



**MU News Bureau**

*Daily Clips Packet*

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## University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor Alexander Cartwright

Listen to the story: <https://audioboom.com/posts/6340428-university-of-missouri-columbia-chancellor-alexander-cartwright>



## UM Curators to review financial state of UM System at Kansas City meeting

By: Alyssa Toomey

The UM Board of Curators will review the financial status of the UM System at their meeting this week as the system continues to battle a budget crisis.

The curators are meeting Thursday and Friday at the University of Missouri-Kansas City--their first full two-day meeting since their meeting on the Columbia campus in July.

In addition to the finance report, there are three big action items on the agenda. Those include an internal audit quarterly report, the school of music project design and a capital projects strategic evaluation study.

## **INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW:**

The curators will review the internal audit quarterly report and the internal audit assurance reports issued since the June 2017 curators meeting.

One of those assurance reports is for MU's College of Arts and Sciences, which received a report risk rating of 3. That means there is a moderate risk in terms of impact on the institution, campus or unit.

The report identified an issue with purchasing card transactions. It found that weaknesses and/or policy noncompliance were noted for 49 percent of purchasing card transactions reviewed.

The college is being asked to strengthen policies that manage oversight of the university's purchasing card program.

## **APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS:**

The Capital Project Strategic Evaluation Study Group was established at the June board meeting to come up with a plan for major capital projects.

"Investment in facilities over the past 15 years has not been a major priority for the university," the report states.

Improvement to facilities has been delayed as a means to balance the budget as the UM system faces a decline in state revenue as well as a decrease in enrollment.

That has led to over \$1.6 billion in facility needs. University leaders want to come up with a five-year plan for capital projects that will be reviewed annually. That capital plan will drive any fundraising campaigns. Curators are expected to approve the new capital planning process Thursday.

## **SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROJECT DESIGN:**

The UM Board of Curators approved phase one of the MU School of Music project at their meeting in December.

The project will cost \$24 million--\$16 million of that will come from private gifts and the other \$8 million will come from campus reserves.

The university says the current space is not acoustically acceptable. They also want to consolidate the school's function into a single location.

That new location will be at the corner of Hitt and University. The plan is to demolish Loeb Hall and the Fine Arts Annex, eliminating \$5.5 million in facility needs.

Construction for the project is expected to be completed in August 2019.

## University of Missouri grad students feel unwanted, according to survey

By RUDI KELLER

**When graduate students were asked last year whether they planned to complete their studies at the University of Missouri, one in four who responded said they had seriously considered leaving before they finished.**

For graduate students with a disability, the number was higher, and in the Rankin & Associates climate survey released earlier this month, their responses showed they felt they were not valued or respected.

“Literally, I had a professor tell me to give up because of my disability,” one respondent wrote.

Discontent among graduate students — especially graduate assistants — was one of the first signs that the fall 2015 semester was not going to be a normal time on campus. Hours before they were to report for duty, graduate assistants were told they would not have fully subsidized individual health plans and instead would be given a flat amount to purchase a plan on their own.

To quiet the discontent, then-interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced a phased-in 50 percent increase in the minimum stipends paid to doctoral-candidate assistants, to \$18,000. There has been no additional changes to the health insurance program.

The 2015 semester was also when the Concerned Student 1950 protests over racial issues took place, first during the Homecoming parade and later with a hunger strike by graduate student Jonathan Butler on Carnahan Quadrangle. Two days after numerous members of the Tigers football team announced they would boycott athletic events in support of the protests and hunger strike, President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin left their jobs.

The health insurance decision generated so much bad press and hard feelings that it was reversed quickly. The discontent lingered, however, forming first into an advocacy group, the Forum on Graduate Rights, and later into a union movement, the Coalition of Graduate Workers.

The coalition is affiliated with the National Education Association but is not recognized by the university. The UM System does not consider graduate assistants — who receive a cash stipend, tuition waivers and health insurance — to be employees.

