



MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

October 5, 2017

MISSOURIAN

MU chancellor touts working groups as way forward after climate survey

By RACHEL WEGNER

MU is addressing the chief frustrations raised by faculty, staff and students in a fall 2016 campus climate survey — including low salaries and lack of institutional support — by forming working groups.

The groups — one for MU faculty, one for staff, and another of students — will begin meeting this month.

Each group is tasked with finding three to five actions they can commit to accomplishing in the next year in response to some of the concerns raised in the survey. Provost Garnett Stokes will lead the faculty work group.

MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright made the announcement Wednesday to a room of about 90 at a fall general faculty meeting.

In addition to the specific concerns, 60 percent of faculty respondents in the survey said they had seriously considered leaving MU, and more than half of that group cited pay as a reason.

“Things have gotten a little bit too far out of balance,” Faculty Council on University Policy chair Bill Wiebold said. “It’s one thing to say that faculty salaries are a priority. It’s another thing to make them a priority.”

After presenting the plan, Cartwright took questions from those in attendance.

Stephanie Shonekan, an associate professor of ethnomusicology and the chair of the Black Studies Department, asked why the university recently hired branding agency 160over90 for a \$1.3 million, three-year contract. She and her colleagues were disturbed by the news, especially amid budget cuts that caused some of their peers lose their jobs. She said it hurt to hear that they needed to be repackaged by someone who does not know them.

“We are not sure what’s wrong with our brand,” Shonekan said.

Cartwright assured Shonekan that the branding agency will tell stories that reflect what MU already is.

“They don’t define our brand,” Cartwright said. “We define our brand.”

Shonekan later said she appreciated Cartwright's answer and understood the importance of getting the message out about MU, though she still believes help may be right in front of the university.

"We have so many experts here that could work on telling that story," Shonekan said.

Peter Vallentyne, who is the Florence G. Kline professor in the Philosophy Department, asked why faculty meetings were not dedicated to talking about concrete issues and how to address them. He was met with applause from the crowd. Cartwright responded that he would personally work alongside Wiebold to open up the format of future faculty meetings to allow for more direct feedback. He added that working groups are a key component to facilitating conversation.

"I'm a big believer in understanding what the problems are," Cartwright said. "Unless we get them out there, we can't solve them."

MISSOURIAN

UM System rehires laid-off human resource employees

By MYLES POYDRAS

The University of Missouri System announced Wednesday it would rehire employees from the Employee Assistance Program who were laid off in August.

The Employee Assistance Program provides services to UM System employees, including counseling and stress management programs.

"When we revisited the situation, we realized that laying off these employees was disruptive to the university community," MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Seven people were laid off in August from the Employee Assistance Program and the Healthy for Life program. Basi said that only the three from the assistance program would return.

Both programs continued after the layoffs in August, and the staff cuts were estimated to save about \$1 million.

Transitional services were provided through Capital Region Center when the workers were laid off in August. The system will collaborate with Capital Region to provide service, according to the news release.

“We are grateful to our colleagues in the EAP, all of whom have agreed to return to their positions,” the release said. “Their professionalism, dedication and servant leadership exemplify the best of our University community.”

The UM System will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the program going forward.



MU Health Care introduces new breast cancer screening method

By CHAR'NESE TURNER

Watch the story: <http://www.komu.com/news/mu-health-care-introduces-new-breast-cancer-screening-method>

COLUMBIA - Ellis Fischel Cancer Center is now offering automated whole-breast ultrasound as an additional diagnostic option to better detect breast cancer in women with dense breast tissue.

Dr. Megha Garg, director of the breast-imaging program at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, said the new screening process allows doctors to examine the entire breast.

“This does not replace the mammogram,” Garg said. “This is in addition to the mammogram. The mammogram is going to be quicker because it takes full pictures, and this one is taking the pictures from one side of the breast to the other.”

The new technology gives radiologists a clearer, more complete picture of dense breast tissue to help identify hidden breast tumors.

“About 40 to 50 percent of women have a form of dense breast tissue,” Garg said. “Women have more fiber of fibrous and glandular tissue as compared to fatty tissue. So fibrous glandular tissue looks white on a mammogram, cancer looks white on mammogram, so the lack of contrast between those two white versus white makes it a little more difficult to pick them on the mammogram.”

To determine if this new technology is a good choice, a radiologist will determine breast density based on a patient's mammogram. There are four categories of breast density, and patients are assigned to one based on their results. Depending on risk factors such as family history, a physician may recommend additional screening beyond a mammogram.

A cancer prevention specialist with the American Cancer Society said the screening process is important for early detection and prevention.

“The automated whole-breast ultrasound is a good way to detect additional cancers that can’t be found on an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) or traditional mammogram early on,” he said.

