



MU News Bureau

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UM System President On Diversity, Budget Cuts And 'Compacts With The Citizens of Missouri'

By Steve Kraske and Cody Dugger

Listen to the story here: <http://kcur.org/post/um-system-president-diversity-budget-cuts-and-compacts-citizens-missouri#stream/0>

From budget cuts to racial tensions to declining enrollment, running the University of Missouri System has its share of challenges. Today, we speak with the system's president, Dr. Mun Choi, about the climate on the Columbia campus, further dialog on diversity and how budget decisions are made when it comes to program and staff reductions. Also, we ask Dr. Choi for his prognosis on the proposed [Downtown Campus for the Arts](#) at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

Missourinet

New Mizzou Chancellor Cartwright: we are the University for Missouri

By BRIAN HAUSWIRTH

The new Mizzou Chancellor says he's hearing optimism from Missourians about the state's largest university.

MU Chancellor Dr. Alexander Cartwright has been on the job for 24 days. He spent most of last Thursday visiting with Missouri residents and lawmakers at the State Fair in Sedalia.

Dr. Cartwright tells Missourinet he's doing a lot of outreach and listening.

“This is what we're here for is to work with Missouri to make sure that people understand we're the land-grant institution,” Cartwright says. “We recognize our role in Missouri. Our role is to support the state of Missouri and to make sure we're doing everything that this state needs.”

Cartwright wants to visit as many of Missouri's 114 counties as possible. During an interview with Missourinet at the State Fair, Dr. Cartwright emphasized the importance of outreach.

“I really think that our (MU) Extension offices reach every county, and we want to make sure that they understand that that commitment is at every level at Mizzou,” says Cartwright.

The new Chancellor says MU students have opportunities unlike any other Missouri institution. Cartwright spoke to many alums and students in Sedalia.

“People really care about Mizzou,” Cartwright says. “People think that it's an incredible organization and incredible institution. Many graduates, many alums, students are here.”

Mizzou, which began classes on Monday, has a freshman class of more than 4,100 students and has the second highest retention rate in MU history at 86.6 percent.

The retention rate measures how many freshmen from the 2016-2017 school year are returning to MU.

Mizzou's freshman class of 4,100 students is down from 6,191 in the fall of 2015. Mizzou's freshman class in the fall of 2016 was 4,772.

The racial protests which led to the resignations of both UM System President Tim Wolfe and Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin happened in November 2015.

Dr. Cartwright met with numerous lawmakers last Thursday in Sedalia, and pledges to cooperate with the General Assembly.

He says they are not just the University of Missouri: Cartwright says they are the University for Missouri.

He says Mizzou is here for the people of Missouri and for MU students.

The full interview between MissouriNet's Brian Hauswirth and new Mizzou Chancellor Cartwright, which was recorded at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia on August 17, 2017, is posted [here](#).



White supremacist group is trying to recruit University of Missouri students

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

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AUGUST 23, 2017 6:57 PM

A “Patriot” group that some say appears to be neo-fascist has been looking for new members at the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

On Wednesday, university officials warned students in a campus memo about the recruitment efforts of white supremacist groups at colleges across the country.

“We are aware that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S.,” the memo said. “If you become aware of any activity that might violate university policies, please contact the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX.”

The memo was sent after MU officials spotted flyers around campus that read, “Looking for Young Midwestern Patriots.” The fliers displayed what the Southern Poverty Law Center and others who monitor extremist groups have identified as a neo-fascist symbol.

Christian Basi, university spokesman, said the flyers are the only evidence officials have seen of an attempt to recruit MU students.

Joshua Kranzberg, an assistant journalism professor at Mizzou, said in news reports that he hadn’t seen or heard anything about white supremacist groups trying to recruit on campus. But he added that “hate and division have no place here at Mizzou, and I’ll do whatever it takes to keep my students safe.”

Basi said the safety of students on the campus is primary. He said the university supports free speech and is not opposed to any groups “engaging in peaceful demonstration in public areas on the campus.”

However, he said, “if hostility or what constitutes threatening behavior” would occur, “we would assess the situation immediately and address the situation accordingly.”

That could involve campus police if laws are being broken and administrative action if campus policies are being violated.

Lecia Brooks, who handles outreach for the Southern Poverty Law Center, said she was not surprised white supremacist groups would recruit on the MU campus.

The groups “target those places where they can get the most attention,” Brooks said. “MU is an easy target,” she said, as the university tries to pull itself back together after the racially charged student protests in the fall of 2015 sorely damaged Mizzou’s reputation. Enrollment is down, and funding is tight.

The peaceful protests, which ended with the University of Missouri System president resigning and the MU chancellor stepping down, were led by black students who said they were marginalized on the campus by a systemically oppressive administration.

Brooks said that universities like MU now touting beefed-up diversity and inclusion have become the front-line for extremist groups in “their battle against multiculturalism.”

“There is no need to recruit on a campus that has no diversity,” Brooks said.

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

MU warns students, staff of possible hate-group recruiting

By **Rudi Keller**

In response to recruiting fliers for white supremacist groups reportedly posted on and near campus, the University of Missouri sent a warning message Wednesday to faculty, staff and students.

The message was signed by Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Provost Garnett Stokes.

The warning is also a response to reports that hate groups are attempting to expand recruiting on college and university campuses across the country, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

“We are aware that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S.,” they wrote. “If you become aware of any activity that might violate university policies, please contact the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX.”

“It went out because we are committed to the values of diversity, committed to a safe campus and committed to free speech,” Basi said.

There was a report of a flier on bulletin board near the MU Student Center and reports of similar fliers posted near bus stops on campus, Basi said.

One fuzzy image he received was a white sheet of paper with the words “Looking for young Midwestern patriots” and gave an email address for contact. There was a shield on the paper with the Italian fascist symbol that looks like a kitchen rolling pin.

An email to the address listed on the paper did not draw a response.

