



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

August 15, 2017

MISSOURIAN

UM statements condemn violence in Charlottesville

YANQI XU

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri leaders issued statements Monday expressing sadness and anger at the clashes between rallying white supremacists and anti-racism protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright reiterated that all acts of violence and racism "have no place on our campus or society." The statement was co-signed by dozens of other campus officials.

The leaders emphasized inclusiveness and safety on campus, sending a message of reassurance to the faculty, staff and students. "Your safety and success on this campus, in whatever you do, is important to us."

The school reaffirmed its commitment to the MU core values of "respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence."

UM System President Mun Choi encouraged input from the MU community to realize the goal of creating an environment where "each individual is valued and appreciated."



MU officials react to Charlottesville tragedy

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri officials [responded](#) Tuesday to the events that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, this past weekend.

"We are saddened and angered by the tragedy in Charlottesville, Virginia, this past weekend," a statement signed by University leaders said.

White nationalists descended on the town to protest the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue. Counterprotesters were also present and soon tensions boiled over.

Police said one of the white nationalists, James Alex Fields Jr., drove his car through a crowd of counterprotesters, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others.

Two state troopers were also killed when their helicopter crashed while they were keeping watch on the demonstrations

The MU statement said, "As leaders in higher education, we share a common bond with the University of Virginia community. The University of Missouri condemns all acts of violence and racism, including those associated with ideologies of hate such as white supremacy and anti-Semitism."

University of Missouri President Mun Choi also sent a statement to faculty and students Tuesday as well condemning the events.

"We stand in solidarity with our colleagues at the University of Virginia in condemning all acts of violence, hatred and racism, Choi said. "There is no place on our campuses, in our communities and in society for vitriolic and hate-filled ideologies such as white supremacy and anti-Semitism. At the University of Missouri System, we are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where each individual is valued and appreciated."



UM System, Mizzou release statements on Charlottesville protests

COLUMBIA — Several University of Missouri leaders issued a joint statement regarding the weekend's [protests](#) in Charlottesville.

"We are saddened and angered by the tragedy in Charlottesville, Virginia, this past weekend. As leaders in higher education, we share a common bond with the University of Virginia community. The University of Missouri condemns all acts of violence and racism, including those associated with ideologies of hate such as white supremacy and anti-Semitism. They have no place on our campus or in society. We affirm our commitment to our university's core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence.

We want to make it clear that we are committed to an inclusive environment. Your safety and success on this campus, in whatever you do, is important to us."

Mun Choi, the UM System president also released a statement:

"I am saddened and angered by the tragic events that transpired in Charlottesville, Virginia over the weekend. We stand in solidarity with our colleagues at the University of Virginia in condemning all acts of violence, hatred and racism. There is no place on our campuses, in our communities and in society for vitriolic and hate-filled ideologies such as white supremacy and anti-semitism. At the University of Missouri System, we are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment where each individual is valued and appreciated. Please share your input and perspectives to help us realize our objectives."

The university listed the following leaders as having signed the Mizzou statement:

- Alexander Cartwright, Chancellor

- Garnett S. Stokes, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Gary Allen, UM Vice President Information Technology and MU Chief Information Officer
- Jonathan Curtright, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer for MU Health Care
- Ellen Eardley, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civil Rights and Title IX
- Rhonda Gibler, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
- Patty Haberberger, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources
- Suzette Heiman, Interim Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Marketing
- Tom Hiles, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and Alumni Relations
- Christine Holt, Associate Provost
- Todd McCubbin, Executive Director of the Mizzou Alumni Association
- Kevin G. McDonald, UM Chief Diversity Officer and MU Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity
- Mark McIntosh, UM Vice President and MU Vice Chancellor of Research, Graduate Studies and Economic Development
- Pelema Morrice, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management
- Marty Oetting, Interim Chief of Staff
- Jim Sterk, Director of Athletics
- Marshall Stewart, Vice Chancellor for Extension and Engagement
- Gary Ward, Vice Chancellor for Operations and Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Kathryn B. Chval, Dean of the College of Education
- Patrice Delafontaine, Dean of School of Medicine
- Christopher R. Daubert, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Kristofer Hagglund, Dean of School of Health Professions
- Carolyn Henry, Interim Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine
- David Kurpius, Dean of School of Journalism
- Lyriisa Lidsky, Dean of School of Law
- Elizabeth Lobo, Dean of College of Engineering
- Judith Miller, Dean of School of Nursing
- Pat Okker, Interim Dean of College of Arts and Science
- James S. Rikoon, Dean of College of Human Environmental Sciences
- Ajay Vinzé, Dean of College of Business
- Bart Wechsler, Dean of Truman School of Public Affairs
- Ann Champion Riley, Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian
- Jeni Hart, Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies
- Leona Rubin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies
- Jim Spain, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies
- Alex Howe, President, Graduate Professional Council
- Chrissy Kintner, Chair, MU Staff Advisory Council
- William Wiebold, Chair, MU Faculty Council
- Nathan Willett, President, Missouri Students Association