According to a news release from MU Health Care, "During an automated whole-breast ultrasound, a woman lies on her back as the ultrasound device moves in parallel rows to ensure no areas of the breast are missed. The exam captures between 3,000 to 5,000 images that are then interpreted by a specially trained radiologist at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. The exam is painless and takes about 25 minutes."

Ellis Fischel Cancer Center is the only hospital in mid-Missouri to offer automated whole-breast ultrasound.

T COLUMBIA DAILY
TRIBUNE

[Charting the best future for Boone Hospital](#)

By HJW III

As managers at Boone Hospital Center and MU Hospital discuss potential collaboration, many local citizens worry about the future of Boone. They imagine their county hospital will disappear and they will be left with an inferior option.

But the implications of merger are quite the opposite. Principals at the two hospitals emphasize their plan to create a better health care delivery system that will recognize the potential of both. Worst would be a stubborn attempt to keep the status quo.

Columbia has become known for excellent health care, but as Boone's management lease with BJC HealthCare of St. Louis nears expiration, changing conditions in the industry cause Boone trustees, managers at BJC and others familiar with the situation to look in new directions. The CEO of BJC urges trustees to talk with MU. Managers at MU Health see exciting potential. Boone trustees announced recently it will negotiate "exclusively" with MU.

This is eminently sensible but it sparked considerable pushback from locals who worry out loud about a "takeover" by MU. These critics had no way to see the larger picture that gave Boone trustees reasons to favor talks with MU.

Earlier this week one salient factor became more obvious as Boone announced the layoff of 50 employees and closure of its inpatient pediatrics unit.

It's no secret Boone has been struggling financially while MU has been doing better, but this does not indicate an either-or situation. With a successful merger both hospitals will benefit significantly and so will the patients they serve, which of course can lead to important economic benefits for our community.

Imagine the furtherance of a Mayo Clinic-like development here in Columbia attracting patients far and wide. We have the ingredients, we just need to mix and match most effectively.

The Boone trustees who unanimously decided to pursue collaboration with MU are unequivocally in love with Boone Hospital. All have proven as much over years of volunteer and professional work for and in the hospital. We locals should have faith in their judgement and wisdom. All of them have a biased interest in the welfare of Boone Hospital. Now they see a way for the hospital, its staff, physicians, patients and the local economic community to fare best in a changing world of health care delivery.

We should remember that Boone approaches collaboration with a lot to offer. The key to a successful future will be building on the strengths of both institutions, not an elevation of one over the other. Politically this can't happen, and operationally it should not happen. Selfishly for both sides, it need not happen.

Good examples exist in other communities where academic health center hospitals have merged with local not-for-profits. In every case the parties had to create a new management structure providing unified control while recognizing the value and sovereignty of both parties. Both Boone and MU have hospitals worth defending. Both can bring important attributes to a new organization. Let's look forward to gains, not losses.

MISSOURIAN

Paralympian Dartanyon Crockett speaks for MU's Celebrate Ability Week

By SAMANTHA KOESTER

Despite taking the phrase "destined for greatness" to heart as a child, Dartanyon Crockett never believed he would find success. Now, at age 26, he has two bronze medals and holds the title of 2014 Judo World Champion.

As legally blind African-American from inner-city Cleveland, Ohio, he had a "trifecta" of odds stacked against him, Crockett said Wednesday evening during his presentation at MU's Jesse Hall.

"When you're an African-American male in our society, most people believe they have you figured out," he said. On top of his race, Crockett said, people think they have an understanding of his abilities when they learn of his extreme nearsightedness, which is caused by the condition optic neuropathy.

Crockett was invited to speak at MU as part of Celebrate Ability Week. By sharing his journey and achievements, he said he hopes to demonstrate that people should be defined by the path they take, not their disability.

In 2012, Crockett competed in the Paralympic games for the first time. The U.S. Paralympics team's website classifies the competition as one among athletes who have predominantly physical or visual impairments, unlike the Special Olympics, which gears toward those with cognitive disabilities.

"I spent so much of my life feeling forgotten by the world, and in that moment, I stood on top of it," Crockett said of his first bronze medal win.

After medaling, Crockett went on to compete in the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro. He hopes to participate in the Tokyo competition in 2020.

Crockett played multiple sports through his adolescent years, but his favorite was wrestling. His senior year of high school, he became his wrestling team's captain because of his strength and ability.

"On the team, my name was muscles," he said, laughing.

No one was able to compete with him until another student, Leroy Sutton, came along. Crockett said he quickly bonded with Sutton, who lost his ability to walk at age 11. Their companionship and talent led the boys to be noticed by ESPN, where they formed a close relationship with producer Lisa Fenn.

