No movement on budget deal tied to tuition freeze

By Rudi Keller

The deal on college funding proposed by House Budget Committee Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick — state support at current levels next year in exchange for a tuition freeze — hasn’t been accepted by higher education institutions and it is not supported in the state Senate.

The committee will vote Wednesday on the 13 appropriation bills for state operations, said Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, and the allocation of funding for colleges and universities is in limbo until he knows whether his offer will be accepted. The stakes are $68 million currently divided between state support for public higher education institutions and the Access Missouri scholarship program.

If there’s no deal, Fitzpatrick hinted that he might go along with Gov. Eric Greitens’ proposal to cut colleges and universities by 10 percent in the coming year.

“I am not saying I am going to or not going to do anything,” Fitzpatrick said. “I am just saying that all options are on the table until we have a deal or don’t.”

Since Greitens took office, higher education has borne the heaviest share of state budget cuts. He ordered cuts to spending in fiscal 2017 within days of taking office and reduced appropriations in the current year to 9 percent below fiscal 2017 levels. In his budget proposal for the year beginning July 1, Greitens sought another 10 percent cut in core appropriations and made 10 percent contingent upon meeting six performance measures.

The $68 million represents the amount Greitens proposed cutting from colleges and universities in the current year’s actual funding. Under the plan proposed by Fitzpatrick, $30 million is allocated to fully funding the Access Missouri program and $38 million is given to public higher education institutions in proportion to their share of total state support.

Greitens’ proposal created $21 million of a $60 million funding gap on the University of Missouri’s Columbia campus. The remainder is because enrollment is expected to drop again next year as a large class that enrolled in 2014 graduates.

If he gets an acceptable tuition deal, Fitzpatrick said, he will move the money from scholarships into institution budgets. He thought he had a deal with Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Dan Brown to endorse the proposal but that didn’t work out, he said.
Brown, R-Rolla, said he thought the plan is interesting but he didn’t commit to supporting it and decided it wasn’t a good idea after talking to colleagues and higher education leaders. It isn’t a good idea to try to control tuition from the General Assembly, he said.

Higher education funding is one three areas of “crisis” needs in the state budget, he said, also naming public school transportation and nursing home reimbursement rates.

“I made it very clear from the start of session that I intended to put back the $68 million or as much as I could possibly find in the budget and I had no caveats related to doing that,” Brown said.

State law currently caps tuition increases at the rate of inflation. For the fall semester, tuition could increase 2.1 percent without triggering the penalty provisions of the law. Brown supports a pending bill to loosen the cap and would back a complete repeal if it came to a vote, he said.

“You either trust higher education to do what is best for our students in Missouri and try to hold the line or you don’t trust them and at what point do we quit micromanaging them?” Brown said.

The four-year universities have not been able to agree on whether to accept the deal. They endorse the concept of maintaining tuition as low as possible, said Paul Wagner, executive director of the Council on Public Higher Education.

“We are going to continue discussing and hope we find a solution that works for everyone,” Wagner said.

Whatever happens with higher education, the overall budget is more stable this year and there should be no need for Greitens to make extraordinary cuts, Fitzpatrick said.

“I feel it is a really strong budget as far as being conservative” in estimating revenue, Fitzpatrick said.

**COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE**

**University of Missouri is planning for a research resurgence**

**Editorial by Tribune Staff**

The University of Missouri wants to put its money where its research is.

That’s a fine goal, and one that could bring nationwide recognition and in time additional revenue that will help support less lucrative programs.
MU Chancellor Alexander Cartwright has set a goal to double MU’s research spending, currently at $250 million annually. As MU looks to scale back some programs and degree offerings, beefing up its research efforts is a wise endeavor to ensure future success.

MU has been a member of the prestigious American Association of Universities since 1908. The AAU is made up of 28 private and 32 public research universities. MU is in the bottom 25 percent when it comes to research spending, however. The extra $102 million would push MU into the next quartile among AAU members.