A lawsuit challenging UM's stance is pending in Boone County Circuit Court. An overdue filing of the facts of the case — called a joint stipulation — has another deadline on Friday and a hearing for oral arguments on the law is scheduled for April 20.

There are more than 7,000 graduate students at MU, about 23 percent of the student body. In the campus-wide survey, they accounted for almost 14 percent of the 10,000 responses. They gave generally high marks to their fellow students, mentors and departments for creating a welcoming environment and making them feel valued.

For the campus administration, however, the results were mixed. Nearly one-third of doctoral students and almost one-quarter of masters' degree candidates who responded said they disagreed with the statement that they were valued by administrators.

“We all chose Mizzou for a reason and those reasons were our advisers, the people in our program, and the people we were immediately close to,” said Zeke Elkins, a second-year graduate student in biological sciences.

Elkins spoke in an interview after a forum Wednesday where students were asked to comment on the quality and effectiveness of services being offered on campus.

“At the same time, there are people who tried to take our health care away and a huge disparity there about how we feel valued and who we feel valued by,” he said.

The 35 students who attended the forum in the MU Student Center Wednesday reflected many of the concerns expressed by graduate students. Consulting firm Keeling & Associates is collecting information on how student services are perceived and how they can be improved.

Joe Moore, spokesman for the coalition, spoke for one group at the forum. Students should have more of a voice in matters of shared governance, he said. Standing committees named by the chancellor, he said, rarely have more than one undergraduate and one graduate student alongside numerous faculty and staff representatives.

“It often feels like tokenization of students,” he said.

Graduate students also want more of the student fees collected with tuition to be spent on their specific needs, Moore said.

Others who spoke said graduate students need a career center with advisors to help them use their degrees in private industry rather than in an academic setting. Graduate students also want a more honest administration that is open about things like the health insurance subsidies, they said.

“We were given 13 hours' notice,” said Ronnie LaCombe, a fifth-year graduate student.

Speaking afterward, LaCombe said she almost left the university over the health insurance question.

“That added to the stresses of graduate school where we do not get a lot of career advice and where to go and so I didn’t know what was going to happen in my future and I didn’t feel like Mizzou was supporting me as a graduate student,” she said.

The graduate student survey responses on the questions of the 2015 racial protests shows a contrast between the way it was perceived by black and white students who considered leaving.

One respondent stated that they considered leaving because of “negative interactions with a white tenured faculty member. I was told, ‘minority students are always looking for a handout. Just work hard like everyone else!’”

Another graduate student was upset with administration for submitting to the demands.

“I was ashamed of Mizzou’s response to student protests,” the student wrote. “Watching the football team and a single student — a very wealthy student — hold the university hostage was embarrassing.”

# MISSOURIAN

## MU announces School of Visual Studies within College of Arts and Science

BY GRANT SHARPLES Sep 27, 2017 Updated 8 hrs ago (1)

**Story generated by News Bureau media advisory.**

Art is often interdisciplinary and involves collaboration between different kinds of artists, said Pat Okker, interim dean of the MU College of Arts and Science. At MU, for example, a digital storytelling student might work on a project with a film studies student.

To encourage that collaboration, MU announced a new school, the School of Visual Studies, within the College of Arts and Science at an exhibit Wednesday evening at the Sager Braudis

Gallery. The school merges the departments of art, art history, digital storytelling and film studies and aims to “explore the visual arts in their full complexity,” according to [its website](#).

Although multiple departments have merged, the degree programs in these departments have not changed, Okker said.

“It will allow students to have more opportunities to work with students in the other degree programs,” Okker said.

Creation of the School of Visual Studies was a faculty-driven process and was meant to enhance the study of visual arts and culture at MU, Okker said. Although development of the school occurred at the same time mandated budget cuts have taken effect across MU, the school is not a direct result of the cuts, she said in an email Wednesday.

