turned into a job for Hulet as a nurse technician after graduation. Beginning today, she will become a full-time nurse in the same unit.

"I knew there was a pretty good job outlook because, obviously, nationwide there's a shortage of nurses," Hulet said.

The shortage of nurses in Missouri hospitals is at an all-time high, according to a 2017 report by the Missouri Hospital Association. Almost 16 percent, or about 6,000, of staff nursing positions in Missouri hospitals are vacant.

In central Missouri, the number doubled from 8.1 percent to 16.2 percent between January 2016 and December 2016. About 600 positions in mid-Missouri hospitals are open.

A representative for Boone Hospital Center said its vacancy rate was on par with the rest of the state. The MU Health Care system, including all of its clinics, has a staff of around 1,000 nurses and an 8.5 percent vacancy rate — about 90 positions across the system.

"It's tough when you're short-staffed all the time, and it's not administration's fault," Jill Kliethermes, chief executive officer of the Missouri Nurses Association, said.

"Sometimes it's just the way it is. You can only get what you can get, even with agency nurses or trying to bring outside people to fill the void."

Retirement looms

A leading reason for the high vacancy rate is the number of nurses reaching retirement age in Missouri. When the economy began to improve after the 2008 recession, nurses started choosing retirement instead of job security, Kliethermes said.

According to the Missouri Hospital Association, 34 percent of nurses in the state are older than 55 and reaching retirement age.

"Now that the economy has recovered and people feel like they can retire, we're going to see more of that retirement or cutting back," Kliethermes said.

Some may adjust their schedules to work one day a week, say, instead of three, she said.

"Nursing work is hard, and being on the floor for 12 hours — you're never on the floor just 12 hours — those are very long days, and it's hard on the body," she said.

Another factor contributing to the shortage is the number of advanced registered nurse practitioners leaving the state to work where there are no restrictions on their ability to practice.

Missouri has a geographical proximity rule formulated by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts that means advanced registered nurse practitioners must practice within 30 miles of a doctor, 50 miles in rural areas.

These nurse practitioners are especially needed in rural communities where medical access is limited, Kliethermes said. A radius of 50 miles is not wide enough for many parts of the state where the closest medical care may be much farther away.

Practice limitations

In Theodosia, a southern Missouri town with a population smaller than 300, residents will often drive nearly an hour to Mountain Home, Arkansas, the closest town with medical access, state

Rep. Lyle Rowland, R-Cedarcreek, said. The closest Missouri city is Springfield, and it's more than 90 minutes away.

A nurse practitioner wanted to settle in Theodosia, but the closest doctor willing to enter an agreement with her was at 52 miles away. Rowland tried to get a waiver, but the Board of Healing Arts rejected it. That was five years ago.

"The people of Theodosia, they're just out of luck," Rowland said.

Every year, the Missouri Nurses Association pushes for legislation to widen the radius or do away with it completely. Rowland also repeatedly sponsors bills to increase the radius or eliminate it.

While a bill often makes it through the House of Representatives, Rowland said state Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, a physician himself, stalls it in the Senate.

The Board of Healing Arts has said the rule to keep doctors and nurse practitioners closer together is intended to ensure that patient care is not impeded. Rowland and Kliethermes claim the issues are money and competition.

If nurse practitioners can work without geographic limits, clinics run by physicians will be forced to compete for patients, they say.

Missouri is bordered by less-restrictive states like Illinois, Kansas and Arkansas, while Iowa, along with at least 20 other states, allows full practice authority for nurse practitioners. This incentivizes some nurses to leave Missouri.

Nurse practitioners in less-restricted states still may have to enter collaborative practice agreements with doctors, but they have more authority. In a full-practice state, they do not need to form an agreement with a physician, and they can practice to the full extent of their education.

David LaFevers, director of the master's degree of science in nursing program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, has found it difficult to continue his nursing practice in Missouri for other reasons.

In order to retain his certification to practice, LaFevers must complete a certain number of clinical hours.