During a Feb. 27 speech at the Bond Life Sciences Center, Cartwright said it would take three to five years to expand research, with the ultimate goal of doubling current research spending. He cited initiatives such as MU’s National Swine Resource and Research Center as those worth replicating.

A major part of the research effort will be the construction of the Translational Precision Medicine Complex, a proposed laboratory costing $150 million to $200 million that will bring together engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine and other disciplines into one center for collaborative work. Such efforts have the potential to benefit all Missourians, and perhaps even all of humanity.

Since the new system and campus leadership arrived last year, UM System President Mun Choi and Cartwright have focused heavily on adding to the research capabilities of the university. Such initiatives lead to patents, research grants and help attract the brightest minds in the world. These efforts also will offer a boost to Missouri’s economy.

The plan laid out by Cartwright and Choi is exactly what MU needs as it reinvents itself and moves toward being a high-stakes player nationally in the field of research.

**Pet owners should watch for pet food recalls, MU toxicologist advises**

BECKIE JAECKELS, Mar 9, 2018

**Generated from News Bureau press release:** MU veterinary toxicologist offers advice on recent dog food recalls
Pet owners should monitor available resources for notices of pet food recalls and subsequent updates, MU veterinary toxicologist Tim Evans advised in a news release Friday.

Recent reports indicate that more than 107 million cans of dog food have been recalled because they contained trace amounts of pentobarbital, a drug commonly used to put down animals.

The recalled dog food included brands such as Gravy Train and Kibbles 'n Bits which are manufactured by the J.M. Smucker Company, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

Evans said the FDA and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation provide resources for consumers to stay informed. Pet owners can sign up for notifications and alerts on the FDA and AVMA websites.

"These resources will include information about manufacturer lot numbers and UPC item codes that will help owners pinpoint the food they might have purchased and whether they should monitor their pets' behaviors and health," Evans said in the release. "Of course, if you see any changes in your pets' health, contact your veterinarian immediately."

Pet food recalls: harmful drug found in dog food

By SASHA GOMEZ


Generated from News Bureau Press Release: MU veterinary toxicologist offers advice on recent dog food recalls
COLUMBIA, Mo. - According to associate professor Tim Evans at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine no amount of pentobarbital, the harmful drug used to euthanize animals, should be in any animal products.

Evans went on to say all pet owners must do their part regarding any recalls or updates.

The J.M. Smucker Co. has withdrawn shipments of Gravy Train®, Kibbles ‘N Bits®, Ol’ Roy®, and Skippy® canned/wet dog food because of the fear of pentobarbital.

According to the Smucker's website, the products do not meet its quality specifications even with it's extreme low levels of pentobarbital.

“We take this very seriously and are extremely disappointed that pentobarbital was introduced to our supply chain. We will continue to work closely with our suppliers and veterinarians to ensure the ingredients used in our products meet or exceed regulatory safety standards and our high-quality standards,” said Barry Dunaway, Smucker's president for Pet Food and Pet Snacks. “Above all, we are a company that loves pets and understand the responsibility we have in providing high quality food for the pets our consumers love.”

Evans stated the Federal Food and Drug Administration plays a vital role in preventing these types of situations from occurring. For the past few years, he has been doing his part in spreading awareness about the importance of veterinarians and their pet owners knowing what they can do in the event something like this happens.

"I firmly believe that the nutritional and health benefits of commercially manufactured pet foods, especially those manufactured by companies with a long history of dedication to pet nutrition and health, continue to greatly outweigh the low risks of contamination in these products,” Evans said.

ESPN

Missouri guard Jordan Barnett suspended 1 game after DWI arrest

Missouri has suspended forward Jordan Barnett for the Tigers' opening game Friday of the NCAA tournament after the team's second-leading scorer was arrested for suspicion of DWI early Saturday morning.
According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri coach Cuonzo Martin said Barnett would be available for the Tigers if they advance past the first round.

"It'll be the next man [in] and we keep moving," Martin said Sunday, according to the Post-Dispatch. "It's what it is. We've managed to get to this point. You have Mike [Michael Porter Jr.] there in the fold. Jordan's out, Mike's in. I'm not sure how we'll start lineups. I don't know about that."