So far, Basi said, that is the only evidence that an attempt is being made to recruit at MU.

“We have not seen or heard any direct activity related to recruitment but we are watching the situation very carefully,” he said.

It is not against university rules for students to be members of outside political groups, including the Ku Klux Klan or neo-Nazi hate groups. Basi said. And under university rules and state law, most of the campus is an open forum for free speech.

Anyone can legally come onto campus and speak in almost any open space about their views, Basi said. People who disagree can also legally use speech to oppose those views, he said.

The university wants those encounters to remain peaceful, Basi said.

“If there was an incident, we would engage immediately,” he said.



Flyers suggest white supremacist group recruiting at MU

BY EDWARD MCKINLEY NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

A white supremacist group is recruiting at MU. Flyers around campus encourage “Midwestern patriots” to contact an email address listed. An online search using the address found an archived home page for the Midwestern Alliance. The organization calls for a “white ethnic state.”

Late Tuesday afternoon, Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Provost Garnett Stokes sent an email to the campus community saying they were aware “that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S.” Although the email doesn’t cite the flyers, MU spokesman Christian Basi said campus leaders were aware of them.

The email states that anyone “aware of any activity that might violate university policies” should report it to MU’s Office for Civil Rights and Title IX.

According to University of Missouri System policy, discrimination and harassment are conduct that “adversely affects a term or condition of employment, education, living environment or participation in a University activity” or conduct that stops someone from accessing university services.

The flyer circulating at MU doesn't appear to violate current policies. It depicts a crest of unclear meaning, the words "Looking For Young Midwestern Patriots" and an email address.

Maj. Brian Weimer of the MU Police Department said the department is aware of the flyers but that no crime has occurred to his knowledge.

"We are keeping an eye out for anything that might threaten safety of the campus community," Basi said.

On Monday, the MU News Bureau announced the four UM System campuses all accepted the 2016 "Commitment to Free Expression" from MU's Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Protests, Public Spaces, Free Speech and the Press.

In that statement, MU guarantees protection of freedom of expression for everyone, even those whose beliefs spark intense disagreement. "The University's fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed."

Contacted through the email address on the flyer, Hans Mann identified himself as the founder of the Midwestern Alliance. He called it "an Identitarian organization working on promoting culture and awareness of issues that face white Americans. We seek to promote the end goal of a peaceful creation of a white ethnic state in the Midwestern United States."

The group has no events planned at this time in Columbia, Mann said.

The site says: "As more and more non-whites are flooded into our country and as the media and the elite in Washington fight to eradicate all existence of not just our culture but our race's very existence, it is beyond necessary that we as whites band together and fight for an ethnic home land."

A Roman eagle design featured at the top of the website is an important Nazi symbol, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Flyers for all sorts of organizations can be found on pretty much any U.S. college campus. With the timing nationally, the appearance of the flyers takes on more weight.

In 2015, after several racially charged incidents were reported, MU was the site of widespread protests that ultimately garnered national media attention and led to the resignations of top campus and system leaders. In 2016, racial slurs outside of the Delta Upsilon fraternity house directed at members of the Legion of Black Collegians were a factor in the fraternity's suspension.

In early August, the NAACP issued a travel advisory warning African Americans about traveling to Missouri. The organization cited the passing of a bill making it more difficult to sue for discrimination, the death of Tori Sanford in a southeast Missouri jail cell and racially-charged incidents at MU.

Nationally, the Aug. 11-12 protests and counter protests at the Unite the Right rally at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville have re-energized conversations about white supremacy in America. At those protests, neo-Nazis and white supremacists wielded torches, guns, clubs and shields and a participant drove a van into a crowd, killing one and injuring over a dozen others.



Mizzou reaffirms commitment to inclusion, says they are aware of "white supremacist groups"

By: Alyssa Toomey

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mizzou-reaffirms-commitment-to-inclusion-says-they-are-aware-of-white-supremacist-groups/611352297>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri has released a statement on discrimination less than two weeks after a white nationalist protest on the University of Virginia campus turned deadly.

"We are aware that white supremacists groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S. If you become aware of any activity that might violate university policies, please contact the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX at 573-882-3880 or email civilrights-titleix@missouri.edu. You can find a listing that includes some of these policies at <http://civilrights.missouri.edu/policies/>," [the university wrote](#).

The statement was signed by Chancellor Cartwright and Provost Stokes.

According to the guiding policies from the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX, discrimination or harassment is defined as "conduct that is based upon an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law that:

- Adversely affects a term or condition of employment, education, living environment or participation in a University activity; or
- Creates a hostile environment by being sufficiently severe or pervasive and objectively offensive that it interferes with, limits, or denies the ability to participate in or benefit from the University's educational programs, activities, or employment."

One day after the violence in Charlottesville, university leaders released a statement saying were "saddened and angered by the tragedy"

"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, racism, including those

associated with the ideologies of hate such as white supremacy and anti-Semitism. They have no place on our campus or in society," the university said. "We affirm our commitment to our university's core values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence. We want to make clear that we are committed to an inclusive environment. Your safety and success on this campus, in whatever you do, is important to us."

The statement was signed by 34 campus leaders, including Chancellor Cartwright, as well as multiple student groups.

Chancellor Cartwright officially began his position on Aug. 1. He is the first person to formally hold the position as chancellor since [Bowen Loftin resigned](#) in November 2015 in the wake of racially-charged protests on campus.



Mizzou leaders aware of white supremacists recruiting nationwide on college campuses

COLUMBIA — **University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright released a [statement](#) regarding white supremacists recruiting across the country.**

"We are aware that white supremacist groups are recruiting on college campuses across the U.S. If you become aware of any activity that might violate university policies, please contact the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX at 573-882-3880 or email civilrights-titleix@missouri.edu. You can find a listing that includes some of these policies on the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX website."