One staff member was promoted as a result of the reorganization, and another was laid off, Okker said in the email. In the long term, there will be a reduction of number of chairs and directors in the College of Arts and Science as a result of the school’s creation, but those savings will not be realized until next fiscal year, she said.

The idea for the school came when faculty recognized that there were overlaps in the curriculum. For example, students in art were learning about video production, as well as students in digital storytelling. The faculty wondered if there could be common ground as they saw even more overlap later on.

Jo Stealey, the director of the School of Visual Studies, said that the school also provides an outreach program, MU Art on the Move. The outreach team purchased a trailer for future pop-up shows and workshops. Stealey described it as “a mobile face for our school” that will put students “a step ahead.”

“(The outreach program) will provide all kinds of professional opportunities for our students from exhibitions, to internships, to lectures, to workshops, to working professionally while they’re still in school,” Stealey said.

Alyssa Gregory, a senior digital storytelling major, wants to be a part of the School of Visual Studies. She said it adds a layer of prestige to MU.

“I think it’s exciting,” Gregory said. “I’m glad that it’s here. I’m a little sad I won’t get to take very many classes after it gets here. But, for future classes of students coming up, I think it’ll open up more opportunities for different courses and to study different things and to find what they like in visual studies.”

As a whole, Stealey wants these changes to produce a beneficial outcome for students. She said that art today is about working collaboratively.

“It’s a very interconnected use of expertise in a variety of areas that all come together to create a unified project in the end,” Stealey said.



## [Mizzou unveils new arts school, plans to enhance student opportunities](#)

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/mizzou-unveils-new-arts-school-plans-to-enhance-student-opportunities/627356263>

**COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri unveiled its new visual arts studies school at a reception on Wednesday.**

The school is located within the College of Arts and Science and will merge several programs including art, art history, digital storytelling and film studies.

The school's director, Jo Stealey, said the idea to combine the programs came from a year and a half of weighing the positives with the negatives.

"Early last spring we made the decision that yes, there were enough benefits to move forward with this, that we made an official application to band together and form the school," Stealey said.

The big announcement was held at the Sager Braudis Gallery in Columbia, a partner to the school that Stealey hopes will enhance educational opportunities for students. It will also regularly display exhibits from the school.

"We feel like this is a win-win situation," said Stealey. "At a time when funding in the arts is dwindling nationally, we here at the University of Missouri are committing to enhancing the arts education for our students and at the same time, bringing that arts education out into our local and regional communities."

Wednesday's event featured exhibitions from faculty and students at the gallery. The art pieces are set to be on display now through Oct. 27.



## [Number of reported crimes increase on University of Missouri campus](#)

By: Jake Cookson and Daytona Everett

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/number-of-reported-crimes-increase-on-university-of-missouri-campus>

**COLUMBIA --- The Missouri University Police Department reported a rise in rape, domestic violence and other forms of arrest on campus in the Annual Fire Safety and Security Report Wednesday.**

The [release](#) from MUPD provided detailed statistics on reported crimes for on-campus, non-campus, public property and student housing crimes reported to the station over the past three calendar years.

Reports of stalking have shown the largest on-campus increase since 2014, going from 10 reports to 31. Reports of on-campus rape have shown the second-largest increase, going from six to nine from 2014 to 2016.

Reports of went down, including arson, robbery and aggravated assault.

MUPD Lt. Kevin Rodgers said any number of rapes, stalking or harassment is too many.

"We are always working to make the campus as safe as we can, always want to work towards reducing any of those numbers down to zero would be the ultimate goal," he said.

Rodgers said expanding the number of officers on campus is one way to ensure more crimes are reported.

"We are increasing our numbers on campus, we have officers on bike patrol on a regular basis and foot patrol," Rodgers said.

Rodgers said it's "very possible" that's why the numbers went up.

MU freshman Elijah Holder said, "I see them a lot so that's always a good thing because, if they're always circling the areas, they're always going to see what's going on."