The eighth-seeded Tigers (20-12, 10-8 SEC) open the NCAA tournament against No. 9 seed Florida State (20-11) in Nashville, Tennessee.

Barnett, a senior from St. Louis, was pulled over by police officers in Columbia, Missouri, at 3 a.m. Saturday for a traffic violation. Major Brian Weimer of the University of Missouri Police confirmed to ESPN in an email that Barnett was charged with DWI and failure to drive within a single lane.

Barnett, a 6-foot-7, 215-pound wing player, is averaging 13.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game this season. He struggled in Missouri's 62-60 loss to Georgia in the second round of the SEC tournament in St. Louis on Wednesday, scoring three points on 1-for-8 shooting.

Porter, a Missouri freshman and a potential NBA lottery pick, returned to play in the SEC tournament after a long layoff due to a back injury that required surgery. He hadn't played since the season opener against Iowa State in mid-November, took a game-high 17 shots against Georgia but made only five for a total of 12 points. He also tied for a team-high eight rebounds.

Missouri's Jordan Barnett arrested for driving while intoxicated near campus

By: Blake Schuster

Missouri Tigers senior forward Jordan Barnett was arrested early Saturday morning on suspicion of driving while intoxicated near his college campus in Columbia. According to multiple reports, Barnett failed to stay in a single lane around 3:30 a.m. and was subsequently booked for DWI.

Barnett is the Tigers’ second-leading scorer, averaging close to 14 points and six rebounds per game while shooting 41 percent from three-point range. He recently snapped a streak of seven straight games scoring in double digits during a 62-60 loss to Georgia in the SEC tournament on
Thursday in St. Louis. During that game, Barnett was an uncharacteristic 1-for-8 from the field and recorded just three points as star freshman Michael Porter Jr. made his return from back surgery.

Missouri’s student-athlete handbook plainly states that any player arrested for driving under the influence will be subjected to a suspension from team activities for a minimum of one week. With Selection Sunday taking place this weekend, that means Barnett is likely to miss the Tigers first round game on either Thursday or Friday.

From a purely basketball standpoint, it’s a crushing blow to a team that was finally getting healthy and working to build momentum before the NCAA tournament.

Barnett has reportedly been released from police custody and Mizzou athletics has yet to comment fully on the situation.

**the maneater**

**Jordan Barnett arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated**

By Bennett Durando

**Missouri basketball senior forward Jordan Barnett was arrested early Saturday morning for suspicion of driving while intoxicated in Columbia, MUPD has confirmed to The Maneater.**

“Around 3 a.m. on March 10th, officers stopped Jordan Barnett (DOB 12/21/1995) for a traffic violation,” an MUPD spokesperson said in an email. “Through investigation Barnett was arrested around 3:26 a.m.”

Barnett’s arrest was for allegedly violating two city ordinances: 14-176, failing to drive within a single lane, and 14-612, driving while intoxicated.

Barnett was reportedly stopped by officers at Stadium Boulevard and Ashland Road. He was released on summons.

The team issued a statement acknowledging awareness of the incident but declined further comment.

Barnett has averaged 34.1 minutes played per game this season, his last with the program, and has averaged 13.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game.
He scored 3 points and totaled four rebounds on Thursday when Missouri was eliminated from the SEC Tournament by Georgia in the second round.

Missouri will likely be given an NCAA Tournament berth and be assigned a matchup on Sunday night during the Selection Show. The team is hosting an open watch party at Mizzou Arena for the show; its first-round game would be either next Thursday or Friday, and a win would mean a second-round game two days later.

It is unclear yet whether further disciplinary action from the program will prohibit Barnett from playing in a first-round game, but the Mizzou student-athlete handbook states that an athlete driving under the influence will be suspended from team activities for a minimum of one week upon first offense.

Gabe DeArmond of PowerMizzou.com first reported this story.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

City withholding details of incident report about former Mizzou player

Editorial by Tribune Staff

Somewhere, at some time, former Mizzou basketball standout Terrence Phillips may have been accused of something.