University of Missouri Officials Issue Statement Regarding Charlottesville Incident

WATCH STORY: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d9962007-1545-4614-a956-53cb7d6fc62b>

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

[MU Health could be on hook for settlement](#)

By Rudi Keller

A lawsuit filed last year over unpaid work at University of Missouri Health Care has identified more than 2,500 clinical employees who are owed up to \$10.1 million for five years of missed meal breaks.

The case filed by respiratory therapist Richard Hunsley and nurse Donna Reeves challenged a system that automatically deducted 30 minutes from employees' reported work hours for meals, whether they received a break or not. The lawsuit claims the practice violated federal labor law and MU Health Care policies that employees should be paid if their meal is interrupted or otherwise do not receive a full 30 minute break.

The complaint already forced changes to timekeeping procedures at MU Health Care but the case isn't over. Hunsley and his attorney, Brendan Donelon of Kansas City, are seeking approval from Boone County Circuit Judge Jodie Asel to make the case a class-action lawsuit on behalf of all hourly clinical employees.

A hearing on Sept. 5 will set a timetable for deciding whether the case will become class action, Donelon said Monday. When it was filed in May 2016, Donelon wanted it to include all hourly MU Health Care employees.

“We are trying to make it as tight and strong as possible,” he said. “The people we are hoping to represent are people who didn’t leave the premises, who had to stay close for patient care.”

MU Health Care declined to answer questions about policy changes since the lawsuit was filed or whether any employees have been compensated because they were underpaid.

“It’s our policy not to discuss pending litigation,” spokeswoman Mary Jenkins wrote in an email.

Hunsley began questioning the system for automatically recording meal breaks after his supervisor sent an email Jan. 8, 2016, that staff in respiratory therapy had to carry their pagers and phones with them and remain on the hospital premises during meal breaks. Hospital employment policies do not promise meal breaks, but employees who work eight hours or more in a shift will be given at least 30 minutes if workload allows.

“If for some reason an employee is scheduled to work through a meal period and is unable to get away from the work area during the assigned shift, the employee will be paid for that time,” the policy states.

There is no ambiguity in the policy, Donelon said Monday.

“The policy is adamantly clear,” he said. “If employees are not permitted to leave, or must keep their pager or phone, they should be paid for the entire period.”

Hunsley began complaining about the automatic deductions soon after the department directive and respiratory therapists were paid for the half-hour retroactive to the date of its issuance. But the practice wasn’t ended until Sept. 11, when a new policy was enacted ending automatic deductions and requiring hourly staff to clock in and clock out for their meals.

In a deposition given Oct. 26, Sue Kopfle, chief human resources officer since January 2008, said the issue of automatic time deductions was debated and some employees objected to losing it because they didn’t want the bother of clocking in and out for meals. But it proved to have too many difficulties, she said.

“I mean, in hindsight, it was set up to work,” Kopfle said. “We all believed it worked. I’ve been there for eight years, and not a soul complained. You actually think it’s all fine, and then one day, somebody raises their hand and says, not so fine.”

Through records obtained for the lawsuit, Donelon has identified 2,611 current and former clinical employees who had meal breaks automatically deducted from their pay between May 2011 and Sept. 11. That covers a five-year statute of limitations on breach of contract and unlawful enrichment, he said.

The hours missed are multiplied by each employees pay and, when appropriate, the overtime rate for that worker, he said.

“We can get it down to the penny,” Donelon said.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

University of Missouri adjusts to budget cuts

The Associated Press

AUGUST 14, 2017 3:48 PM

COLUMBIA, MO. - **Administrators at the University of Missouri in Columbia are working to maintain research and education opportunities despite proposed budget cuts and job eliminations.**

The university released a budget proposal in May calling for the elimination of more than 300 jobs and about \$60 million in budget cuts for fiscal year 2018, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

Most of the changes went into effect this summer. Administrators said duties of those lost positions have been either eliminated or reallocated to remaining staff.