The release was also signed by Provost Garnett Stokes.

According to the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX, [prohibited areas](#) of discrimination are: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual misconduct, pregnancy, sexual harassment, stalking, dating/intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability and veteran status.



Mizzou Responds to White Supremacist Groups Recruiting on Campuses

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=c2f23de1-2eeb-4f6b-a219-b1e34011b7e3>

the **maneater**

Freshman enrollment has dropped for a second consecutive fall semester

This fall, however, the retention rate is the second highest in university history.

By OLIVIA GARRETT

Freshman enrollment at MU for fall 2017 was about 4,100 on the first day of classes. By this time last year, around 700 more incoming freshmen had enrolled.

This drop in enrollment is slightly less significant than the university's May projection of 4,000 freshmen expected to enroll.

Over the past two years, freshman class sizes at MU have shrunk drastically. In fall 2015, over 6,000 freshman students enrolled.

“A class of this size gives us the ability to think carefully about our long-term enrollment planning,” said Garnett Stokes, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, in a May press release. “As part of our planning process, we will be determining the optimum freshman class size for Fall 2018 and future years. This will help us develop and create strong and renewable resources, targeting our students’ best interests as we educate the future leaders of our state and nation.”

In April, Stokes announced the creation of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, which was charged with creating strategic efforts and policy initiatives to further enrollment goals. Official enrollment numbers will not be available until after the fourth week of classes. During the first weeks of classes, some students drop and enroll, according to a press release.

86.6 percent of last year’s freshman class returned for a second year. This represents the second highest retention rate in MU’s history. The highest retention rate, 87.1 percent, was in 2015 and the third highest, 86 percent, was in 2014. “Additionally, our strong retention number, which is one of the highest among all of Missouri’s universities, shows us that students have successful academic experiences on campus,” said Pelema Morrice, vice provost for enrollment management, in a press release. For the past three years, the average ACT score of the incoming freshman class has remained at 26. This score is higher than both the state and national averages and is the highest average ACT score in MU history, according to the press release.

“We are here for the people of this state, and we are here for our students,” Chancellor Alexander Cartwright said in the press release. “You can see this commitment in our strong retention numbers. We plan to improve these even further by expanding applied learning opportunities.”



MSU Enrollment Record as Enrollment Drops at MU

Watch the story: <http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=389c29ab-396d-4584-a27a-76821526a2ec>



Greitens' does Facebook Live on education, broadband and assassination comments

By: Lindsey Fafoglia

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/greitens-does-facebook-live-on-education-broadband-and-assassination-comments>

JEFFERSON CITY - Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens once again pushed for Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D-St. Louis) to resign after her comments about President Trump being assassinated.

It was just one of many topics the governor covered during a Facebook Live Q&A session Wednesday morning.

Greitens said if she does not resign, "steps will be taken to remove her."

One Missourian asked Greitens about veteran suicides. He said veterans need purposeful work when they return home to the United States in order to integrate back into society. Missouri will now recognize military certifications in order to make sure more veterans have jobs.

"One of the things Missouri did, first state in the country, was to recognize the certifications for the Air Force practical nursing certifications so that Air Force nurses could come back to Missouri and start practicing."

Greitens said Missouri will lead the way in working with all five military branches to make sure all military certifications are recognized.

Greitens said there is usually also a substance abuse problem involved in veteran suicides, and wants the state to focus on the success of veteran courts, pointing out 73 percent of Missouri veterans are graduating from drug courts.

"The point of that is drug courts are working for veterans and we need to expand this program around Missouri so that when we do have veterans who come home who have some sort of substance abuse issue we can take care of them here at home."

Greitens said that Missouri is now investing \$45 million with the help of private investors and the federal government to provide high-quality, high-speed broadband internet to schools in rural Missouri.

Greitens said every school in rural Missouri will receive internet without having to pay additional money.

The state of Missouri is investing \$6 million, while private investors and the federal government are kicking in the extra \$39 million.

"It is essential to education," Greitens said.

Greitens said he plans to expand on this to provide broadband internet to businesses, communities, farms and families in rural areas.

The governor also discussed his plan to cut spending by \$157 million in Missouri's education budget in order to avoid increasing taxes.

He said he had to choose between raising taxes or cutting spending.

"Higher education has tuition, they've got donors, they've got other people who invest in higher ed. And then we've got K-12 education and kids in our K-12 classrooms, so I made the choice that we're going to invest in and protect K-12 education," Greitens said in the Facebook Live.

When asked about the future of MU, Greitens said he has worked closely with the university's new leadership and he has appointed new Board of Curator members that will help cut programs that aren't working.

Greitens said the curators he has appointed are asking the tough questions about salaries, administration and programs that will make MU excellent again.

"It's a great institution, it's obviously in a tough spot right now, but I think with new university leadership and some fresh blood on the board of curators we are going to be able to take Mizzou in a new direction."

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

University of Missouri graduate assistants rally in quest to form union

By Rudi Keller

Graduate assistants agitating for better pay and better treatment by the University of Missouri have won some victories but those benefits will not be secure until they are written into a union contract, speakers at a campus rally said Wednesday.

About 100 graduate assistants and their supporters, decked out in red T-shirts emblazoned with the Coalition of Graduate Workers logo, marched from Francis Quadrangle to Traditions Plaza to remind administrators they have not given up on their plans for a union.

“The work sure as hell is not over,” said co-chair Eric Scott, one of the founding members.

The numbers were smaller than last year or in 2015, when graduate assistant health insurance was threatened.

“Part of it, more than anything it is planning on our part,” said Joseph Moore, spokesman for the group. “We didn’t start as early as we did last year.”

The end of the fight is in sight. By the time this school year ends, the coalition should have its first court ruling in its quest to form a union. The UM System refuses to recognize graduate assistants as employees with collective bargaining rights, and in May 2016, the coalition filed a lawsuit in Boone County Circuit Court to force recognition.