Crockett attributed his recognition by the Paralympics team to a documentary Fenn made of him and Sutton. Crockett's mother died when he was 8, and he said Sutton and Fenn have become his family since he worked to distance himself from his father.

"The difference between making it and not making it is having a person who believes in you," Crockett said.

Crockett's visit to MU was organized by the Missouri Students Association and Graduate Professional Council in collaboration with MU's Disability Center and the organization Stuff to Do.

Michaela Thomson, speaker senior chair for the Missouri Students Association, was one of the main coordinators for the event. After learning about Crockett, she said the organizations thought he represented what Celebrate Ability Week is all about.

"We really liked his story and the message he had," Thomson said.

A member of the audience, Anita Cowan, also appreciated his story. She said her husband shares Crockett's condition.

"It's inspiring to know he didn't let that stop him," Cowan said. "I don't even know the words to use."



[Hyperloop route between Kansas City and St. Louis in the works](#)

By DANIEL LITWIN

COLUMBIA - A [hyperloop](#) route could become a reality in Missouri, making a commute from Kansas City to St. Louis a 30 minute trip.

Missouri officials announced a partnership Tuesday between public and private groups to fund a feasibility study for the high speed tube-based transportation. **The groups include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri Innovation Center in Columbia, the St. Louis Regional Chamber, the KC Tech Council and the University of Missouri System.**

The study will cost around \$1.5 million of private funds, and the consortium is aiming to gather the money within the next month.

A route between Kansas City and St. Louis was conceived after a Missouri task force was looking for a "moonshot" project, an epic new project that would get the attention of the rest of the nation and the rest of the world.

Bill Turpin, President and CEO of the Missouri Innovation Center, said a hyperloop route was just what the state was looking for; something to bring social and economic impact to Missouri.

"Missouri is a state with, I think, 80 percent of its population on the edges. That creates a political situation here where we're kind of regionalized. The hyperloop might help bring us together as a state, help unify us," Turpin said.

Turpin said the construction of a hyperloop could bring millions in revenue to the state, with a rough figure of \$5 to \$10 million per mile.

"That would go into salaries, construction work, materials work. Maybe we could even manufacture the cars that go in it in St. Louis or Kansas City," Turpin said.

It currently takes around three hours and 40 minutes to get from Kansas City to St. Louis by car. A commercial flight takes closer to an hour, not including waiting times and security checkpoints at the airport. A hyperloop route would reduce the trip to a little less than half an hour, with pods traveling at speeds upwards of 700 mph.

Hyperloop One showed great interest in a Missouri route due to its east to west orientation, relatively flat terrain to build on, and a motivated force behind local and state officials to complete the project.

"We were really excited about this particular route because not only is it a great route and connects really vital cities, but it also comes with the support of the state government and the private sector," said Dan Katz, transportation policy counsel for Hyperloop One.

"Our geography played a lot to do with it, but also the notion that DOT was willing to forward an application. We have a history of project delivery," said Patrick McKenna, director of MoDOT.

The coalition was formed in response to Hyperloop One's global challenge results, which searched the globe for the best and most feasible hyperloop sites. The KC-STL route didn't make the top 10, but that didn't stop Missourians from showing interest in a hyperloop route.

"As soon as the results of our challenge were out, the team from Missouri really stepped it up and put together this incredible coalition, made it very clear to us that they really have the ingredients you need for a successful project, ready to go," Katz said. "As far as we're concerned, they're in the winners circle now."

"Even if we don't land this project, we're learning how to work together, we're seeing how we can play together on the same team for the benefit of the state," Turpin said.

Hyperloop One plans to have its first route completed by 2021.



[Alliance to study hyperloop transportation technology for I-70 corridor](#)

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Missouri wasn't chosen as a test case for hyperloop technology but that hasn't deterred the Missouri Department of Transportation from trying to create one.

In early September, Hyperloop One chose four U.S. routes and six international routes to develop business plans, engineering concepts and other preliminary work to determine if a hyperloop is a commercially viable transportation system.

On Tuesday, MoDOT along with the St. Louis Regional Chamber, the KC Tech Council, the University of Missouri System and the Missouri Innovation Center announced creation of a public-private partnership to study a route near Interstate 70 linking St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City.

MoDOT director Patrick McKenna estimated that a feasibility study for the route would cost \$1 million to \$1.5 million. MoDOT will oversee the work but the money will come from private sources, McKenna said in the news release.



UM System Board of Curators discuss changes in culture of the board and university branding

By OLIVIA GARRETT and UNEWS STAFF WRITERS

The UM System Board of Curators met Thursday and Friday at UM-Kansas City to discuss the role of the board, finances and issues facing the UM System.

This is the first time that every position on the Board of Curators has been filled for a meeting in months. During the meeting, the board reviewed the university's performance and discussed the future, making several large changes to the UM System Collected Rules and Recollections and how the UM System plans capital projects.