The university hopes to limit expenditures. It also wants to restructure academic programs and administration by consolidating those programs, duties and staff positions.

But the school is determined to continue providing education and research opportunities despite the cuts, said university spokesman Christian Basi.

"There are some things that are no longer being done or will be done differently in the future, but the main mission of the university — the education of our students, the support of our research and the dissemination of that information — continues without problems," Basi said.

The College of Arts and Science faced the biggest change, with \$9.6 million cut and nearly 70 jobs lost. Other departments that saw job losses include the School of Journalism, the College of Engineering, the College of Education and the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

"In some cases, program implementation is slowed, but our staff has taken on more responsibilities and work to ensure our education and research can continue," said Cooper Drury, associate dean of the arts and science college.

The budget proposal said that most of the 2018 savings will become annual or otherwise recurring. It also mentioned plans for an additional \$21 million in long-term cuts.

The university's budget shortfall and widespread reductions is due to low enrollment, slashed state funding, cost increases and strategic investments.

Basi said every division in the school will undergo a review in the next few months to determine if more changes are necessary.

The Associated Press story also ran on:

KBIA-FM (NPR) – Columbia, Mo.

KSDK-TV (NBC) – St. Louis, Mo.

KTLO-FM (Radio) – Mountain Home, Ark.

KSHB-TV (NBC) – Kansas City, Mo.

MISSOURIAN

MU Health Care opens new Ashland clinic

JOE SIESS AND PHU NGUYEN

ASHLAND — **When Mike Glascock's wife, Callie Glascock, learned recently that he would have to wait over a month to see a doctor in Columbia, she got her husband in to see physician Luke Stephens at the new MU Family Medicine clinic in Ashland on Monday, its opening day.**

The clinic, just two miles from Glascock's home in Hartsburg, is the second to open in the southern Boone County town of 3,800 people. The other is operated by the county-owned Boone Hospital Center.

MU Health Care officials, Ashland officials and others gathered Monday afternoon to celebrate the opening of the new clinic at 101 Redtail Drive, Suite C.

Glascoock didn't attend the celebration but was down the street visiting with companions at Woody's Pub and Grub.

Glascoock is director of MU's Middlebush Farm, which trains veterinary students. He said he's thrilled the new clinic opened.

"This works better with my insurance," Glascoock said.

"My fear is that it's going to get too busy," he said. "That was the problem with that clinic here, you couldn't get in. I'm happy to see another place opened up."

The MU clinic will offer a variety of services such as acute care, preventative care, pediatrics and geriatrics. The project took about six months to complete, and, prior to construction, there was nothing occupying the lot.

Stephens, along with a nurse practitioner, a licensed practical nurse and a patient service representative, will run the Ashland facility, according to a news release from University of Missouri Health Care.

Stephens said in the news release that he's "excited to be back in Missouri."

"I grew up on a farm south of the Lake of the Ozarks in Stoutland and received my master's degree in public health and my medical training from MU. This feels like I'm home. It's a privilege to be able to serve my community by providing quality, accessible primary care," Stephens said in the release.

After a two-year stint in Chicago working in sports medicine combined with the experience of years working in rural environments, Stephens maintains there are differences in practicing medicine between urban and rural environments. He cited research showing that patients in rural environments typically have more diseases than those living in cities.

People in rural environments also are stubborn and possess an "if I don't go to the doctor I won't get sick" mentality, Stephens said in an interview. He said that's why an integral part of family

medicine in rural environments is forging lasting relationships between medical professionals and the patients they serve.

Glascock said he was pleased with his experience at the clinic, calling Stephens a "super nice" doctor.

Sue Runyon, a nurse practitioner who has been with University Health Care for more than 38 years, lives just five miles west of Ashland. She said it will be an advantage to work in a community she's familiar with.

"That's a real win for me in this type of clinic is to be able to have established relationships with people," Runyon said. "You know their history, you know some of the families, you can provide a different kind of care where they don't have to go through everything every time.

"When you meet someone new, you don't know their medical history, you don't know their circumstances. If that's already established, it can just flow very nice," she said.