According to the schedule set by Circuit Judge Jeff Harris, all filings in the case are due by Jan. 22. A one-hour hearing for oral arguments will take place in late March or April before Harris makes his ruling.

In August 2016, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that graduate assistants at private universities are employees and must be allowed to form a union if they choose.

“I am confident we will get a ruling in our favor,” Moore said. “I am sure the University will appeal that and this will continue as long as they want it to.”

The graduate assistants began organizing when the university announced in August 2015 that it would stop paying subsidies for [individual health insurance](#) plans provided to the assistants. University officials quickly reversed the decision but it spurred the creation of the Forum on Graduate Rights and later, the coalition, which is now a recognized local of the Missouri National Education Association.

As the unionization drive gained momentum, the university took other steps to quiet the agitation. In January 2016, interim chancellor Hank Foley announced the [minimum stipend](#) for doctoral students with at least a half-time appointment would be increased from \$12,000 to \$18,000 for the 2017-18 school year.

A graduate assistant typically receives a stipend, a tuition waiver and health insurance in exchange for academic services. Sarah Senff, president of the Graduate Student Association, said her organization is working closely with the coalition and the Forum on Graduate Rights to present a unified front.

A union is necessary because the gains in pay and health insurance aren't guaranteed, Senff said.

"Never let the administration think you think it was their benevolence and generosity that returned it to us," Senff said.

The only way to be assured benefits won't be taken away in a wave of budget cuts is to have a contract, she said.

"A promise is not, has never been and will never be a contract," Senff said.

For most of the time the fight over unionization has been underway, the university has been under interim leadership. Now the UM System is led by President Mun Choi, formerly provost at the University of Connecticut, and the campus is led by Chancellor Alexander Cartwright, formerly provost and executive vice chancellor at the State University of New York.

At Connecticut, graduate workers are represented by a [union local](#) affiliated with the United Auto Workers. At SUNY, graduate assistants are represented by a [union local](#) affiliated with the Communication Workers of America.

The university has not changed its position that graduate assistants are not eligible to form unions, spokesman Christian Basi said.

"Dr. Cartwright is reviewing the situation but we are not currently" changing the position argued in court by the university's attorneys, Basi said.

Cartwright, who took his position Aug. 1, is reviewing the graduate assistants' grievances, Basi said.

“He has listened very intently to their concerns, he is learning the history of what has happened over the last couple of years, specifically related to graduate student issues, and I know that they are looking at a couple of those issues and trying to move forward on them quickly,” Basi said.

Cartwright has included a representative of the Graduate Student Association on his cabinet of faculty, staff and student representatives that meet once a month, Basi said.

That isn’t enough, Scott said. During the rally, he said that one budget cut being discussed is to somehow limit the stipends for graduate students. The pay is better, but it isn’t enough, he said. Other benefits essential to success in school, such as day-care center for the children of graduate students, isn’t in place, he said.

Only after agitation did students get a voice on the Resource Allocation Committee that will decide issues such as how much money to dedicate to stipends, Scott said.

“We shouldn’t have to beg and plead for three people,” he said. “We should have a vote. They are saying we should stick to advocacy, and we want our demands met.”

MISSOURIAN

MU grad students rally for boosts to health care, better treatment

BY SAMANTHA KOESTER NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

MU graduate students called for better health care and better treatment of grad student campus employees at a rally over the noon hour Wednesday.

Clad in red shirts and chanting “Who makes Mizzou work? Grads do!” as they marched from the MU Columns Francis Quadrangle columns to Traditions Plaza, graduate workers brought attention to policies they say hurt the lives of grad student employees and their families.

It was the third annual rally for the graduate students.

Two years ago, members of the Coalition of Graduate Workers walked out of classes to protest the last-minute announcement they would no longer receive subsidies for health insurance. The subsidies were later reinstated.

Since then, MU Graduate Student Association President Sarah Senff said at the rally, graduate workers encouraged administrators to improve benefits and to raise their average pay. She encouraged participants to continue to hold MU accountable for their rights as students and employees.

“We came together and won our insurance back,” Senff said.

Other speakers drew attention to racism and xenophobia in Columbia, recent layoffs and the lack of day care for working parents on campus.

Associate professor Victoria Johnson of MU’s Department of Sociology talked about the importance of solidarity with other workers affected by administrative decisions. Because of significant budget cuts, MU has eliminated hundreds of jobs. She blamed decreases in state funding and how university administrators responded to them.

“It’s the result of political ideology and not a result of economics,” Johnson said.

Representatives of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, branch 773, spoke at the rally, saying they support the graduate workers at MU specifically and other campus employees generally.

Because the UM System does not recognize the Coalition of Graduate Workers as an official union, members of the Graduate Student Association and Graduate Professional Council are working to gain representation on committees influencing graduate rights.

The coalition is suing the UM System Board of Curators over the right to unionize. The parties recently agreed to ask for a summary judgment in the case rather than a bench trial.

“I would anticipate we will have a ruling by this time next summer,” Eric Scott, co-chairman of the coalition, previously told the Missourian, “though of course the legal system tends to work at a deliberate pace.”



Graduate students and workers gather for rally

By: Alexis Reese

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/graduate-students-and-workers-gather-for-rally>

COLUMBIA – Graduate students at the University of Missouri say while they've achieved a lot of success in the past three years, there's still a long way to go.

The Coalition of Graduate Workers from the University of Missouri gathered together on Wednesday for their 3rd annual Rally of Graduate Rights to not only celebrate its accomplishments, but to figure out what's next.

“The major victories being getting our insurance subsidies back from the university after they revoked them and also getting those stipend increases,” said Joseph Moore, the outreach officer for the coalition.

In 2015, graduate students learned the university was planning to no longer subsidize their health insurance plans due to an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act, only hours before it was to take place.