New curators Julia Brncic and Jon Sundvold and student representative Courtney Lauer took oaths of office.

REVISING RULES

The curators discussed a comprehensive review of the UM System Collected Rules and Regulations in order to modernize governance. They discussed a need for updated rules regarding faculty governance and firings, fundraising and facilities.

"We've done over the last couple of years a fair amount of updating and revision of our Collected Rules," Board Chairman Maurice Graham said. "There's still a lot of work left to do."

Graham also mentioned the importance of involving constituents such as faculty and administration early on in the process. Because the nature of the task, the board does not yet have a timeline for the project.

"I think we're all preaching to the choir," Graham said. "We've all said for months we need to continue the process. We've agreed with the legislature we would do this and so it's important."

It is unclear when an overhaul of the Collected Rules was last completed, if it has ever been done.

AUDIT

Four internal audits have been completed since the last curators meeting, focusing on the College of Human and Environmental Services, College of Arts and Science, Campus Stores Physical Inventory Count and MU Health Care Device Encryption.

Of the four audits, the College of Arts and Science received the highest risk rating. The college received a medium risk label, indicating “substantial risk related to fiscal oversight and internal controls surrounding fiscal processes,” according to the Internal Audit Quarterly Report.

“We identified in this audit inconsistencies in policy related to faculty award programs between the system policy, the campus and the college,” interim Chief Audit Executive Michelle Piranio said.

The College of Arts and Science audit also found that the Geographic Resources Center and the Missouri Spatial Data Information Service have “operated independently with little oversight and financial accountability to the College,” according to the report. The audit report also includes a summary of the management action, which focuses on improving policies and increasing accountability.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FINANCES

The Board of Curators unanimously passed a motion Thursday that will give the board increased responsibility for the university’s funding, investments and infrastructure projects.

“We’re gonna discuss and we’re gonna show our investments and our facilities really have not been adequate in the last 15 years, and they could also be prioritized better than they have been, and I think this new process is critical to changing that,” Chief Financial Officer Ryan Rapp said.

Currently, the Board of Curators has little involvement in project and capital plan recommendations, and plans are crafted on an annual basis.

Officially beginning in 2019, the board will annually review projects from a financial standpoint to ensure balance between funding new projects and maintaining the university as it is. This represents a change to a prioritized rolling five-year capital plan that increased board involvement in project recommendations, capital plan approval and the review of projects after they are approved.

The long-term plan will also focus on academic excellence, revenue growth opportunities, resource allocation and utilization of administrative scale, efficiency and collaboration.

“In my view, what we’re doing here is a significant change in the culture of the board, and it is a change [in culture] that I hope goes on far after I leave where it’s the board asserting that it will no longer be reactive, will no longer be rubber stamps, that it will be proactive and that it will assert its role in making strategic decisions,” Curator David Steelman said.

Despite increasing debt, with post-employment benefits adding \$275 million to liabilities and decreasing academic revenue, the UM System continues to have health care revenue grow along with that from grants and contracts.

Drops in enrollment and budget cuts from the Missouri Legislature led the UM System to announce a series of budget cuts, including program discontinuance and layoffs, earlier this year. Future cuts will continue to be made to increase faculty pay, and reallocation within the budget is expected.

Additionally, the board reviewed construction plans for the MU School of Music. The \$24-million project is expected to be completed by August 2019. Loeb Hall and the Fine Arts Annex will be demolished, eliminating \$5.5 million in facilities costs.

MU HEALTH CARE

The board heard a report on MU Health Care by CEO and Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Curtright.

MU Health Care has been investing in staff, particularly nursing staff, and is currently working to create accelerated nursing programs to get more nurses into the workforce and programs to get nurses working on weekends and in the evenings, Curtright said.

Facility investments, such as the Ashland family medicine clinic that opened last month, have also been priorities. MU Health Care has also invested in the university, with a one-time support of \$3 million to MU, \$16.3 million to the School of Medicine, \$1.1 million to School of Health Professions and \$500,000 to Sinclair School of Nursing.

Strategic initiatives for 2017 and 2018 include the expansion of MU Health Care as a statewide resource and the growth of select service lines.

CURRENT STRUGGLES AND REBRANDING

On Friday, the board heard from UM System President Mun Choi, MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright and representatives from branding company 160over90.

In May, university leaders signed a three-year, \$1.27-million contract with the company to improve the university's brand. The agency began work on campus two weeks ago.

In his report to the board, Choi explained the results of the 2016 Campus Climate Survey.

“The results also indicate that we have some work to do,” Choi said. “For example, 18 percent of the respondents have experienced exclusionary conduct within the last year. And while this result appears high, it is within the range that Rankin & Associates found at other universities.”