He cannot work full time as a nurse practitioner in Missouri, often a requirement, because of his teaching load. So, he is starting a clinic with a colleague in New Hampshire, a full-practice state.

"Because of the rules and regulations here in Missouri, it makes it very challenging," he said.

Supply and demand

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nursing jobs are projected to increase 16 percent between 2014 and 2024. While nurses won't have trouble finding jobs, it's unlikely hospitals and clinics will find enough to fill all of the open positions.

The issue is a classic economic one, Dave Dillon, vice president of public and media relations for the Missouri Hospital Association, said. There's a growing demand for nurses and an insufficient supply.

Because nursing schools have limits on the number of students they can take, not enough nurses graduate in Missouri each year to fill the vacancies.

Missouri has 28 four-year degree nursing programs, 43 practical nursing programs and 36 schools that offer associate degrees. Columbia College, with bachelor's and associate degrees, graduated 26 students this spring from both the on-campus location and at the Lake of the Ozarks location.

At MU, enrollment numbers at the Sinclair School of Nursing have increased 2 percent since fall 2016.

A total of 79 undergraduates and 54 graduate students graduated from the MU nursing school in May. Twenty-three percent of recent MU graduates will work in the MU Health Care System, and 72 percent will work somewhere else in the state, according to the school.

To keep nurses in Missouri, hospitals have started incentive programs, such as tuition forgiveness and career ladders. The ladders help health care workers climb their way up from, say, nurse technician to registered nurse and nurse practitioner.

"I think nursing as a whole is one of the most gratifying professions that I can think of," LaFavers said. "It truly is. But if you have professionals that are not supported and nurtured to the role, it can be very daunting."

He believes the health care industry is beginning to recognize this strategy and apply it.

"We need to be able to grow these new graduates and help them be safe, happy, healthy and successful."

To handle burnout and turnover, some hospitals provide extra support for new graduates to help them transition to the work force.

MU Health has a one-year residency program for its nurses, for example, with continued skills training and a week of real-world scenarios with patient simulations.

Some schools recruit early for their nursing programs. This year, Columbia College held a weeklong summer camp to give high school juniors and seniors hands-on training by nursing faculty and students

The camp was created directly in response to the nursing shortage, Joyce Gentry, program director for the Columbia College nursing program said.

Missourinet

Professor Says Court Discloses Leanings In Church-State Case

A University of Missouri law professor says the US Supreme Court gave us a glimpse into its views of separation of church and state as well as separation of powers in a ruling handed down Monday.

The court decision in *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation* never got to the merits of the lawsuit filed by a Wisconsin-based group of atheists and agnostics challenging the Bush Administration's faith-based initiatives. Instead, the US Supreme Court ruled the group didn't meet the criteria necessary to file such a suit; that it lacked "standing". The court ruled that being a federal taxpayer was not sufficient as grounds to file a lawsuit that the parties needed to prove they were truly aggrieved to file suit.

University of Missouri law professor Carl Esbeck says the court also abided by a 1968 Supreme Court ruling that prohibits such lawsuits against an initiative sponsored by the executive branch. Esbeck says an opposite ruling would have placed the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives under incredible scrutiny into its day-to-day activities. He says the court decided it didn't have jurisdiction to interfere with an executive branch initiative.

Esbeck specializes on church-state issues and actually helped craft the Bush Administration's faith-based initiative.



[Hotels react to competition from MU rental dorms](#)

Watch story: <http://www.komu.com/news/hotels-react-to-competition-from-mu-rental-dorms>

By Carolina Brigagao, Matthew Schmittiel

COLUMBIA - The Columbia Conventions and Visitors Advisory Board (CVB) gave an informational update regarding MU's plan to rent out rooms in some of its empty residence halls. **MU will have to pay the same five percent lodging tax other Columbia hotels pay and other related city, county, or state taxes.**

"A lot of these specialty weekends that the dorms will be focusing on are football weekends, which are of course busy weekends for our hotels but by no means necessarily a sellout," said

Strategic Communications Manager for the Columbia Conventions and Visitors Bureau Megan McConachie.