After more than a month of attempting to gain access to a Columbia Police Department incident report involving Phillips, that’s all we know.

Phillips, who became the subject of a Title IX investigation in January after multiple women came forward alleging sexual harassment and assault, was kicked off the men’s basketball team Feb. 20.

The incident report in question, which we were denied multiple times by the city of Columbia, might hold a clue to whether a crime related to the Title IX probe was ever reported to authorities.

Or it might hold nothing.

The problem is we don’t know, and it seems we never will.
Sunshine laws were created to ensure access to public records, and incident reports are among the most basic of public information. So why is this time different? Our questions only breed more questions but have failed to produce any answers.

The city’s first, second and third denial of access to this report are puzzling, each in a different way. The first request Jan. 28 asked for any incidents reports between Aug. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. The request was denied, citing an exemption aimed at protecting information about the victim. After further pressing we learned a week later the document requested didn’t actually exist. So, was this a preemptive denial?

In our second attempt, we asked for any incident reports between Jan. 1, 2017 and Feb. 6, 2018. This time we received an incident report, minus all the information. It essentially was a blank report waiting to be filled out. We pressed again for the release of information, and city attorneys reviewed our request once more. More than a week later a redacted report was released, which again included no information. The Tribune then filed a complaint with Missouri Attorney General’s Office. We believe the city is overreaching in its interpretation of Sunshine Law exemptions and what can and should be withheld.

In its response to the attorney general’s office, the city cited RSMo 610.021 (14) and 610.100.3, saying the law allows them to redact information likely to “jeopardize a criminal investigation.” Does that mean Phillips is currently under investigation? Is it connected to the Title IX probe? We asked CPD if there is or ever was an investigation regarding Phillips. All we were told is that he’s not in the city’s arrest records.

We dispute that disclosing the incident in this report would threaten any investigation, if in fact there even is one. The first two denials were centered on protecting the victim, then it turned into protecting the investigation. The situation involving Phillips has received widespread coverage, and not just in Missouri. In fact, we’ve even spoken with multiple victims who allege criminal conduct and reported their stories in this newspaper. Phillips’ alleged actions are not a secret. What authorities knew, how soon they knew it, and how police responded are the only secrets remaining. This has become a public issue, and the public’s right to know is not being honored.

Now for some backstory: The city justified the blank incident report given to reporters by citing case law established with a 1982 case known as Hyde v. City of Columbia, in which an attempted kidnapping victim sued both the city and Tribune for negligence. After receiving the information from the Columbia Police Department, a Tribune reporter at the time published the name and address of the victim while the perpetrator was still at large. The victim was then further harassed by the man who tried to kidnap her. It was as much a mistake then by the Tribune as it would be now to publish a victim’s personal information. We expected the city to protect the victim, but equal protection is being given to the accused.

The Tribune reached out to an expert on Sunshine Laws, Missouri Press Association legal counsel Jean Maneke, for her take.

“The Hyde case makes it clear what you’re supposed to protect is the name and address of the victim. This sounds like they went overboard. ... I think that (the city of) Columbia has gone too
far with this one,” Maneke told us. “There is no law that protects that record from being disclosed.”

Women claim to have been assaulted by a one-time star player, and we have zero knowledge about what was reported to official channels, or if they acted on that information. This incident report could reveal something, or nothing, but the problem is the same: we don’t know, but we should.

MU study finds more gender-equal countries have fewer women in STEM education

Story generated by MU News Bureau release: Countries with greater gender equality have lower percentage of female STEM graduates, MU study finds

By Tashfia Parvez

An MU study found countries that tend to be more gender-equal have a significantly higher percentage of male students going into science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The research was led by David Geary, a professor in the psychological sciences department, and Gijsbert Stoet, a professor in the School of Social Sciences at Leeds Beckett University in the U.K.

For the study, Geary and Stoet particularly focused on finding the root of the sex differences in inorganic sciences such as physics, engineering and other technology-based subjects. They excluded areas related to biology and medicine, as they did not find significant differences in sex in those fields.