The board will meet next on Dec. 7 and 8 at UM-St. Louis.

MISSOURIAN

National organization closes MU chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon

By MATTHEW HALL

After repeated university code of conduct violations, the MU chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity was closed by its national headquarters.

According to previous reporting by the Columbia Tribune and KMIZ, the chief executive officer of the national fraternity said recent events showed that members were not committed to living by Sigma Phi Epsilon values. He referenced a tailgate where a 6-year-old was cut after a glass bottle was thrown over a fence.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said MU was not involved in the decision to close the fraternity.

This is the fourth MU fraternity to be either suspended or banned in the past year. The Kappa Alpha Order and Delta Upsilon fraternities were suspended, while Sigma Pi was banned, all in 2016.

MU suspended the Kappa Alpha Order for five years citing multiple violations, including intimidating or threatening behaviors, hazing and physical abuse.

The university and the national chapter suspended Delta Upsilon until fall 2018 for violating university policy and state law. Sigma Pi was permanently banned in May 2016 after hazing incidents sent a pledge to the hospital.

The judiciary summary reports from fall 2015, spring 2016 and fall 2016 show that there are two fraternities currently on disciplinary probation. Four other fraternities ended their disciplinary probation in spring 2017.

According to the most recent statistics posted by MU's Greek life system in 2016, there were 7,339 students involved within Greek life communities.

Of the university's 25,627 undergraduates in 2016, 28.6 percent of them were members of a fraternity or sorority across the university's Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Panhellenic Association.

Climate Change and Parasites

By DAVID HOPPER

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: [Ancient Italian Fossils Reveal Risk of Parasitic Infections Due to Climate Change](#)

There is a new reason to be worried about rising seas.

John Huntley, assistant professor in the department of geological sciences at the University of Missouri, explores why parasites from the past may be a problem of the future.

Dr. Huntley is broadly interested in the fossil record of biotic interactions (including parasitism, predation, and competition), stratigraphic paleobiology, conservation paleobiology, and the evolution of morphological disparity.

He completed a BS in Geology at Appalachian State University, a MS in Geology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (Advisor: Patricia Kelley), and a PhD in Geosciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Advisor: Michał Kowalewski).

Following a one-year postdoctoral assignment at Virginia Tech he spent one year as Lecturer at the University of Kentucky, two years as a Humboldt Research Fellow at the GeoZentrum Nordbayern in Erlangen (Germany), and two years as Visiting Assistant Professor at St. Lawrence University.

Dr. Huntley joined the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Missouri in 2013 as an Assistant Professor. The subjects of Dr. Huntley's research span invertebrates and protists from the marine, freshwater, and terrestrial realms ranging in age from Paleoproterozoic to Anthropocene.

His current favorites are modern bivalves (especially when pasta, olive oil, and wine are involved).



University Hospital prepared for mass casualty incident

Taylor Petras

Posted: Oct 04, 2017 09:41 PM CDT

Updated: Oct 04, 2017 10:14 PM CDT

Watch the story: <http://www.abc17news.com/news/university-hospital-prepared-for-mass-casualty-incident-1/631764068>

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Sunday night's shooting massacre at a country concert in Las Vegas sent thousands of people scrambling for safety and sent nearly 500 to the hospital.

The Las Vegas Police Department said Wednesday night out of 489 people injured, 172 were still in the hospital.

"The fortunate thing about these large scale incidents is when you hear there's hundreds of people that are injured, most of those are probably minor injuries," said University of Missouri Hospital trauma surgeon Jeff Coughenour.

University Hospital is one of four American College of Surgeons (ACS)-verified Level I trauma centers in the state and is the only Level I trauma center in mid-Missouri, meaning the hospital has the resources to treat all types of injuries.

Coughenour said the hospital has a plan in place in the event of a mass casualty incident. He said the hospital adjusted its plan outlining specific job functions for staff members after the Orlando nightclub shooting. He said they practice certain parts of the plan throughout the year.

"Probably one of the most important things I can do in a mass casualty incident is actually lock the hospital down and only let those patients who need our immediate service in," he said. "We can later sort out the more minor injuries later so we don't overwhelm our resources for the patients who truly need it."

Those with less serious injuries could be treated at Women's and Children's Hospital, the VA Hospital or Boone Hospital Center, said Coughenour.

"We don't have the luxury like some of the bigger cities of having other trauma centers," he said. "But I think that probably underscores the importance of routing the patients to the correct destinations from the scene."



Bridge work to close north Columbia road for rest of month

Lucas Geisler

Posted: Oct 04, 2017 11:13 PM CDT

Updated: Oct 04, 2017 11:30 PM CDT

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Repairs to a north Columbia bridge will close the road and a trail underneath it for the rest of October.