After students protested and staged a walkout, the university reversed that decision and agreed to increase fellowship stipends.

Moore said progress that has happened is due to the work of the graduate students.

“Because of sustained pressure from graduate student employees, the university agreed to increase that,” said Moore.

While highlighting victories, the coalition also spoke about issues it plans on tackling in the future.

“Celebrating those victories but also recognizing the struggles that still lay ahead,” said Moore. “And continuing to press our demands, our primary demand from the university which is recognition of our union, which they continue to deny.”

The graduate student body voted to affiliate with the CGW in spring of 2016. The CGW is affiliated with the Missouri National Education Association. After the vote, the coalition went to the university to ask to be recognized as a union. Moore said they refused and argued they weren’t employees of the institution in which they filed a suit.

University spokesman Christian Basi said the university is looking into the issues graduate students have.

“I know that the chancellor is learning about the history of what has happened over the last two years, specifically with graduate students,” Basi said. “And he’s reviewing all of that but he is looking forward to address the issues that they’ve raised.”

Moore said the end goal is recognition and a contract that guarantees things they've already been promised and making sure these promises are kept.

T COLUMBIA DAILY **TRIBUNE**

Number of Columbia’s eclipse visitors unknown

By Caitlin Campbell Columbia Daily Tribune

Local officials don’t know how many people this week’s rare total solar eclipse brought to Columbia — they only know it introduced thousands of new faces to local hotels, restaurants and parks.

The city of Columbia came to a standstill Monday afternoon as tens of thousands of residents and visitors watched a rare total solar eclipse darken the area. Evidence the event brought a substantial number of visitors to mid-Missouri could be found everywhere — thousands of

people gathered for parties across town, hotels were booked weeks in advance, out-of-state license plates filled parking lots and university alumni packed into popular restaurants.

But local officials this week were reluctant to estimate the effect the event had on the area, only acknowledging that it was large. Most local and state departments didn't try to quantify the number of visitors, saying the task would be too big of an undertaking.

The Parks and Recreation Department held largest public event at Cosmo Park, with a conservative estimated turnout of more than 8,000 spectators, said Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Amy Schneider. The city also advertised Gans Creek Recreation Area as a prime location to watch the eclipse because of its open areas, and Schneider estimated the park attracted 875 people.

A very conservative economic impact estimate of these two celebrations alone would be roughly \$1.4 million, Schneider wrote in an email. She reached the estimate by taking the number of event attendees and multiplying it by an average amount people spend when they travel. The average expenditure figure comes from a marketing effectiveness study, she said.

It is hard to quantify the larger economic impact of the event until sales tax and lodging tax receipts are collected and can be compared to past August receipts, Schneider said. Area hotels were booked at 95 percent occupancy, but visitors also took advantage of Airbnb rentals and accommodations from friends and family, she said.

The hotel price comparison website HotelsCombined.com did an analysis of how hotel, motel and bed and breakfast prices jumped in Columbia during the eclipse weekend, according to a news release from the company.

State officials are also unsure of how many travelers came through Missouri for the eclipse. The Missouri Department of Transportation considered putting out devices to count the number of cars on major roadways, said spokeswoman Sally Oxenhandler. But with so many large highways near the path of eclipse totality, a counting effort would have been enormous, she said.

“Ultimately we made the decision not to put out counters,” Oxenhandler said. “We felt it fell to local event organizers” to count travelers.

Cost to the community

Parties thrown by the city of Columbia and University of Missouri attracted some of the largest crowds, but officials tried to keep costs down as much as possible through sponsorships and donations.

The cost of the two city-sponsored park events was approximately \$60,000, but sponsorships offset \$24,500 of the bill, said Schneider. The roughly \$35,500 the city spent on the event was

paid for with revenue from the local lodging tax, she said. The city's 5 percent gross receipts tax for hotels and motels funds tourism and economic development efforts.

The city's Cosmo Park celebration took place over two days, but Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs said the parks department didn't spend more public dollars on staff or cleanup than it would on any ordinary day. The department directed children's activities from about 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. with a combination of staff, interns and volunteers, he said. Cleanup after the event only took an hour or two, he said.

Athletic competitions held at city parks such as the Show-Me State Games generate more trash and mess than the eclipse crowd did, Griggs said. "I'd say it was like a typical busy shelter weekend in the park," Griggs said. "Generally, the people in the park were great."

MU's large celebration drew roughly 10,000 spectators and cost the university \$5,800. The party costs were paid for evenly by the chancellor's office and student fees, said spokesman Jeff Sossamon. The university also received a \$1,500 donation from Brookside apartments, he said. Brookside representatives were stationed at the event under a Brookside tent handing out bottled water and advertising material for their apartments.

Students might have noticed a larger police presence than normal on campus, but MUPD Maj. Brian Weimer said there weren't any issues related to the party on Carnahan Quadrangle or the first day of the fall semester. MUPD brought in officers working the day's first and second shifts early, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. there were around a dozen officers on campus.

"It wasn't just for the eclipse," Weimer said. "It was also the first day of classes. We wanted to get out, meet our community and make sure everyone got where they were going."

the maneater

Solar eclipse attracts thousands to visit Columbia

MU astrophysics and general relativity graduate student Sean Baldrige: "While eclipses are common, having a path of totality cross over your house is what is rare. We just got lucky here in Columbia."

By SKYLER ROSSI

On Monday, people from all across the country drove, flew or bussed to one of many towns on a small line known as the "path of totality." They crossed their fingers for clear skies and prayed

they wouldn't go blind from the experience. The solar eclipse of 2017 brought people from all over the nation together to wear filtered cardboard glasses and watch the moon cover the sun for two minutes.

Columbia, Missouri, was one of these towns that attracted a ton of foot traffic. Students, alumni and strangers alike filled the streets, climbed to rooftops and surrounded the Columns to watch the total eclipse that the town had been anticipating for years.