MUPD currently offers several student resources to help battle crime. These include on-campus escorts, self-defense training classes and an emergency phone system.

According to Rodgers, the community can also play a large role in reporting crimes by becoming knowledgeable about the options.

"We are not the only ones that offer resources, and there are several options for people to come and report crimes," he said.

MU is home to the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, or RSVP, another option for reporting crimes. The center is located in the basement level of the MU student center.

RSVP offers students confidential reporting, as well as crisis intervention through a "professional trauma-informed staff."

Individuals or groups can sign up for preventative educational programs on sexual violence, relationship violence and more on the center's [website](#).

The center provides a list of 24-hour hotlines, legal advocacy for survivors and referrals to counseling within the MU system umbrella.

A full list of MU resources and programs can be found on the university's [website](#).



## Reported campus rapes on the rise at Mizzou

By: Joey Parker

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/reported-campus-rapes-on-the-rise-at-mizzou/627148045>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **The University of Missouri Police Department has released its annual crime report.**

According to the latest [Fire Safety and Security Report](#), the number of reported rapes on campus has increased over the last three years.

The number doubled from six to 12 for 2014 and 2015, respectively. In 2016, the number rose again to 19. The report also indicates a slight increase domestic violence and stalking on campus.

The number of off-campus rapes decreased in 2016, from 23 in 2015, to 22.

Domestic violence and stalking reports were also up from the year before.

MUPD reminds students that security escorts are available.

MUPD Lt. Kevin Rodgers says “Officers are on 24 hours a day on bicycle, in cars, on foot to try to make the campus as safe as they can. They find areas that need attention such as lights and things like that. And we get on that really quick and get all of that repaired pretty fast.”

There was one hate crime reported last year, compared to 11 in 2015.



***The Perry County Republic-Monitor is based in Perryville, Missouri, which is located between Ste. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau.***

# Compact will help pay MU tuition for state residents

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: [Land Grant Compact Will Provide Access to Missouri Residents](#)

**COLUMBIA —University of Missouri Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Pelema Morrice recently signed the Missouri Land Grant Compact, which will expand higher education access and affordability at MU for Missouri residents for generations to come.**

As part of the compact, MU will offer the Missouri Land Grant and Missouri Land Grant Honors for Missouri residents.

The Missouri Land Grant will cover all tuition and fees for all Pell-eligible Missouri residents who qualify for admission to MU. Missouri Land Grant Honors will meet 100 percent of unmet financial need, including tuition, fees, books and room and board, for Pell-eligible students enrolled in the Honors College.

The compact means that thousands of Mizzou students will be able to attend the university tuition-free. Based on current enrollment, it is expected that more than 3,500 MU students from Missouri will qualify for the grants annually.

“As the founders of this university did nearly 180 years ago, today we are reaffirming our pledge to provide access to higher education with the belief that an educated citizenry is the key to advancing the state of Missouri, our nation and world,” said Cartwright, who began his role as chancellor earlier this month.

“It is a tremendous honor as chancellor to sign this historic compact and invest in attracting the state’s best and brightest.”

The grants are an homage to MU’s status as a land-grant university. The first public university west of the Mississippi River, MU was awarded land-grant status in 1870 through the Morrill Act. The act was intended to provide a broad segment of the population with practical education that has direct relevance to their daily lives.

Morrice said the grants will play an important role in attracting Missouri’s top talent who are heavily recruited by universities outside the state.

“We already know that the Pell Grant program is transformational for our students and opens pathways for many to attend MU who couldn’t otherwise,” Morrice said.

“These grants are intended to build on the Pell program and create competitive financial awards for all Missouri residents who qualify.”

Most federal Pell Grants are awarded to students whose families make less than \$30,000 annually. Pell Grants usually provide a maximum of \$6,000 in higher education assistance annually, leaving significant gaps for some individuals and their families.

Mizzou invests about \$12 million per year on need-based financial aid to promote access and affordability in higher education. MU students graduate, on average, with \$8,000 less in student debt than the national average.