Construction crews will be working on the bridge deck on North Creasy Springs Road over Bear Creek starting on Monday. Boone Construction will replace the bridge deck, modify guardrails and overlay the asphalt. The work is scheduled to last until Oct. 30 at a cost of \$135,000.

Public Works has eyed the repairs for more than a year, Engineering Manager Richard Stone said. The bridge deck, or the road that's held up by the bridge, has holes in it that are currently patched with metal plates. While the structural integrity of the bridge is fine, Stone said, the work will stop the deck from worsening.

"It's deteriorated to the point where we need to do something to it," Stone said of the deck. "And if we didn't do something to it, then it would continue to deteriorate at a more rapid pace."

Creasy Springs Road will be closed just south of Prairieview Drive and just north of the Bear Creek Trail parking lot. The Bear Creek Trail itself will be closed under the bridge, and trail users will need to cross Creasy Springs Road to continue on the trail, Stone said.

The trail will reopen for the Bear Creek Half Marathon on Oct. 14.

ABC 17 News has reported on the problems plaguing the bridge, and residents' fears about the current state of it. **A University of Missouri study offered ideas for a bridge maintenance schedule to extend the life of bridges, and avoid having to make expensive bridge repairs often.**

Stone said the department has not had a chance to work the study into its operations. The timing of its release came at a busy time for Public Works.

"We were right in the heart of construction season, so we really haven't had a chance to set that schedule yet, but we will be doing that over the winter and then following up in the spring and summer," Stone said.



Alexandria man charged with making online threats against Howard students

WASHINGTON — An Alexandria, Virginia man has been arrested and charged with posting online comments threatening to kill African-American students at Howard University in D.C.

John Edgar Rust, 24, who is white, was arrested Wednesday. Rust is accused of posting the anonymous comments to the online message board 4chan in November 2015. The comments, which were riddled with racial slurs, detailed a plan to kill Howard students and contained the phrase: "It's not murder if they're black."

The threats, which came after a series of racially charged incidents at the University of Missouri earlier that year, sparked fear on the Howard campus and led to stepped-up security.

Court documents from the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia said authorities tracked an IP address to an Alexandria Panera Bread location where they said Rust used the free Wi-Fi to post the threats.

According to online court records, Rust was convicted in Loudoun County in 2012 of indecent liberties with a child and aggravated sexual battery. As a condition of his probation, he was prohibited from accessing the internet, the court documents stated.

Authorities confiscated multiple digital devices, including smartphones, a computer and an external hard drive, according to the court documents. The hard drive contained articles and information about the design and use of explosives and firearms, the documents stated.

Rust is facing a federal charge tied to the making of threats, which carries a maximum of five years in prison.

Rust is scheduled to appear in federal court in Alexandria Thursday.

Similar stories ran nationwide.

THE DAILY ORANGE

Independent student newspaper of Syracuse, NY

How experts say student activists can influence race relations

By: Michael Burke

Story references MU beginning on page 3

ITHACA — One month into the academic year, issues of race had consumed the Cornell University campus. The student government meeting in Bache Auditorium, on a Thursday evening in September, was no exception.

About 30 undergraduate students, including several from the umbrella organization Black Students United, crowded the floor of the auditorium to support the passage of a bill condemning hate speech and hate crimes.

The resolution was brought in response to two racially charged incidents that occurred near the campus. Six days before the meeting, a black Cornell student was called the N-word multiple times and punched in the face repeatedly by a group of white students, [he told](#) The Cornell Daily

Sun. Earlier that month, another Cornell student [chanted](#) “build a wall” in front of the Latino Living Center.

The incidents sparked campus protests and demonstrations organized by Black Students United. The group’s leaders presented Cornell President Martha Pollack with a [list of demands](#) meant to curtail racism on campus. Pollack [responded](#) by, among other things, promising to launch a task force to address “persistent problems of bigotry and intolerance” at Cornell.

But BSU members made clear they wanted more from the university — including an addition to the Campus Code of Conduct with language banning hate speech.

“We are not complacent, and we will keep fighting for our demands,” said Imani Luckey, BSU’s political action chair, at the assembly meeting.

Two weeks later, the push for racial equality hasn’t subsided. The Sun [reported](#) Tuesday that a coalition of graduate students delivered its own list of demands to the university calling for improved social justice on campus.

The circumstances at Cornell, a Syracuse University peer institution, aren’t uncommon on campuses of historically white institutions, which scholars say have racism entrenched in their cultures. Just last week, Confederate flag posters with cotton attached [were found](#) on the campus of American University, another SU peer institution.

Also last week, students at the University of Michigan marched in protest of on-campus racial injustice, [The Michigan Daily reported](#). Similar protests have become [common](#) on campuses in recent years. That includes SU, where in 2014 THE General Body — a coalition of students, faculty and staff — held an 18-day sit-in at Crouse-Hinds Hall to protest, among other issues, the university’s treatment of marginalized groups.