“Finding a site where there is a total eclipse, opposed to a partial, is something which has no equal in terms of astronomical spectacle,” MU astrophysics graduate student Sean Baldrige said. “Seeing an eclipse even at 99 percent doesn't compare to totality.”

There is an assumption that total solar eclipses are rare, but in reality, they happen nearly every year and a half. The last one visible from the U.S. was in 1991, though it could only be seen from the edge of Hawaii. There were also total eclipses visible from corners of the country in 1979, 1970, 1963 and many other years past. But, with paths of totality over the Atlantic or in the middle of a less populated country, they don't garner a lot of attention.

“While eclipses are common, having a path of totality cross over your house is what is rare,” Baldrige said. “We just got lucky here in Columbia.”

The eclipse of 2017 had a path of totality stretching from Oregon to South Carolina. The U.S. hadn't seen this much totality since 1918, while the state of Missouri hadn't seen any totality since 1869.

Local businesses took advantage of the eclipse as a chance to attract customers. Harpo's opened just for the eclipse with special deals.

“We worked with a lot of promoters,” Harpo's general manager Marina Spadarotto said. “A main one was Blue Moon because we were trying to incorporate the moon and eclipse.”

The bar had deals on Blue Moon, mimosas and Bloody Marys, along with bottles of champagne for those who reserved tables.

Other businesses such as Shakespeare's Pizza got into the eclipse spirit without any special deals.

“We sold eclipse T-shirts and glasses, but we were sold out by the time the eclipse came,” General Manager Cara Giessing said.

According to NASA, the next solar eclipse to hit the United States will take place on April 8, 2024. The path of totality will go through the bootheel of Missouri.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou curators to vote Friday on football stadium project

[By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators will vote on approval for the [\\$98 million south end zone complex at Memorial Stadium](#) during its meeting Friday, the board announced Wednesday. The meeting will take place over teleconference, starting at 10:30 a.m.

In February, the board [voted to approve the design costs](#) of the three-story facility project. The athletics department was expected to present the board its funding plan by late summer.

According to MU's proposal, long-term debt financing will not exceed \$57.2 million. MU has raised \$48 million in private pledges for the project. From that total, MU has allowed for \$5 million in uncollectible pledges and another \$3 million in interest for the long-term financing.

The facility is expected to be finished by the start of the 2019 season.

Here's the official proposal to the board:

"Nearly all Intercollegiate Athletic (ICA) programs utilize the same training, study, and dining facilities located in the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex (MATC). The heavy use of the MATC by all sports creates scheduling challenges and limited availability of resources to student athletes and team training programs. Many Division I teams have invested in football focused team facilities, including many Southeastern Conference (SEC) institutions. Top recruits factor access to this type of focused facility in their decision as to which university to attend.

Construction of a football focused facility will enhance recruiting for football but also for student athletes across all sports and academic interests by alleviating congestion at the MATC.

"Memorial Stadium is the heart of the football program for fans and the team. Facility improvements have been made over the last 20 years to many areas of the stadium and field. The

south end bowl of 10,800 general admission seats was constructed in 1977, and has not been measurably updated to improve the fan experience, showing signs of deterioration and settlement.

"MU's ICA Master Planner completed a design study in December 2016, identifying a south end zone football program and master plan indicating key site development issues, estimated costs, a general building program, and a preliminary schedule for completing the design and construction of the new south end zone football facility in time for the 2019 season. The study provided the basis of design and budget parameters for the project which have since been updated.

"The proposed project will build a new three-story building and grandstands at the south end of Memorial Stadium comprising approximately 191,059 gross square feet (GSF) of construction with enclosed space of approximately 141,065 GSF. The new seating bowl will remove 10,800 general admission seats and replace with sixteen suites and associated support spaces, approximately 1,500 premium seats and 1,300 new outdoor general admission seats, resulting in increased net revenues associated with the new seating and premium amenities. The design of the football program spaces include a new team locker room (both training and game day use), football training facility, weight room, coaching offices and team meeting rooms, public and recruiting reception areas, and equipment storage. New kitchen and dining space is planned to serve both premium seating venues and team dining functions.

"The Memorial Stadium South Expansion project will be evaluated for viability of pursuing USGBC LEED certification during the early phases of the design process.

"The fee for basic architectural and engineering services was determined by using the University of Missouri's 'Architectural and Engineering Basic Services Fee Estimating Guidelines' at 5.0% of the \$66,000,000 construction cost or \$3,300,000. Additional services for multiple bid packages, audio/visual & acoustical, security, specialty lighting, food service, alternates, environmental graphics, and steam utility engineering are anticipated at \$1,610,000 for a total design fee of \$4,910,000.

"The project will be delivered as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) project. Construction completion is scheduled for summer 2019.

"Project funding will be provided by Campus Infrastructure Funds totaling \$800,000 and long-term debt financing not to exceed \$57,200,000, with private gifts covering the remainder of project costs. In addition to long-term financing, the project funding plan will utilize short-term financing as private gifts have been pledged over a period of seven years. The following provides a reconciliation of private gifts available for project funding:

Private Gift Pledges \$48,000,000

Less: Allowance for Uncollectible Pledges (5,000,000)

Less: Interest Expense on Pledge Financing (3,000,000)

Net Gifts Available for Project \$40,000,000

"To the extent that additional private gifts are secured and / or the allowance for uncollectible pledges is not fully needed, the amount of long-term financing required could be less than the \$57,200,000 indicated."



Curators to vote on Mizzou's \$98 million Memorial Stadium expansion plan

BY TOD PALMER

tpalmer@kcstar.com

AUGUST 23, 2017 4:41 PM

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri System Board of Curators, during a teleconference Friday, will consider a proposed new football facility in the south end zone at Memorial Stadium.

The \$98 million Memorial Stadium South Expansion project is expected to be approved during the call, which is scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. The Board previously signed off on hiring

Kansas City-based Populous as the architect for the 141,000-square foot, three-story structure in February.