“Keeping higher education affordable and addressing student debt has been a focus at Mizzou for many years,” said Nick Prewett, executive director of the Office of Student Financial Aid.

“We have a strong commitment to help students identify the financial resources necessary to fund a Mizzou education, resulting in students graduating with the least amount of debt. This helps put them on a great path as they begin their careers.”

The Missouri Land Grants will be available to students beginning in fall 2018. They are open to incoming freshmen as well as continuing and transfer students.



## WILL HURRICANE MARIA LEAVE MIGRATING BIRDS WITHOUT A WINTER HOME?

BY **JOSEPH FRANKEL** ON 9/27/17 AT 12:54 PM

The situation in Puerto Rico is dire. People are without drinking water and power. Puerto Ricans living in the mainland U.S. are [struggling](#) to get in contact with their families, and the U.S.

government has yet to suspend the [Jones Act](#), a move that some claim would allow for foreign aid to flow more easily onto the island.

Yet this week life seems poised to continue as normal for the migratory birds heading toward the island for the winter.

As many stark images show, the forests of Puerto Rico have gone from green to brown in a matter of days. How that change may affect seasonal feathered inhabitants is unclear. But Peter Marra, director of the Smithsonian Migratory Birds Center, tells *Newsweek* that their food sources will likely be secure.

“There’s still going to be insects,” Marra says. “There’s going to be food, and fruit that probably will be available for most of those birds.” Marra also studies migratory birds in Jamaica, which was hit by Category 5 hurricanes in 2016 and 1988. In the years immediately after those hurricanes, Marra says, bird populations were more or less unaffected.

What fate awaits birds migrating to Puerto Rico will not be known for many years, of course. Over time, damage to Puerto Rico’s forest canopy could drive birds out of their normal migration patterns, Marra says, adding that it’s impossible to say yet because of the scarcity of sites that study these birds on the island.

Marra is realistic about the inability to intervene, regardless of what challenges may arise for migratory birds. “For the most part, there’s probably nothing we need to do for birds in the short term,” he says. And he is equally concerned about the hummingbirds already on the island, which depend on flowers that have been torn away by the storm for food and, he says, can’t survive for more than a few days without them.

**Even if they remain unharmed, migrating birds like the black-and-white warbler, the American redstart and the oven bird will certainly return to a devastated island. John Faaborg, a professor emeritus at the University of Missouri who has studied migratory birds in southwestern Puerto Rico for over 30 years, seemed less optimistic about what they might find as they arrive through the first weeks of October.**

Faaborg adds that it will be challenging to get up-to-date info on these populations, as he, like almost everyone else trying to reach people in Puerto Rico, has heard nothing from his colleagues there since Hurricane Maria. “We’ve exchanged a couple of things when Maria was headed there, but we haven’t heard anything since,” he says.

Marra also has yet to hear from colleagues there, but remains optimistic. “I assume people are just primarily dealing with power outages and the like,” he says.

For now, Marra is keeping his focus on people. “I care about people and birds. If we don’t take care of both things, we’re gonna be in trouble,” he says. “I’m much less concerned for birds in the short term. I’m more concerned about people at this point.”

# MISSOURIAN

## **MU College of Engineering promotes inclusivity in new center**

EMILY HURLEY

**A new Inclusivity Center opening in the MU College of Engineering will encourage discussion between MU students and faculty, with a focus on social justice and diversity in engineering.**

The college hosted a 2-hour open house event for their new center in Lafferre Hall on Wednesday. The center is part of the college's Office of Diversity and Outreach Initiatives, which also includes the minority and women's engineering programs.

Tojan Rahhal, director of the office, emphasized the center's goal of providing a welcoming environment for all students.

"The idea really is to bring everything under one umbrella, to really be collaborative and in a sense join forces, but also open communication amongst everybody," Rahhal said.

Engineering student Ali Siddiqui said he's appreciative for the center and its collaborative environment.