Such protests are likely to continue this academic year and in coming years, particularly given the country’s tense racial climate under President Donald Trump, scholars said.

Whether or not activism like that at Cornell will change those institutions is unclear. Even when mobilization is strong, other obstacles exist. Universities tend to have priorities that don’t align with protesters’ demands, and public dialogue surrounding student activism often strays from the topic of race, experts say.

But some scholars said they believe the combination of a Trump presidency and coordinated activism could turn college campuses into places that spark reform.

Mobilization challenges

Whatever lasting impact THE General Body had on SU may be attributed, at least in part, to two factors: the group's organization and proactiveness. Experts say these factors are necessary for student activists to succeed.

The group began planning its sit-in about a month prior to entering Crouse-Hinds Hall, said Danielle Reed, an active member of THE General Body during the sit-in who graduated in 2016. Events like the closing of the Advocacy Center and cuts to Posse scholarships, which increased campus diversity, set those plans in motion.

Students occupied Crouse-Hinds Hall for 18 days and frequently issued their own press releases, allowing them some control over the public conversation surrounding the sit-in.

"I think we were successful in getting our voices heard and getting our faces out there," Reed said.

THE General Body sparked some tangible change. SU has since launched the Chancellor's Workgroup on Diversity and Inclusion, which produced a list of [33 recommendations](#) for the university. Seventeen of those recommendations have been [achieved](#).

Ronald Hall, a professor at Michigan State University who studies race relations, said being able to organize and raise awareness about protests is often the biggest hurdle for activists.

"If they are motivated, if they are organized, they can dictate the direction of any university," Hall said.

But even when a group's mobilization is substantial, there are inherent risks that come with participating in demonstrations, activists say.

Some members of THE General Body stopped participating because they felt their scholarships could be threatened, Reed said.

At the University of Missouri, where a series of protests over racism occurred during the 2015-16 year, some activists — including Reuben Faloughi, a graduate student — lost their jobs. Some undergraduates couldn't get into graduate school after the protests, he said.

“It’s a heavy price to pay,” he said. “There’s backlash. There’s consequences to all those actions.”

It’s hard to get our message across’

For student activists on the University of California, Berkeley campus — such as undergraduate Juniperangelica Cordova — the issue at hand was simple.

Milo Yiannopoulos, a conservative commentator, was scheduled to speak at the campus in February, and it was believed he intended to publicize the names of undocumented students at the school. Activists felt those students needed protection, so they protested the event, which was ultimately canceled.

In the coming months, more protests ensued. In March, activists protested a pro-Trump rally on the campus. In April, there were protests after the university planned to host Ann Coulter, who has advocated against a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

But as activists continued to demonstrate against speakers such as Yiannopoulos and Coulter, the conversation surrounding Berkeley shifted to free speech.

Berkeley has since become the center of the debate over free speech on college campuses. Most media coverage of the protests focuses on the free speech issue, Cordova said. Trump in February threatened to cut federal funding for Berkeley because “it does not allow free speech.”

To activists at Berkeley like Cordova, who is now a university senator, the debate over free speech misses the original point of the protests, which was to protect undocumented students.

“We’ve watched this evolve into a debate that’s no longer about community safety, but about free speech,” Cordova said. “Essentially, it’s about who’s pro-free speech and who’s anti-free speech, when this all really started with who’s willing to protect students and who’s not willing to protect students. So it’s hard to get our message across.”

Cheryl Greenberg, a professor of history at Trinity College who teaches courses on race, said shifts like these are attempts to avoid conversations about race.

“It’s a way to shift the blame to people of color,” Greenberg said. “If you don’t want to talk about racism on campus, you talk about free speech. How do you claim it’s black people’s fault? You don’t say it’s their fault, you say free speech needs to be protected and shift the conversation there.”

Follow the money

Of the notable campus protests in recent years, only one ended in immediate fundamental change. University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe and University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor Richard Bowen Loftin each resigned following protests at the university.

Some believe those resignations can be attributed to the activism of one particular group of students: the school’s football team. On Nov. 7, 2015, a group of players [announced](#) they would not practice or play until Wolfe resigned. He resigned two days later.

If the team’s boycott hadn’t ended in time for its game that week against Brigham Young University, the school would’ve [forfeited](#) \$1 million for breaking a contract between the two schools.

But when a group of protesters doesn’t have that type of financial influence over a university, administrators have less incentive to accommodate them, experts said. Administrators may be inclined to downplay protesters’ grievances to protect the university’s image.

At SU, some within the campus community believe administrators were dismissive of THE General Body’s concerns and interfered with their ability to peacefully protest.