After the project is completed — MU anticipates breaking ground after the 2017 season and opening the facility in time for 2019 — Memorial Stadium's capacity will be reduced by nearly 6,000 to roughly 65,000, a team spokesman told The Star.

Mizzou Athletics projects \$40 million in private financing for the project along with \$800,000 from the Campus Infrastructure Fund and no more than \$57.2 million in debt financing, likely in the form of bonds on future revenue generated by new premium seating options.

According to a memorandum filed with the board in advance of the meeting, Mizzou has received \$48 million in private gift pledges, but there's roughly an \$8 million allowance for pledges that fall through and to account for interest accrued awaiting installment pledges that will be paid during a seven-year window.

The new project should relieve congestion at the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex, which currently houses most of the Tigers sports programs.

The Memorial Stadium South Expansion will include a new football locker room for game-day and practice use, a training facility, weight room, coaches' offices, team meeting room, a reception area for events and recruiting and equipment storage.

There also will be a new kitchen and dining space, which can be used for team functions and premium ticket-holders on game days.

Under the proposal, the existing general admission seats will be removed, but Memorial Stadium's capacity won't change much with the addition of 16 suites, 1,500 premium seats and 1,300 general admission seats.

The last major renovation to the south end zone took place in 1977 when 10,800 general admission seats — the ones set for removal — were added.



UM Board of Curators to approve stadium expansion project

By: Tara Lang

COLUMBIA - On Friday, The University of Missouri Board of Curators are expected to approve the Memorial Stadium South Expansion at MU.

The meeting will be held in the Ellis Library Telepresence Center on the MU campus and is set to begin at 10:30 a.m.

KOMU 8 news [detailed](#) the plans for the expansion in February after an architect was selected for the project.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

At UVa, in the Wake of a Nightmare, a Reckoning Begins

NO MU MENTION

By NELL GLUCKMAN

Last Friday, while the University of Virginia's orientation for first-year students was underway, three students met in a common area at the edge of campus. They were putting the finishing touches on a series of events intended to contrast sharply with the official introduction to the

university: demonstrations, panel discussions, and talks by activists. They called it a "disorientation."

All summer, the trio had been going back and forth on a messaging app, joining a larger group of student activists organizing a response to a series of white-supremacist events that had been planned to take place here in their university's home city.

On August 11, the events became part of a national story — and a national conversation on race, hate, and speech. A mob of hundreds of white supremacists bearing tiki torches took to the campus, chanting anti-Semitic slogans in the shadow of the Rotunda, UVa's most iconic building. Clumped around a statue of Thomas Jefferson, the university's founder, were roughly 20 students and other activists, holding a sign that read "VA Students Act Against White Supremacy." The white supremacists surrounded them.

That rally, its deadly second act the following day, and a Ku Klux Klan rally that had taken place in Charlottesville in July all happened during summer break when few students were on campus. Now that the rest of the student body had returned, the students who were involved wanted to take the lead in educating their peers about what happened and why.

"There needs to be a conversation about what happened this summer, and there needs to be a conversation about the history of this university," said Clara Carlson, a senior.

She sat across from Kendall King, a junior who was leaning over a laptop, designing a handout that the students would distribute to freshmen, explaining the racially fraught year in Charlottesville and listing opportunities to get involved in activism on campus. Ms. King pulled up a now-ubiquitous image: students standing beneath the Thomas Jefferson statue, holding the sign. Ms. King was part of the group that night, but she wasn't sure she wanted to use the photo.

"This photo is centering students," Ms. King said. Instead she wanted to put the focus on Charlottesville more broadly. One point she wanted to make in the handout was that Charlottesville has a longstanding community of activists who had demonstrated against racism well before the city became a symbol of racial hatred.

"Maybe it's kind of cheap, but I think that's what's on everybody's minds," said Hannah Russell-Hunter, a sophomore. "Maybe pull them in," she said, "and then say, How did we get here?"

Ms. King agreed. The photo made it into the flier.

Much of the UVa community is now engaged in a version of that debate. The events of early August have left students, faculty, and administrators struggling to define and explain what had just happened: How could white supremacists, for a night, seize a campus? Could the university have done more to support its students or even stem a tragedy?

But now, with students moving in and the first classes already underway, UVa has come back to life. And for many, it is time for a reckoning. How much will one traumatic weekend change the university? Many of the students, professors, and officials who are trying to answer that question are doing so by looking to the past.

This past Sunday, as students left a convocation welcoming them to UVa, the student activists passed out copies of the finalized "Disorientation Guide." While the photo of the counterprotesters made it into the handout, the image on the cover showed the Rotunda with slices between its dome, pediment, and columns. "The Pursuit of Truth," the cover reads, "Begins Here."

[Story continues.](#)

MISSOURIAN

[New website launches to help prevent sexual harassment of college interns](#)

BY LILY O'NEILL NEWS@COLUMBIAMISSOURIAN.COM

A website designed to equip college-age interns with the knowledge they need to protect themselves from sexual harassment launched Wednesday.

Two years in the making, the Intern Resource Network will teach college students what sexual harassment is and how to respond to it in the workplace. The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, the Women's Foundation and Partners in Prevention collaborated to create the online tool as an information hub for Missouri interns and employers.

The site is the direct result of a 2015 intern scandal in Jefferson City in which a Missouri Senate intern from the University of Central Missouri filed sexual harassment allegations against Sen. Paul LeVota, a Democrat from Independence.

The intern reported a pattern of sexual harassment from LeVota, including "unwelcome text messages and explicit requests for sexual activity," according to a Missouri Senate report. LeVota stopped giving the intern assignments at work and she felt shunned, she said in the report. LeVota later resigned but denied the allegations.

The Intern Resource Network aims to prevent similar sexual harassment cases and protect interns from violence and discrimination of any kind.