Geary and Stoet collected data from 72 countries and gathered information on 475,000 teens aged 15–16. The adolescents were asked to complete international achievement tests that generated data on their math, science and reading competencies.

“We also got a measure of gender equality, which would be things like measuring lifespan, access to education, number of women in parliament,” Geary said. “Higher equality means women have more opportunities to do as well as or better than men.”

The study revealed that as countries get more gender-equal, the sex differences in the number of people getting STEM degrees grows.

“So in countries like Finland, 22 percent [are] women [who] get degrees in physics, engineering, computer science, but in Algeria it is over 40 percent,” Geary said.
Geary explained that part of the sex difference comes from the difference in the students’ best subjects. The achievement test revealed that women are usually best in literature or reading whereas men tend to be better in science or math.

“The more gender-equal countries’ education is more liberal, so students can kind of pick and choose classes beginning in high school,” Geary said. “When they are given that option, the difference increases. Boys take more science courses and girls take more literature-based courses.”

Sophomore nursing major Maggie Recca said she saw similar differences in her high school.

“Gender roles are everywhere,” Recca said. “They are ingrained into our education system and our society and the way you interact with people. In high school, my AP physics class had mostly men, and a lot of men from my graduating class went into engineering or other fields of science.”

Geary said more developed countries have greater economic niches, so students have more opportunities to choose subjects based on their interests.

Geary and Stoet also looked at overall life satisfaction in less developed countries like Algeria to explain the results.

“Economists have previously shown that things like employment opportunities, income, economic stability and risks are correlated with life satisfaction,” Geary said. “So one reason women are going into STEM in these less gender-equal countries might be due to financial reasons and job opportunities.”

Geary said that MU, and colleges in general, should focus their recruitment resources on girls whose best subject is science and math. Programs like mentoring or summer camps would be more successful if these teens were identified and targeted early on.

“If you want to get women into more inorganic sciences, you might target women who have an ability profile, interest profile of people already in those fields,” Geary said.

Recca agreed with Geary on targeting girls at a younger age and said they need to be appreciated and treated equally, especially because STEM classes are more male-dominated.

“A lot of women have passion to study the STEM fields, but it takes some encouragement to do that because those are traditionally men’s fields of work,” Recca said.
Arts Campus in Kansas City back on legislative agenda

NO MU MENTION

KANSAS CITY (AP) — State funding for a portion of a proposed arts campus in downtown Kansas City is back on the legislative agenda, a year after Gov. Eric Greitens vetoed a similar plan.

Missouri Rep. Noel Shull, a Republican from Kansas City, reintroduced a bill that would fund half the cost of building and furnishing a $96 million downtown Conservatory of Music and Dance near the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. The new bill is similar to one approved last session by the Missouri Legislature but vetoed by Greitens, the Kansas City Star reported.

“I went ahead and reintroduced it because my sense is that there is still a lot of interest in allowing the downtown conservatory to move forward as planned,” Shull said.

The former plan would require the state to issue up to $48 million in bonds in a 50-50 match program for capital projects at Missouri-Kansas City. The university had already raised $48 million and was waiting for the state match when Greitens vetoed the plan. The governor said the plan “would put taxpayers on the hook for over $75 million to build and run a conservatory for dancers and art students.” He said the university should raise private funds and make difficult budget decisions to fund the project.

Supporters feared the veto would jeopardize millions in private pledges but University of Missouri System officials vowed to find the money without the state’s help. They contend the downtown conservatory would boost cultural and economic development in Kansas City.

In January, The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Foundation dealt a blow to the project when it withdrew its $20 million pledge.

University system officials said it was too early to discuss the new legislation. “But it does demonstrate the support received from the legislature and the value that higher education brings to the state,” said university spokesman Christian Basi.

Missouri-Kansas City officials expressed gratitude to the legislature for supporting the proposal.
“We are continuing to explore the array of options for a new facility that serve the critical academic and research needs of our students and faculty,” university officials said in a statement.