"I myself am from Pakistan so it's nice to have these things here," Siddiqui said. "It's just a nice place where everyone can come together and support each other, and I think that's important for all students."

The center is open to MU students of all majors. Its mission encourages students to share their thoughts and opinions on diversity and inclusivity as well as suggestions for improvement, she said.

The College of Engineering is one of the few colleges at MU to create a center like this, she said. The College of Education has a similar program called The Bridge, which focuses on connecting diversity and inclusivity to the education world. The engineering school's center is unique for its role in challenging stereotypes, typically ones associated with engineering.

"Engineering has all these perceptions — male-dominated, not for women — whatever those perceptions might be, this shatters all of that," Rahhal said. "It's really just a place to value each person's diverse aspect."

While discussions of diversity typically include race, gender and ethnicity, the Inclusivity Center defines it more broadly.

“We do not define diversity as the color of someone’s skin or their race or their ethnicity. It's more what you bring to the table,” Rahhal said.

The Inclusivity Center provides a constructive environment for all students, faculty and staff to connect. The center aims to unite all their strengths and weakness in a friendly space, she said.

The center hosts a series of diverse events and informative workshops for the MU community. Workshop topics range from confronting microaggressions to exploring personal identities. As for the events, the center has cultural immersion lunches, LGBTQ safe space training and professional engineering conferences.

# MISSOURIAN

## REDI becomes an Accredited Economic Development Organization

KATIE ROSSO

The International Economic Development Council announced Wednesday that Regional Economic Development Inc., a Columbia partnership organization, is now an Accredited Economic Development Organization. This means that REDI is one of 60 economic development organizations that are accredited by IEDC.

**REDI is a partnership of the City of Columbia, Boone County, MU, local municipalities, organizations, educational institutions and private businesses, according to the release. Its mission is to attract, expand and grow businesses to create jobs in Columbia and Boone County.**

IEDC is the largest membership association in the world that serves economic and community professionals, according to the release, and it has over 5,000 members nationwide and abroad.

"REDI displays the professionalism, commitment, and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor," IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle said in the release.

Earning the accreditation ensures that the community's trust is "well-placed" and that "their business is in good hands," according to the release. The process for organizations to become accredited is a comprehensive peer review that compares the economic development organization with common standards of the profession.

The review process includes a documentation review and an onsite visit, according to the release. The IEDC evaluates information about the structure, organization, funding, programs, and staff of the candidate organization.

The accreditation is evaluated every three years using documentation submission and onsite visits, the release said.

"IEDC offers the economic development profession one source for information and professional development, one voice for the profession and one force for advocacy," the release said.

# MISSOURIAN

## **After the storm, Puerto Ricans in Columbia maintain contact with family**

BY GABRIELA MERCEDES MARTINEZ 1 hr ago (0)

When Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, it hit some Columbia residents close to home.

The Category 4 hurricane devastated the island with 150 mph winds, leaving behind a destroyed electrical grid that may take months to repair. Electronic communication is scarce and electricity is nonexistent for those with no backup generator, [according to the Associated Press](#).

The Missourian spoke with Columbia residents from Puerto Rico about how they've kept in touch with their families and have been affected by the storm.

### **Fear of the unknown**

**Gabriela Gonzalez, 19, grew up in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico and came to MU to study journalism. She said her daily routine became out of sync as she suffered from constant stress from not being able to contact her family.**

**"It was really hard because everything that would happen, in general, would make me feel like it was too much," she said. "There were times that I would like just cry. I felt like I couldn't take it anymore. I became more sensitive about the things that were happening around me."**

Her aunt lives in Vega Alta and her whole house was flooded, Gonzalez said.

"She lost everything," she said. "She's currently living with my grandma because she doesn't have a bed; she doesn't have couches. It was bad. It got bad because of the water."

Gonzalez said she was shocked by the amount of damage she saw in her hometown and high school.