Back at Woody's, Bruce Bauer, the landlord and owner of the Redtail Professional Building that houses the clinic, ate lunch at the table next to Glascock's.

Bauer was short and sweet when explaining how he got lucky enough to work with MU on the building.

"It was just good timing."



MU Health Care opens new Ashland clinic

ASHLAND — Southern Boone County residents have a new place at which to receive medical attention.

Area dignitaries and members of the Southern Boone County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of a new MU Health Care Family Medicine Clinic in Ashland Monday. The clinic had 3,790 square-feet of space with seven exam rooms and a testing lab. The new clinic was a closer alternative than Columbia's University Hospital for patients in southern Boone County.

"Having a clinic actually in town, for not only Ashland, but Hartsburg and the other surrounding communities, is just an amazing improvement," Chamber President Jason Reynolds said.

Dr. Luke Stephens, who leads a team of health care providers at Ashland's new clinic, said the smaller facility made it easier to form long lasting relationships between patients, their families, doctors and nurses.

"It's not knowing only you, but knowing your family. It's something small town physicians really enjoy," Dr. Stephens said. "I know I enjoyed that with my past experience of just knowing your whole family, knowing your friends and knowing your social network where you work at."

MU Health Care officials said their new Ashland clinic would save time and money for patients all across Southern Boone County. Their new parking lot was also more user-friendly than the parking garage at Columbia's University Hospital.

MU Health Care serves an average of more than 160,000 outpatient clinic patients each year, healthcare officials said.



[MU Health opens a new family medicine clinic](#)

ASHLAND – MU Health opened a new family medicine clinic in Ashland Monday afternoon. The new clinic is MU health’s eighth family medicine clinic and its third rural community clinic.

The MU Chair of Family and Community Medicine Steven Zweig said family medicine is important and he’s happy MU Health expanded its care to Ashland and Southern Boone County.

“Family medicine is unique in that it is a specialty in primary care. And while other specialties my focus on specific people, genders, or organ systems we in family medicine focus on you for your entire life,” Zweig said. “We strive to provide high quality care for everyone.”

Dr. Luke Stephens will be the head physician at the new clinic and he said he’s excited to provide quality and personal care to each and every one of his patients.

“Knowing not only you, but knowing your family that’s something that small town physicians really enjoys, I know I enjoyed that with my past experience,” Stephens said.

Stephens will be leading a team of providers at the clinic that includes a nurse practitioner, a licensed practical nurse, and a patient services representative. Stephens himself is board-certified in family and community medicine.

Everyone that attended the ribbon cutting ceremony not only are excited about the new clinic and the services it will be able to provide, but also the convenience of the location.

Jason Reynolds with the Southern Boone Chamber of Commerce said the new clinic will also benefit other communities outside of Ashland.

“Having a clinic actually in town for not only Ashland but Hartburg and the other surrounding communities is just an amazing improvement.”

The talks of this new clinic has been in the works for a while said the chief executive officer of MU health Johnathan Curtright.

“I’ve been now at MU Health care for approaching two years now and I’ve heard multiple times “hey why don’t you guys build a clinic in Ashland, southern Boone County, this would be fantastic for people in southern Boone County and Ashland” We are absolutely committed to doing this and we said that and now it’s coming to full wishes,” Curtright said.

The new clinic features seven examination rooms, a laboratory, and nurse and physician work stations. The clinic is located at the corner of Red Tail Drive and S. Henry Clay Blvd.

“The best form of care is when you get it locally and when you get it locally and near your hometown,” Curtright said.



Tuesday: Reducing hospital admissions of nursing home residents

Story generated by MU News Bureau press release: [Advanced Practice Nurses are Lowering Hospitalization Rates, Saving Money in Nursing Homes](#)

By *KELLY MOFFITT*

This interview will be on "St. Louis on the Air" at noon on Tuesday; this story will be updated after the show. You can listen live.

In 2011, one in four nursing home residents on Medicare was hospitalized. It's an issue that impacts many and on Tuesday's St. Louis on the Air, we'll speak with a University of Missouri Nursing School professor about ways to reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

Marilyn Rantz, curators professor emerita at the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, has had success in reducing hospital admissions through an initiative she led with a population of Missouri-based nursing home residents.

St. Louis on the Air brings you the stories of St. Louis and the people who live, work and create in our region. St. Louis on the Air host Don Marsh and producers Mary Edwards, Alex Heuer and Kelly Moffitt give you the information you need to make informed decisions and stay in touch with our diverse and vibrant St. Louis region.