**Should Mizzou students be tossed from campus election for Twitter transgressions?**

BY MELINDA HENNEBERGER
mhennberger@kcstar.com
March 11, 2018 07:00 AM
Updated March 11, 2018 07:00 AM

In 2012 and 2013, when she was 14 years old, Claire Jacobs seemed to think that “nigga” was a really cool word. “First boyfriend was a scrawny lil nigga,” she tweeted, along with a photo of her also-white, also-gawky baby friend.

Now, as a result of that and other, similar posts, she’s been shamed out of the race for University of Missouri student body president, as have two other candidates for student leadership positions.

In fact, the whole student government election was called off and will have to be rescheduled over some of the “racist” “homophobic,” and “ableist” online comments the three made years ago. When they decided to run for campus office, a student journalist found and circulated the offensive tweets, and all three issued mortified, abject apologies.

The chairman of the Board of Elections Commissioners said this “created issues and concerns about the legitimacy of them running,” especially given the history of “marginalized communities around campus.” The board suspended the election while it looked into potential infractions under the handbook, but found nothing regulating past behavior.

Current Missouri Student Association president Nathan Willett, who returned my call to his faculty adviser, says he called the three candidates in and told them that they hadn’t lived up to the high standards required of school leaders.

Willett urged them to put the university first and think about whether staying in the race was really the right thing to do. “It was a learning experience,” he said.

But is the lesson that holding wrong ideas as a kid is disqualifying as a young adult and beyond? The school has referred the students’ past comments to its civil rights and Title IX office.
We parents warn our kids that they should be careful about what they post, because it might be held against them some day. But we didn’t know that the online record of where they started out could be turned into a brickbat by their own peers.

You’d think their fellow students would understand better than anyone that no one wants his test-run trying on of various personas to represent his grown-up, or at least growing-up self.

Judging the posing postings of young teenagers so harshly is so counterproductive that one wishes there were one or two adults on the case in Columbia. (Hello? Hello?)

If there were, they’d surely check the Maoist tendencies of those junior inquisitors who will one day look back on this chapter and wish they’d been a little more generous.

Student journalist Brett Stover found that Blaine Thomas, who had been running for student body president, tweeted five years ago that, “Japanese pitchers shouldn’t be allowed” because “they are on...weird ass, oriental herbal shit.”

Four years ago, Thomas tweeted to a friend that she was “SO gay,” and said that “All this talk about Michael Brown is pointless. White or Black, if you try to grab a cops gonna get shot...Stop being so sensitive.”

Caius Gillen, who’d been running for vice president, tweeted two years ago, as a freshman, that he was “about to watch a black man swim for the first time. College truly is the best place for new experiences.”

The black friend he and some others had given his first swimming lesson that day wrote about that backstory this week.

But just as Gillen’s friend didn’t know how to swim until someone taught him, Gillen didn’t know better than to revert to stereotypes until someone taught him.

It’s to our shame that these ancient ideas about race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation endure. But if not knowing any better until we get out into the world and meet others unlike ourselves makes even teenagers irredeemable, then we might as well give up on America.

Some students also sneered at the candidates’ apologies. “Imagine Richard Nixon to the Washington Post: ‘Watergate was who I was in the past,’ ” tweeted another student journalist, mocking Jacobs for saying she’d changed.

But she isn’t Nixon, and offensive tweets from children aren’t a constitutional crisis. In fact, Jacobs made a lot more sense than her attackers did when she said that “today, I do not tolerate speech like this...This is a lesson of allowing those around you to have room to learn and grow.”

That these students aren’t being given that room is a disservice that I hope doesn’t make them bitter. Especially as they can’t help but notice that they’re being held to a higher standard than our current commander in chief.
Sigma Phi Epsilon sued for negligence

By Rudi Keller

A lawsuit filed this week accuses the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity of negligence and three members of the University of Missouri chapter with assault for an incident in September that left one student with a broken jaw and another needing dental work after being beaten near the fraternity house.