MU is already taking reservations for Homecoming and family weekend with over 200 requests already filled out. However, the CVB does not know the exact number of rooms MU will have available.

MU will rent out Excellence and Discovery Halls on Virginia Avenue. The rooms will be two-bedroom, four-bed suites and cost \$120 per night. The rooms will come with high-speed wireless access, economy bed linens and towels.

This price is similar to some hotels close to MU, but hotel managers say customers are giving up conventional hotel amenities they wouldn't find in a dorm.

"Televisions are going to be scarce, few and far between. Carpeting, there is none. Simply things like a refrigerator and a guest room, they aren't there. No swimming pools, no fitness centers. If that is the choice they want to make for relatively the same price, let them pay," said General Manager of the Residence Inn by Marriott Steve French.

Columbia hotels had no prior knowledge of MU's plans, according to French.

"As this unfolds in the future, we will find out exactly what the ramifications are going to be. They've already made the announcement and didn't talk to us prior. It's a little hard to un-ring a bell. We are kind of in a situation where we are just going to have to see what happens," said French.

Dorms will be available to stay in starting the weekend before classes start.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Supreme Court decision could bolster Hawley in race for Senate

By Kurt Erickson St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Missouri in a case focusing on religious freedom Monday, the decision could be another political notch in the belt of the state's top lawyer.

Attorney General Josh Hawley, who is being touted as a potential candidate for the U.S. Senate in the 2018 election, praised the high court's decision giving churches the same right as other charitable groups to seek state money for nonreligious needs.

“With today’s ruling, the United States Supreme Court has made clear that the First Amendment does not permit government to discriminate against churches or religious organizations on the basis of faith,” Hawley said in a statement.

Hawley, a political novice, won his first bid for political office after highlighting his role in another religious freedom case before the Supreme Court.

He was on a team of lawyers who successfully defended Hobby Lobby’s claim that it shouldn’t have to comply with certain elements of the Affordable Care Act.

Hawley last week did not rule out a potential bid for the Senate against Democratic incumbent U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, who is up for re-election next year. In April, prominent Missouri Republicans, including former U.S. Sen. Jack Danforth, announced their support for Hawley.

The 37-year-old from Columbia says talk of him running for the Senate is premature “chatter.”

Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin, also is mulling a bid. In a statement issued Monday, she said she also supports the Supreme Court decision.

McCaskill also issued a statement agreeing with the ruling.

“I think most Missourians would agree that, no matter what kind of school our young kids attend, they should all have access to a safe area to play,” McCaskill said.

In its decision, the court found that the state should not have denied Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia a grant to put a rubberized surface on its playground on the basis that it is a religious organization.

Hawley had recused himself from the case, citing private practice work with the plaintiff. During the campaign, he said he opposed the state's position on the case, which started under former Gov. Jay Nixon.

University of Missouri political scientist Peverill Squire said the political upside of the decision is positive for Hawley.

“My guess is if he chooses to run, this is one thing on the margin that could help him. It is not likely to alienate a lot of people in the electorate,” Squire said.

John Messmer, political scientist at St. Louis Community College at Meramec, agreed.

“Personally it's a win for him. It's not outlandish to say it's a win for any Republican in the state,” Messmer said.

St. Louis University political scientist Ken Warren said the ruling could help Hawley in a Senate run, but predicted that such a race likely will be less about issues than party affiliation.

“A run for the Senate will come down to typical partisan lines, almost regardless of the issues,” Warren said. “People are going to vote on the basis of their partisanship.”

The Washington Post

After bananas and nooses on campus, here's how a student body president copes

By Sarah Larimer

There is so much to Taylor Dumpson. She is a law and society major at American University, originally from a small community. She has her sights set on law school, and has dreams of one day opening a

nonprofit community center, kind of like a one-stop shop that brings resources together. She likes to paint. She likes to draw.

That is not what you'd find if you Google her, though.

"The first thing that comes up is a hate crime. It comes up with bananas and nooses," Dumpson said. "That's a lot, you know?"