[Autism diagnosis, treatment now available through TCMH doctor](#)

Generated by MU News Bureau press release: [Telehealth Reduces Wait Time, Improves Care for Children with Autism Living in Remote Areas](#)

A physician at Texas County Memorial Hospital recently completed a program that qualified him for helping families detect autism in their children.

Dr. William Wright, family medicine physician at the Houston complex, finished the “ECHO Autism STAT Program” at the University of Missouri. The intensive training covers the identification of autism spectrum disorder and the management of common medical and psychiatric concerns in children with autism spectrum disorder.

One in 68 children have autism as it has skyrocketed over the past few decades. The reason for the increase in autism is unknown, but more children are diagnosed with the disease as more parents, educators and healthcare providers have increased their ability to recognize the signs of autism.

Autism is a developmental disorder with a wide range or “spectrum” of symptoms, problem and levels of disability. Social skills and communication skills are primarily affected when a child has autism, but it takes a clinical diagnosis by an autism spectrum center for a child to have access to the resources available for children with autism.

In Missouri and nationwide, the wait times are typically 12-18 months for a child to be seen by an autism specialist that can give an official diagnosis. The six locations in Missouri that provide specialized autism treatment and diagnosis are in urban areas which are not easily accessible by rural residents.

The earlier a child is diagnosed with autism, the quicker the child and the family can begin properly addressing the issues related to diagnosis. In 2015, The University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders began an ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) autism project through their facility. The project uses telehealth technology to train and then to support community primary care providers to increase access to diagnoses and care for autistic children.

The MU autism program was created to help children and their families find a community-based STAT provider that can examine and diagnose the child without a long wait. Studies have shown that children receiving treatment from a specially trained primary care provider in their own

community have the same or better outcomes as children receiving care at academic medical centers where the programs are based.

Wright trained with the Thompson Center for more than a year. He also achieved reliability in the screening tool for autism.

The screening tool, developed by Vanderbilt University, is used by Wright in a patient room equipped with a child-size table and chairs. The test takes about 30 minutes for a child to complete, depending upon his or her cooperation.

After the screening is complete, Wright presents his findings to other autism professionals via telehealth to determine if an official diagnosis of autism should be given.

“It’s difficult to make an accurate autism diagnosis,” Wright said, explaining the need for specialized autism spectrum disorder training for healthcare providers.

According to Wright, healthcare providers don’t have a “simple test for autism.” Instead, they must observe the how a child responds to a specific set of activities and talk with the child’s parents about a child’s behaviors and social skills.

Wright said many times when a young child is at home daily with a parent, the parent may not notice certain behaviors in a child that a healthcare provider or an early childhood education would notice as unusual for the child’s age. Many children with autism are not diagnosed until they are older and in preschool or in elementary school.

“It’s really important to diagnose autism early, so the patient can get an earlier start on speech, behavior and physical therapies,” Wright said.

He said community healthcare providers already have connections to the local therapy services which can be helpful for the parents of autistic children.

Wright screens children for autism at his office in Houston. Children may need to follow up for a full diagnostic assessment with The Thompson Center at MU, but Wright, as a family medicine physician, has the opportunity to see the entire family and walk them through the diagnosis and work with the patient on other issues related to their autism.

“Once we know where a child is on the autism spectrum there are many things I can do to work with the child,” Wright said.

In addition to the common social and behavioral issues in autistic children, many also have trouble sleeping, have gastrointestinal issues, and have a significantly higher chance of having an anxiety disorder, seizures or ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).

Parents from south-central Missouri contacting The Thompson Center may be referred to Wright for a screening. Other healthcare providers or educators that believe a child should be screened can also refer to Wright.

“Parents with autistic children need medical support in their home communities, and now we’re able to help provide that,” Wright said.

For more information about the ECHO Autism STAT screening and healthcare services available through Wright, contact the TCMH Medical Complex at 417-967-5639.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

St. Louis losing business as result of NAACP travel advisory, head of city tourism agency says

[By Doug Moore St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

ST. LOUIS • The head of the city's tourism and convention agency said hotels have lost business as a result of a travel advisory issued by the national NAACP last month and that her industry is "being used as a weapon" in the political arena.