The lawsuit, filed by MU freshmen Sean Freihaut and Benjamin Poss, states that the national fraternity organization ignored hazing, criminal activity and abuse of alcohol and drugs at the MU chapter in order to maintain the flow of dues money — $200,000 a year — and keep the chapter from going into default on its $1.6 million mortgage.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Inc., the national governing organization, had numerous opportunities to prevent the assault and should have shut the fraternity down, the lawsuit states. It did not act until after the Sept. 22 assault, when it closed the chapter and ordered members to vacate the fraternity house at 405 Kentucky Ave.

“The chapter and its members frequently and repeatedly violated its obligations,” stated the lawsuit, filed in Boone County Circuit Court. “Moreover, the National Fraternity failed to appropriately respond” to “the chapter’s violations, other than a token punishment for symbolic purposes, thus allowing and enabling the chapter’s misconduct to continue.”

The lawsuit also names the MU chapter, president John Tocco, a junior at MU, and two freshmen, Nikolas Childress and Zachary Barabasz, who are also facing felony assault charges.

The national fraternity did not respond to emails and calls seeking comment. Tocco, Childress and Barabasz did not respond to emails to their university accounts asking for a response to the lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed Thursday and the defendants have not had a chance to formally respond.

Sigma Phi Epsilon was hit with university sanctions four times in 2016 and has been sanctioned several times since then, including violations of earlier sanctions. In one 2016 incident, an underage female student awoke in the hospital after spending two hours at a Sigma Phi party with an open bar.

The lawsuit is the latest black mark for fraternities on campus. It is the second lawsuit against a fraternity now closed, with Brandon Zingale, who almost died in a hazing drinking contest, having sued Kappa Alpha.
A consultant’s report delivered to MU in October by Dyad Strategies found poor oversight that created a free-for-all atmosphere in which fraternities and sororities could operate as they pleased with little fear of severe sanctions. The extensive list of recommendations included barring freshmen from living in fraternity houses, stricter enforcement of alcohol policies and increased security at social events to prevent rapes and hazing.

On the day before the lawsuit was filed, the Interfraternity Council at MU said new member activities at all 29 member fraternities would be suspended until March 19. There are 11 active investigations of Greek organizations underway and two council fraternities — Beta Theta Pi and Farmhouse — have been sanctioned for hazing for incidents that took place in September.

Childress and Barabasz were freshmen pledges living in the Sigma Phi Epsilon house when they attacked Freihaut and Poss, the lawsuit states. They assaulted Freihaut and Poss because they were required to as a hazing ritual, the lawsuit states.

Probable cause statements filed with the charges against Childress and Barabasz stated that Freihaut suffered a broken jaw when the fraternity members attacked them outside South Hall, a dormitory near the fraternity house. Poss suffered a chipped tooth. Childress admitted striking both Freihaut and Poss, the affidavit states, and Barabasz is identifiable on security video participating in the attack.

The lawsuit describes the assault in detail. Freihaut and Poss were walking to their dorm at 1:45 a.m. Sept. 22 when Barabasz and Childress accosted them as they passed the fraternity house. They ran, were caught by the fraternity members and beaten.

Freihaut needed multiple surgeries to repair the broken bones in his face and jaw, suffered a traumatic brain injury and has difficulty eating and speaking, the lawsuit states. Poss’ injuries were less severe but required dental treatment and he has suffered anxiety, poor academic performance and mental and emotional distress.

The negligence of the national fraternity and the lax oversight by the local chapter, the lawsuit states, “fuel a culture of bullying, physical intimidation, threats, aggression and/or violent tendencies and the foreseeable risk of physical harm to students and neighbors in the University of Missouri-Columbia campus community.”
JEFFERSON CITY — A small crowd of protesters gathered Saturday in front of the governor’s mansion — a cowbell and snare drum thumping to the beat of their chants.

The protesters repeatedly shouted, “Students and faculty, let’s unite. Education is a right.” They held signs with “Stop the cuts” and “College graduates use less public assistance.”