Dumpson is the student government president at American University, which was jolted by a racial incident on May 1 when bananas were found hanging from strings fashioned in the shape of nooses on three locations on the Northwest Washington campus. The university termed the incident a hate crime.

In the aftermath, Dumpson was thrust into a very public spotlight, dealing with news conferences, town halls and meetings. She became the latest student leader to confront tensions over racially charged incidents on campuses across the country.

"I would like to say it would just be limited to college campuses," AU President Sylvia M. Burwell said in an interview. "But I think these are issues that we as a nation are continuing to work on together."

For the 21-year-old Dumpson, from Salisbury, Md., the entire matter has been deeply personal. The bananas were marked with the letters of a sorority with predominantly African American membership.

Dumpson is a member of that sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA). What's more, the fruit was found on her first full day in office. Dumpson, the first black woman to serve as AU's student government president, had been sworn in April 30. She had planned to spell out her goals to students in a welcome message.

"Instead, I had to send a letter to the student body explaining to them what happened," she said.

For student government leaders, summer offers a chance for long-term planning and big-picture conversations. Most students aren't around. There are opportunities for outreach, chances to meet with officials. For Dumpson, though, these months not only allow for a chance to examine what the 13,000-student university might need going forward, they also give her a chance to regroup.

"The summer, it's really big, because it's me setting the tone, but it's also me learning how to deal with my new normal," Dumpson said. "I'm grateful that this happened at the end of the semester, not the beginning or middle of the semester. Because it allows me space."

Dumpson believes it was no fluke that the bananas were hung just as she stepped into her new leadership role. She had just gotten back from an AKA conference. The coincidences were too much for her to ignore.

"While yes, it was a target at AKA," she said, "I, from the bottom of my heart, believe that the person wrote that because they didn't want to say 'Taylor.'"

The discovery was followed by a flurry of activity for Dumpson and the campus. One day, masses of students requested withdrawal forms in protest, a demonstration covered by the Eagle, AU's student

paper. Then Dumpson learned a self-proclaimed white supremacist was encouraging followers to troll her on social media, which sent her into a panic.

“You know when they tell you when there’s a hurricane or a tornado, they tell you to go between the walls, and you sit on the floor, you’re low to the ground, you close the doors and the windows,” Dumpson said. “I closed all the doors in my house, locked everything, turned all the lights off and literally sat in the hallway. I just sat there. I finally cracked.”

Other student leaders in recent years have dealt with racial tensions on campus. **Payton Head, the Missouri Students Association president at University of Missouri, in 2015 spoke out about racial slurs that had been directed at him — part of a chain of events that ended with the resignations of the University of Missouri system president, and the chancellor of the flagship Missouri campus in Columbia.** The same year, Rini Sampath, student body president at the University of Southern California, said someone yelled a racist comment to her as she walked from a friend’s apartment.

This spring, a noose was discovered at a University of Maryland fraternity house, and white supremacist signs were found on George Washington University’s campus.

“The way that any student government president responds to a crisis like this absolutely affects the way that the university administration responds and moves forward,” said Sophia Wirth, a former AU student government president. “Not only with the conversations that they have with the student body at large, but also with the policy decisions that they make.”

The recent AU incident occurred as the university’s leadership was in transition. Burwell, who was health and human services secretary during the Obama administration, assumed her post in June as the first female president of AU.

Burwell and Dumpson have already met. The two have spoken not just about the noose episode, but also about Dumpson’s agenda as student government president, Burwell said.

“I am sad, and upset that the staff, the students, the faculty, that this community had to experience what was an act that was clearly set out to intimidate and frighten,” Burwell said.

Incidents like what happened at AU raise broader concerns about diversity and inclusion, Burwell said.

“Right now, I am in the place of talking to folks across different perspectives of the campus, from faculty to the staff to the students, about how they’re thinking about those issues on this campus, how they think about progress that has been made, and where we need to go, and what kinds of things we need to do,” Burwell said.