In February 2015, [a Graduate Student Organization resolution](#) called for an investigation of the administration’s actions toward THE General Body. The resolution alleged SU officials did not show “proper respect” to protesters and that administrators created a “hostile environment” by prohibiting the entry of a faculty member into Crouse-Hinds, among other concerns.

[In response to that resolution](#), Syverud said he “found no instances of disrespectful behavior by my administrative team.”

But Reed said she and other THE General Body participants felt SU leadership tried to turn the larger campus community against the activists.

“The politics got ugly,” she said. “The tactic was to make us seem crazy. People don’t understand how much the university — they didn’t officially threaten us, but they definitely swung their power around to scare us.”

‘We can’t ignore it’

When Faloughi reflects on the protests of the 2015-16 year at Missouri, he considers at least one aspect of it a success: It generated a conversation about race at the university that was not previously happening.

Reed assesses the outcome of THE General Body sit-in similarly. She said the protests “woke a lot of people up” to realities on SU’s campus.

“The fact that it’s lasted, the fact that it made an impact, to me makes it successful,” she said.

In a Trump presidency, some scholars said they believe student activists can continue to generate those conversations, and do so on a larger scale. Greenberg, the Trinity College professor, said she expects the public discourse surrounding Trump will “accelerate this into being something transformative.”

Hall, the Michigan State professor, said he thinks racial issues have become a critical political issue, “unlike in years past.” He said students can play a critical role in helping to inform the public on race.

“(Students) don’t have the grind of family life every day, so they’re in a position where they can afford to do more exploration,” he said. “And I think we are going to be in a position now where finally we’re going to have to confront race because we can’t ignore it.”



On Same Day Court Blocks Missouri Abortion Restrictions, State Says It Will Impose Another

NO MU MENTION

By DAN MARGOLIES

The same day a federal appeals court overruled itself and voted to block two Missouri abortion restrictions, the state advised Missouri abortion providers that they will have to abide by a new restriction.

A memo dated Oct. 2 from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) says the agency will file emergency rules on Oct. 24 establishing standards for “complication plans” for medication-induced abortions.

The memo says the emergency rules will require doctors providing medical abortions to contract with an OB-GYN or group of OB-GYNs to treat complications arising from the procedure.

The memo says the rules are being enacted under Senate Bill 5, which was enacted during a special session called earlier this year by Gov. Eric Greitens. The law requires providers offering medical abortions to have complication plans approved by DHSS.

Medication-induced abortions are among the safest medical procedures, so it's not clear what the medical rationale for the rule is. A 2012 study of medical abortions performed at 317 Planned Parenthood clinics found that less than 1 percent of women experienced side effects or failed abortions. Another study showed that rates of infection requiring hospitalization were 0.01 percent and rates of transfusion were 0.03 percent.

The procedure typically involves a combination of two pills: mifepristone, better known as RU-486, which blocks the hormone necessary to maintain a pregnancy, and misoprostol, which works to empty the uterus.

Dr. Randall W. Williams, director of DHSS, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Aaron Samulcek, interim president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said the contracted-physician requirement was "unconstitutional" and "medically unnecessary."

"This is the state of Missouri, once again, attempting to circumvent well-established Supreme Court precedents in order to punish women in need of safe, legal abortion services," he said. **"PPGP will not allow this new rule to get in the way of our efforts to expand abortion access in Missouri. We look forward to restoring abortion services at our Columbia Health Center in the coming days."**

Samulcek was referring to Planned Parenthood's efforts to secure a license to perform surgical abortions at its clinic in Columbia, Missouri.

Arkansas imposed a similar contracted-physician requirement on abortion providers. Planned Parenthood challenged that restriction and a federal court blocked it from taking effect. Arkansas has appealed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In court documents, Planned Parenthood said that the Arkansas requirement would provide no benefit but "would have a devastating effect on abortion access in Arkansas by eliminating medication abortion entirely, leaving only surgical abortion available at one health center, and requiring women to travel great distances to obtain an abortion."

That's because Planned Parenthood was unable to find a single physician in Arkansas willing to enter into the required agreement, Planned Parenthood asserted.

"As the district court further recognized, (Planned Parenthood) understandably had trouble locating a contracted physician because 'physicians who provide abortions or associate with physicians who provide abortions risk being ostracized from their communities and face harassment and violence toward themselves, their family, and their private practices,'" Planned Parenthood said.

The DHSS memo was issued the same day the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, after initially granting Missouri's request to lift an injunction blocking other abortion restrictions, had a change of heart and left the injunction in place.

The injunction was issued by a federal judge in Kansas City after Planned Parenthood sued to block the restrictions. One restriction required abortion providers to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. The U.S. Supreme Court last year ruled that similar restrictions enacted by Texas were unconstitutional.