"Seeing pictures of where I grew up and how it is now — it's totally destroyed. I think I was more affected by that than my actual family," she said. "Now it's just more on the fact that I cannot talk to them everyday. It made me feel like, 'Oh my God, that's where I grew up. That's where I lived.'"

Gonzalez went to school in Levittown, which is part of Toa Baja, the town that saw eight deaths from flooding after torrential rain, [according to Mayor Bernando Márquez](#). The National Weather Service issued an evacuation, but some refused to evacuate as flooding is common in the area.

“Knowing that eight people died and my best friend is from there and not being able to talk to her — that made me kind of nervous,” Gonzalez said. She was finally able to briefly contact her friend four days after the storm hit.

“It’s more of the knowing that you cannot do anything,” she said. “I called my family members a lot, but it wasn’t until my dad called me (two days after the storm) that I was able to talk to him and my sister.”

Gonzalez was finally able to contact her mother for the first time on Sept. 25, nearly a week after the storm made landfall.

Some Puerto Ricans might want to leave the island now more than ever, she said, for reasons including the scarcity of food, potable water, gas, electricity and lack of communications.

“If you lost everything and your house was destroyed, you’re not going to be as hesitant to come to the States,” said Gonzalez.

But despite some of the reasons to leave, Gonzalez emphasized that Puerto Ricans have a future ahead of the storm.

“I feel like there’s hope,” she said. “A lot of people have come to this realization and they help each other. They’re unifying.”

**Story continues: [https://www.columbiainmissourian.com/news/local/after-the-storm-puerto-ricans-in-columbia-maintain-contact-with/article\\_fd38a4ba-a36f-11e7-89ee-87d65a30fafa.html](https://www.columbiainmissourian.com/news/local/after-the-storm-puerto-ricans-in-columbia-maintain-contact-with/article_fd38a4ba-a36f-11e7-89ee-87d65a30fafa.html)**

# Missourinet

## Missouri lawmakers to discuss Lambert privatization and UM System student safety on Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 BY [BRIAN HAUSWIRTH](#)

A Missouri House committee will hold a hearing Wednesday morning in Clayton on numerous topics, including the issue of Lambert Airport privatization.

The Missouri House Special Committee on Urban Issues meets Wednesday morning at 9 at the St. Louis County Council Chambers in Clayton. That's at 41 South Central Avenue.

Committee Chairman Courtney Curtis, D-Ferguson, confirms airport privatization will be discussed during the hearing.

Representative Curtis tells Missourinet the airport "has destroyed Kinloch" by buying out homes. Kinloch is a small municipality located in Curtis' district.

Curtis wants to know about the likelihood of Airport privatization and has several other questions. St. Louis Lambert International Airport officials and representatives of the St. Louis Airport Commission have been invited.

The Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) website says the FAA has accepted Lambert's preliminary application to participate in a privatization pilot program.

Congress established the FAA's Airport Privatization Pilot Program to explore privatization as a way of generating access to private capital for airport improvement and development.

The House committee is also scheduled to discuss issues involving student safety and the campus climate at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the UM System.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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## Nike expanding St. Charles County plastics factory

By Jacob Barker St. Louis Post-Dispatch 15 hrs ago

A subsidiary of shoe giant Nike that makes the plastic air pockets in shoes is expanding its St. Charles County facility in the Missouri Research Park.

Nike Air Manufacturing Innovation plans to start late next month on a 75,000 square-foot expansion of its factory at 8 Research Park Drive. The 222,575 square-foot plant employs about 640 people and complements a plant near Nike's corporate headquarters near Portland, Ore.

Nike Air MI told St. Charles County officials, which signed off on the expansion last week, that its plant here was at full capacity after adding additional equipment and employees over the last year. In an application to the county, Nike Air said that the expansion would allow it to create additional jobs, though a number wasn't specified. A representative from Nike could not be reached.

Construction will take about 18 months, according to St. Charles County.