AU, which in June launched a new diversity and inclusion website, has had this conversation before. In 2015, there was outcry at the university over racist messages that had been posted to social media. And in September, a black AU student reported a banana was thrown at her in a dorm.

“It’s hard, because it’s a school I do love and I wish that I didn’t have to worry about these things, and I could just enjoy American University for what it was,” said Sydney Jones, 20, the president of the university’s NAACP chapter and a justice and law major from Miami. “But unfortunately, I can’t.”

Before all this happened, Dumpson was already focused on how to make the campus more inclusive. The May 1 incident gave her more reason to keep pushing, she said. She's working on a proposal for a space that would serve as a multicultural center, where students can gather, plan, organize and relax.

There are moments when Dumpson still struggles. Her hands get clammy. Sometimes she cries. Many have asked if she was all right. Initially, she would say that she was fine, that she'd keep them posted.

"What I've learned is, it's okay to say, 'You know what, I'm not okay,'" she said. "Or, it's okay to say, 'I don't want to talk about this right now.' That's what I'm learning."



Supreme Court Partially Reinstates Travel Ban

Court agrees to hear case, reinstates ban except for foreign nationals -- including admitted students -- "who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States."

NO MU MENTION

By Elizabeth Redden June 27, 2017

The Supreme Court on Monday partially lifted the injunction on President Trump's ban on entry for nationals of six Muslim-majority countries, allowing it to take effect except for in the cases of "foreign nationals who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States."

The ruling indicates that students admitted to U.S. universities, workers with job offers from U.S. companies and lecturers with invitations to address American audiences all would qualify as having such a "bona fide relationship," and therefore would not be subject to the reinstated travel ban.

The nation's highest court agreed to hear arguments in October over Trump's executive order barring travel for 90 days for nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In indicating it will fully consider the merits of the case at that point, the court also directed the

parties involved to address the question of whether the dispute over the 90-day ban has become moot.

The Supreme Court opinion partially overturns injunctions upheld by two lower courts blocking enforcement of the travel ban, in one case on the grounds that it amounted to religious discrimination, in violation of the Constitution, and in the other on the grounds that the president had exceeded his authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act in issuing it.

The Trump administration has justified the March 6 order -- which also suspended admission of refugees for 120 days -- as needed to prevent the entry of terrorists into the United States while the government conducts a review of screening and vetting procedures. Civil rights groups have condemned the travel ban as a pretext for barring the entry of Muslims, a step Trump called for in his campaign. Many higher education groups also have spoken out against the ban, arguing that it undermines principles of inclusion and internationalism in higher education and could prevent talented students and scholars from the six countries from coming to U.S. campuses.

The good news for universities is that international students and scholars who can establish a “bona fide relationship” to an American university should still be able to travel to the U.S. even with the Supreme Court's partial stay of injunctions imposed by two lower courts. In ruling that the ban on travel “may not be enforced against foreign nationals who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States,” but that it can be applied to all other foreign nationals, the Supreme Court goes some way toward defining what such a bona fide relationship would look like -- and specifically mentions as an example students admitted to the University of Hawaii. (The state of Hawaii is a plaintiff in one of the cases under consideration by the court.)

“A foreign national who wishes to enter the United States to live with or visit a family member ... clearly has such a relationship,” the unsigned ruling states. “As for entities, the relationship must be formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course, rather than for the purpose of evading [the executive order]. The students from the designated countries who have been admitted to the University of Hawaii have such a relationship with an American entity. So too would a worker who accepted an offer of employment from an American company or a lecturer invited to address an American audience.”

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities described the Supreme Court opinion as “welcome news for colleges and universities ... The court specifically recognizes the status of admitted students and employees as constituting such a bona fide relationship. We expect that the administration will comply fully with the court's ruling in its visa decisions and hope that citizens of the countries in question will continue to participate in, and contribute to, American higher education as appropriate.”

Still, immigration lawyers and international education professionals expressed concern about continued uncertainty and confusion over the travel ban -- and a potential chilling effect on would-be applicants.

Story [continues.](#)