The Women's Foundation worked with House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, to help him revise the Capitol's sexual harassment and intern policy following the scandal.

The resource network addresses the differences between college and work environments and some of the unfortunate realities interns can face in the workplace, including coercion, intimidation or emotional abuse.

“As Speaker of the House, I have made it a priority to improve the work environment in the Missouri Capitol so that interns, staff and members can have a workplace where they are treated with respect and free from harassment,” Richardson said in a news release. “The Intern Resource Network will be useful in ensuring a healthy and safe work environment both in the Capitol and in workplaces throughout the state.”

The website will be promoted across the 21 public and private university campuses that Partners in Prevention works with, including MU and the other three University of Missouri System campuses. It features three separate sections of information and advice for students, advisers and intern site supervisors to refer to.

Students can learn more about their rights as an intern under Title IX, as well as ways to identify harassment. Site supervisors can discover new ways to help a student's transition into the workplace.

“This is something that is unique to Missouri and I think it can also really work to serve as a model for other states as well,” said Matthew Huffman, prevention director at the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Education shortfalls hurt Missouri women striving for equality

By Joe Holleman St. Louis Post-Dispatch

NO MU MENTION

Women in Missouri have a few things going in their favor when it comes to equality, except for education and health.

In a list from personal finance website WalletHub, Missouri is No. 37 in the "[Best and Worst States For Women's Equality.](#)"

The rankings took into account three main categories: workplace environment, mainly checking the disparities in income and unemployment rates; education and health, focusing on college-education attainment rates, math scores and affordability of doctor's visits; and political empowerment, the disparity in the share of legislators at the national and state level.

Missouri showed strong in two of the three categories, finishing at No. 14 in workplace environment and at No. 15 in political empowerment.

But the state was ranked next to last, No. 49, when it came to education and health.

Illinois finished in third place overall, behind Hawaii and Nevada, and finished in the top 10 in both political power and education/health.

The bottom five were, from 46 to 50, were: Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Utah.

Sally Barr Ebest of the University of Missouri St. Louis, **Danielle MacCartney** of Webster University, **Shannon R. Wooden** of Missouri State University and **Courtney Kisat** of Southeast Missouri State University were part of the 14-member panel that compiled the list.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

His father is a Washington University janitor. Now, this Bosnian refugee will study there.

By Ashley Jost • St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • There's still a picture that floats around the house of Meris Saric as a toddler wearing an adult-size Washington University sweatshirt that he got from his dad.

But the photo and the sweatshirt have a new meaning to Saric, 18, now that he is moved in for his freshman year on the campus he grew up admiring.

His acceptance at the prestigious, private school means a little extra as a first-generation college student whose family's time in St. Louis has been rooted deeply in the university.

Saric's dad has been a member of the campus housekeeping crew since 2001. A few other relatives work there, too.

"You see these big hallways and you feel like you're living in one of those movie scenes where a kid is trying to become a success story — I'm trying to write that for myself," Saric said.

Saric doesn't take for granted getting into Washington U. As an infant, he and his family relocated to St. Louis from a Bosnian refugee camp where they lived a few years after the genocide in their home nation.

"I'm going to be the first kid in my family to go to college, and not just any college — WashU," Saric said. He moved into his dormitory, Park House, last week.

A graduate of Bayless High School, he is one of six freshmen at Washington U. this fall who came through the first group of College Prep Scholars.

The three-year-long scholars program was created at Washington U. with private donations to give mostly first-generation, low-income students and their families a better understanding of all things college. High schoolers and their parents learn about everything from how to fill out financial aid documents to time management.

The other incoming Washington U. students from the prep program graduated from St. Louis Public Schools, the Hazelwood School District and the Ladue School District, according to Leah Merrifield, director of the College Prep program.

Other students from this first group of college freshmen are headed off to schools like Duke University, Morehouse College, Truman State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Missouri State University, among others.

Merrifield said 98 percent of students are the first in their family to go to college, and the average family income of participants is \$30,000 a year.

There were 25 students in Saric's college prep group, but interest — and competition — for the program has started to boom four years later.

For Saric, it all started when someone at Gateway STEM High School suggested he check out the program. He spent his freshman year at Gateway STEM before moving to the Bayless School District.

When it came time to apply, after he was formally nominated, Saric wrote his essay about how being a first-generation college student would affect his family.

Students start the program the summer between their freshman and sophomore years of high school. They live on campus two to three weeks, working on their writing skills and taking a STEM-focused class, as well as a seminar worth college credit.

“I thought at first it would be boring summer school,” Saric joked. “It caught me by surprise.”

One of his seminars was taught by Washington U.’s provost, Holden Thorp. That made an impression on Saric.

“For me, personally, sitting in front of him I was like, ‘How in the world did I get to be taught by someone like this?’” he said.

Saric speaks about overcoming self-doubt. He contemplates what others might think of him as he walks on his new campus. People might assume he comes from an affluent background, able to pay the almost \$70,000 in tuition, room and board.

“If they ask, I’d tell them if (my parents) saved every single penny they couldn’t afford one semester at WashU. One year would have been — there’s no way,” he said.

Between scholarships from the College Prep program and being a child of an employee, Washington U. was actually Saric’s least expensive option.

And his family couldn’t be more proud. Saric’s father took a break from work to help move his son into his dorm last week.

“There are professors’ kids going here ... They’re going to know what to expect, they know what it takes to get into college,” Saric said. “My dad made a joke that, ‘I work here, too, and I have affiliations,’ but he was joking. He realized he couldn’t help me like some of the other kids here with connections. That set a fire in me.”

Saric is excited to build a legacy for his family, pursuing a political science degree and possibly, later, a law degree.

“Meris is a great example, a representative sample, of a St. Louis kid in the College Prep program,” Merrifield said. “He’s gained so much confidence and knows that he is supposed to be here.”