"We have been notified by a number of area hotels that they have lost meeting groups that were in contract phase," said Kathleen "Kitty" Ratcliffe, president of Explore St. Louis in a statement Monday morning. "We've also been working with a number of organizations that are already contracted to help them address any concerns that they have had expressed from their attendees."

The statement did not specify how much business was lost as a result and Ratcliffe was not immediately available to address questions regarding her statement. But a spokesman for Explore St. Louis, Anthony Paraino, said: "We do not have permission from the hotels or the groups to give their information to the press."

The NAACP travel advisory issued last month came at the urging of Rod Chapel, head of the Missouri NAACP after state legislators passed a bill making it harder for employees to make the case for workplace discrimination.

The advisory was the first of its kind from the country's oldest and largest civil rights organization and set off a round of media interviews nationwide for Chapel and other NAACP leaders.

It also brought Missouri back into the spotlight as a state struggling with racial issues, from Ferguson in the summer of 2014 to the University of Missouri's Columbia campus the following

year. But it was not until Senate Bill 43 came along that Chapel urged the national NAACP to take action in the form of a travel advisory, putting the rest of the country on notice of Missouri's ongoing struggles.

"I didn't feel like we had any other choice," Chapel told the Post-Dispatch prior to Ratcliffe's statement. "We tried to talk with legislators. That didn't work. Talk with the executive branch. That didn't work. Offer amendments (to the bill), and that didn't work. There was no other recourse but to tell people that if coming here, be careful and know what you are coming into."

The state NAACP will hold a rally Tuesday in opposition to the new law. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at Union Memorial United Methodist Church in St. Louis.

While the advisory has made a big splash, grabbing headlines and radio and TV time, it's unclear what kind of lasting effect it will have. It expires on Aug. 28, the same day the new law goes into effect.

Daniel P. Mehan, CEO of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce, which supported the legislation, said that while his office has no data to know exactly what kind of impact the NAACP statement will have on the state, "it is concerning that the travel advisory is partially based on legislation that does not have anything to do with travel. A piece of employment law legislation, which aligns Missouri law with federal standards, should not cause anyone to be concerned about travelling to Missouri. Employment law standards in the majority of other states are similar or even stricter than Missouri's new law."

When Gov. Eric Greitens signed the bill June 30, the governor said in a release that the law brings Missouri in line with 38 other states and the federal government.

Jerry Hunter, an attorney with Bryan Cave and former director of the Missouri Department of Labor, said the NAACP advisory singling out Missouri makes no sense and he questions its timing.

"My problem with (the NAACP's action) is the bill has nothing to do with travel, Hunter said.

He points out that in a Missouri Supreme Court decision in 2007, the standard of proof regarding discrimination was changed from "motivating factor" to "contributing factor." The new Missouri law changes the standard back to how it was before and reflects national standards used by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

"If Rod had called and asked my opinion (on the law), I've have given him the history," said Hunter who is African-American. He pointed out that Chapel also is a former director of the state Labor Department. "If you want to debate whether it should be contributing or motivating factor, I don't have a problem with that. Let's sit down and have a discussion. There could be legitimate views on both sides."

However, Hunter said, when Chapel and others start labeling the legislation as "Jim Crow or Bull Connor, using those kinds of provocative terms, people won't focus on what the real issue is. It defeats the whole purpose of the discussion."

Cut off in the Capitol

The travel advisory was first approved in June by the state NAACP before the bill was passed and signed into law. Some who oppose the advisory are calling it Chapel's shot across the bow after he was cut off during testimony against the legislation four months earlier.

During testimony on the bill, Chapel came to the witness stand and criticized the measure, the heart of it requiring plaintiffs to meet a higher standard of proof in discrimination suits. He said supporters, which included the University of Missouri system, were "united in expanding discrimination."

The comments frustrated Republican committee chairman, Bill Lant of Pineville, who told Chapel to keep his comments focused on the bill. Chapel continued, calling the legislation "nothing but Jim Crow." Lant shut off Chapel's microphone. The Republican leadership later apologized and Chapel finished testifying at another hearing.

Hunter said that while Chapel's comments were off-the-mark, he should have been able to continue and understands why cutting off his testimony would be upsetting to Chapel and others.

Chapel said he has heard the arguments that a travel advisory could bring economic harm to people of color in Missouri if tourism and other revenue declines as a result. But he said the support he is getting for the decision has been overwhelming.