"Nike Air Manufacturing Innovation is part of the strong and growing plastics sector in St. Charles County," St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann said in a statement.

Nike Air MI, a subsidiary of Nike, also makes custom plastic products for customers outside of Nike. Originally founded in 1964 as Tetra Plastics, Nike purchased the company in 1991.

**The plant is within the Missouri Research Park developed in part by the University of Missouri System. Nike purchased its factory building in 2006.**

Alberici Constructors is the contractor; Fox Architects is the architect.

## THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### **Racist Symbols Are Found at American U. After Launch of Anti-Racist Center**

#### **NO MU MENTION**

By NELL GLUCKMAN

Students at American University have endured several hate-related incidents within the past couple years, but Tuesday was supposed to mark the start of the institution's efforts to understand racism and influence policy in a way that promotes equity. That evening, the history and international-affairs professor Ibram X. Kendi formally introduced a new Anti-Racist Research and Policy Center, which he joined the university this fall to lead.

But around 10:30 p.m., Mr. Kendi and his students emerged from his class on the history of racism to find that Confederate flags and cotton branches had been hung around the campus in Washington, D.C. Students reported it to the Department of Public Safety, and by the end of the night, the symbols were found in four campus buildings.

The university police department has launched an investigation into what Sylvia M. Burwell, American's president, called a "bias incident." The police released videos of a white man in his 40s wearing a hardhat, a neon vest, and camouflage-print pants, who is a suspect.

Students said Wednesday that along with sadness, they felt numb after hearing the news; they'd been through this before. Last spring, on the day that the first African-American woman to be elected student-body president took office, bananas were found hanging from nooses on the campus, some marked with the letters of a traditionally black sorority. And two years ago, racist messages were posted on the social-messaging site Yik Yak.

"I was not surprised," said Danielle Brown, a junior. Ms. Brown found out about the most recent incident on Tuesday night when her roommate showed her posts about it on social media. "You feel angry and sad, but you do feel definitely numb from it. This has happened repeatedly now on campus, and it just kind of feels like it's going to happen again."

The university held a meeting on Wednesday "to gather and discuss what happened, what steps are being taken, hear from each other, and offer support," which Jocelyn Mendez, a senior, thought was a good idea. But she hopes more will be done.

"It's really good to encourage discourse, but I think it extends to checking in on students, on your black friends or black classmates, seeing if people are OK," she said. "If you're not encouraging that conversation and having that discourse within your immediate groups and even outside of your immediate groups, then I think you're just as much a part of the problem."

At a news conference on Wednesday, Ms. Burwell said the university has increased the number of cameras on campus from 400 to 600, has increased the circulation of campus police officers, and has made it easier for students to report bias incidents. She noted that the university had been able to release images of a suspect quickly in part because of the security efforts.

Taylor Dumpson, the student-body president, told reporters that she was experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the incident last spring and the online threats against her that followed. She said students are concerned about their safety and the campus climate.

"Over the course of my college career here, I have seen an increase in hateful and vile rhetoric, but that is not limited to American University," she said. "We have to face these issues head on."

Ms. Dumpson said she'd also noticed a hint of optimism among her peers this semester. She praised the swift response of Ms. Burwell, who became president on June 1.

"This has not always been the case," Ms. Dumpson said of the president's response.

Ms. Dumpson spoke at a Capitol Hill forum on the racial climate on college campuses earlier this month, where she told members of Congress that the incident last spring had left her with anxiety, a lack of appetite, and difficulty sleeping, making it impossible for her to finish her final exams.

"This bigoted hate crime struck me at my core," she said then. The attacks were meant to intimidate and frighten, she added, "as if to say I did not belong there or wasn't qualified."

Mr. Kendi said that he felt galvanized by Tuesday's incident and that he is thinking about a way for the center to confront the uptick in racist incidents on college campuses across the United States.

Events like this one are meant to "cause a reaction, generate fear, and hopefully slow people down," he said. "This motivates me to follow through with the initiatives of the center."