Earlier this month, the heads of the Legislative Black Caucus and Missouri Faith Voices, a nonpartisan group representing various faiths, released a joint statement backing the NAACP's decision.

State Rep. Alan Green, D-Florissant said he was initially optimistic the Black Caucus would have a voice in Jefferson City when the newly elected Greitens invited caucus members to a reception. But that changed as the bill moved forward.

"Subsequently, on several occasions I attempted to meet with the governor and was ignored. In fact, since the reception photo, he has yet to meet with me or the Black Caucus," Green said.

The Rev. Cassandra Gould, executive director of Missouri Faith Voices, said Greitens signing the bill "is an effort to make the barriers to achieving justice so high as to legalize discrimination in the state of Missouri."

A day after the joint statement from the faith group and the black caucus, the St. Louis County NAACP announced that it had changed its position and fully supported the advisory.

"After additional study and consultation with our state conference, the St. Louis County NAACP wholeheartedly supports the travel advisory issued by our national conference," the chapter headed by Esther Haywood said in a news release Aug. 5. Two days earlier, the county chapter had urged the national NAACP to either rescind or amend the travel advisory, arguing that it would cause economic harm to African-Americans working in the hospitality industry.

"We suggest that if the NAACP does not rescind their advisory immediately, then they should add to it the other 38 states, which all already have this standard for monitoring discrimination in place," Haywood said in the initial statement.

Chapel said the group talked about the law in more detail and what it means for minorities "but more importantly what we think we need to do as a state conference, that people are informed of their rights and that it is not OK to do this."

Schools react

Mun Choi, president of the University of Missouri system, issued a statement on Aug. 7 expressing disappointment in the travel advisory. Choi said that he alongside leaders at all campuses "have made remarkable progress" toward "creating a community that values the diversity of background, experiences, perspectives and thought."

Choi said he had a "constructive conversation" with Chapel explaining the initiatives underway "and we mutually agreed to continue the dialogue and to share new ideas to continue to improve our university."

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kevin Austin, R-Springfield, said the bill would align Missouri with federal standards. Legislators said it was that alignment that was key for supporting the measure. That alignment is also why the University of Missouri supports the measure, said system spokesman John Fougere.

"Federal anti-discrimination laws that are enforced nationwide provide sufficient protection and would allow us to continue to strongly combat discrimination without exposing the University to increased unnecessary liability and defense costs," Fougere said in a statement.

Washington University Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton weighed in last week.

"The recently announced 'travel advisory' underscores the importance of continuing to build a community that is diverse and inclusive," Wrighton said in a university blog post. "To our university community — especially the students and family members who will be traveling to campus — know that we will do everything we can to make your experience here fulfilling, rewarding and enriching. And know that we remain committed to our community values of mutual respect, tolerance and inclusion."

During a hearing on the bill, Joseph Sklansky, an assistant vice chancellor and associate general counsel for Washington University, told the committee the bill would correct overreach from a decade-old court decision that changed criteria for such workplace discrimination lawsuits. Sklansky was a member of the school's former Coordinating Council for Diversity Initiatives, which dealt with past employment discrimination lawsuits on behalf of Washington University.

Sklansky stated where he worked and what he does for the university but also told the committee he was there on his own behalf. A school spokesman later said Sklansky took a vacation day to attend the hearing.

Ratliffe said in her statement that "we fully respect the rights of any organization to share their concerns with SB 43 or any other piece of legislation. However, we are discouraged that the travel industry is being used as a weapon against politicians for their policies. Ultimately, it is not the politicians who suffer from these actions, but it is the hard-working men and women of our state's hospitality industry that will bear the impact and outcome."



Intersection - Exploring the 'Most Watched Celestial Event' with Astrophysicist Angela Speck

Central Missouri is on the path of totality for the upcoming solar eclipse. That means that the sun will completely disappear from view for a few minutes during the middle of the day. **Intersection's Sara Shahriari and Harvest Public Media reporter Kris Husted talk with Mizzou Professor and Director of Astronomy Angela Speck about studying animal reactions, citizen data gathering and exactly how the moon and the sun line up to create total daytime darkness.**

*This could be the most watched celestial event ever, as social media spreads the word about a total solar eclipse over a long, populated, accessible swath of the U.S.

*There is a total solar eclipse almost every year somewhere on Earth, but they're often visible only from very isolated or unpopulated parts of the planet.

*University of Missouri researchers are studying many aspects of the eclipse, including how animals react to the untimely darkness.

*Speck details different ways citizen scientists are getting involved in recording data during the eclipse.

MISSOURIAN

Warning: Email scam sent to UM faculty and staff

ANNIKA MERRILEES

COLUMBIA — **An email purportedly from University of Missouri System President Mun Choi on Monday morning is a phishing scam.**

Janet Waibel, executive assistant to the president, and John Meyer, system administrator expert at the Missouri School of Journalism, confirmed the email is a scam. Anyone who received the email should immediately delete it without opening.

The email, sent at 8:07 a.m., carried the subject line: "URGENT-ACTION REQUIRED: MU Document To All Employees From President Mun Choi - August 14, 2017."

The email came from Katherine.Cuadra@transwestern.com and purported to contain an attachment to an update of an employee strategic initiatives document.

"It's of high importance all staffs read through on what improves the employee strategic," it reads.

A PDF attached to the email invites people to click on a secure link.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

[Here's What Betsy DeVos Told the Associated Press About Higher Ed](#)

NO MU MENTION

By ADAM HARRIS

Since being confirmed as Education Secretary in February, Betsy DeVos has not regularly spoken with the media. Last Wednesday, however, she sat down for a 30-minute conversation with the Associated Press to discuss a range of topics, including campus sexual assault and whether or not the department plans to take action on race-conscious admissions.

Here are the higher education takeaways from [the interview](#):

Consumer Rules

The department announced in June that it would [“pause” and re-regulate](#) the gainful-employment and borrower defense-to-repayment rules — two Obama-era regulations aimed at reining in abuses by colleges. Ms. DeVos told the AP the two rules are among “a number of regulations” that the department believes to be “onerous and have targeted certain kinds of institutions based on their tax status.”

“Let’s be clear,” she said, “no student should be defrauded and in case of fraud there should be remedy. But we also know this approach has been unevenly applied and if there’s going to be regulation around some institutions we believe it needs to be fairly applied across the board.”

The department is [examining several other regulations](#) and “Dear Colleague” letters from the Obama administration, the secretary added. In accordance with an executive order signed by President Trump, [the department is reviewing regulations](#) to identify which would be “appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification.”

Affirmative Action

Ms. DeVos distanced the department from a Justice Department posting, originally reported by *The New York Times*, that suggested the administration [would be taking a closer look](#) at affirmative action and race-conscious admissions. The secretary did not offer comment on whether or not she believed that colleges should look at race in admissions, but she said “this has been a question before the courts and the courts have opined.

“We have not been involved with the Justice Department’s posting and again I think as they have stated, this was an internal issue and one that they are continuing to move forward on,” she said.

She added that she believes the dynamic has to change at the K-12 level. “It is not fair to think that when students transit through a K-12 system that is not preparing them for beyond, that

somehow we are going to wave a magic wand and things are going to be perfect for them at the higher-ed level.”

Black Colleges

The secretary has [often been criticized](#) for calling historically black colleges, which were founded to educate black Americans who were excluded from higher education during the era of de jure segregation, “real pioneers when it comes to school choice.” In the interview, she once again sought to distance herself from the remarks.

“When I talked about it being a pioneer in choice it was because I acknowledge that racism was rampant and there were no choices,” said Ms. DeVos, adding that her comments were “out of context.” HBCUs provided options for students that they didn’t have, she said. “I think that that comment was — while I could have said it, stated it much better — my intention was to say they were pioneering on behalf of students that didn’t have another choice.”

“This was their only choice,” she said, adding that the interview was probably the most explicitly she had explained her remarks. “And at the same time I should have decried much more forcefully the ravages of racism in this country.”

Sexual Assault

In July the secretary [hosted a day of listening sessions](#) on Title IX and campus sexual assault. Ms. DeVos said the department is “continuing to listen and talk with individuals from all perspectives on this issue.” The department asked a federal judge [on Friday](#) to put a 90-day hold on a lawsuit challenging the controversial 2011 guidance on Title IX while officials review the policy.

“All the individuals I’ve talked with have said we need to have a process and a system that we know is right and fair for everyone involved,” she said. “We have to get this right on behalf of all students.

“I think it goes without saying, but I’ll say it, sexual assault anywhere at any time is horrible and we need to decry it and at the same time we need to ensure that the processes to address it when it happens are done right.”