**The group included MU students, MU employees and Columbia residents who traveled to Jefferson City to participate in a Stop the Cuts Coalition rally.**

The coalition, or SCC, protested Gov. Eric Greitens’ call for almost $98 million in cuts to the state budget for higher education and the legislature’s proposal to increase the tuition cap.

“It wasn’t easy for me to get here,” MU junior Ningyuan Hu, an international student from China, said in a speech directed toward the protesters.

“My parents almost spent all their savings to support me to pay for my tuition, fees and other expenses.”

The tuition cap proposal was included in House Bill 2348 and would allow universities and colleges to raise tuition up to the rate of inflation plus another 10 percent if funding is not increased through appropriations.
It also would remove limits on tuition increases in years when the state doesn’t provide funding. The bill was passed Wednesday in the House Higher Education Committee with a 7-1 vote.

“When the state reneges on its obligation to adequately fund higher education, students are left to fill the gaps,” said Joseph Moore, one of the rally’s organizers.

“So the burden to finance your education is placed on the students, and that puts low-income, working-class and students of color at a disadvantage.”

Moore is a graduate student and graduate instructor at MU. He said his experiences have led to his belief that education “should be accessible to everyone.”

“I think education is a public good, and I think it should be treated as a public good,” he said.

MU junior Victoria Vitale told the crowd she has “accrued nearly $50,000 in federal and private student loan debt,” even though she works “25 to 35 hours a week.” She faced the governor’s mansion as she asked, “Tell me, Governor, why is becoming a social worker at a publicly funded Missouri school so financially difficult?

“Why must I also sacrifice my financial future?” she asked. “Why must I question myself everyday every day if I will be able to afford to have children?”

Vitale, a major in social work and economics, said she comes from a household below the poverty line. She said increasing tuition rates make it difficult for students like her to earn a college degree.

“Instead of taking $12,000 next year (in loans), I’d have to take out $15,000,” Vitale said after her speech. “And the thing is, with interest, that’s going to end up being $25,000 by the time I fully pay it off.”

Moore and Vitale both said they want the governor to stop lowering the corporate tax rate and allocate the money toward funding for public universities.
“This quote unquote ‘budget situation’ was created; it didn’t fall from the sky, and it’s a consequence of year, after year, after year of them eroding the state’s revenue base through needless, unnecessary tax cuts that would disproportionately benefit the wealthiest residents of the state and corporations,” Moore said.

“Even while the governor is proposing cutting higher education by a hundred million dollars, he’s also proposing to make corporate tax in Missouri the second lowest in the nation.”

Greitens proposed a tax cut in January that would cut the rate for the top income tax bracket from 5.9 percent to 5.3 percent and would bring the corporate tax rate down from 6.25 percent to 4.25 percent. During his statewide tax tour, Greitens described these cuts as ways to help Missouri families and bring in more jobs. The only state with a lower corporate tax rate is North Carolina.

The SCC was created in February in reaction to the proposed statewide budget cuts. The members are primarily MU students, faculty and employees. Moore said about 20 members consistently show up to meetings. The coalition is supported by CoMo for Progress, Mid-Missouri Peaceworks and Our Revolution: Mid-Missouri.

“Because the coalition is new, we wanted to have an event that would sort of announce our presence and raise our profile a little bit,” Moore said.

“So this is really just a kick-off of more things to come.”
Protesters gather outside governor's mansion to protest higher education cuts

By WESLEY WEGLAREK


JEFFERSON CITY - Around 50 mid-Missouri students, faculty and staff marched from the Capitol to Gov. Eric Greitens' mansion Saturday afternoon to protest cuts to higher education.

The Stop the Cuts Coalition (SCC) organized the march. SCC is a coalition of Missouri campus groups that oppose Greitens' proposed almost $98 million cut to public higher education in Missouri for fiscal 2019.

"I think it was time for students, faculty and staff in Missouri's public colleges and universities to send a clear messages to Greitens that we don't want these cuts," Joseph Moore, organizer for the SCC, said. "They're unnecessary, they're hurting the [UM System], and they're hurting Missouri students."

These proposed cuts would add to last year's $159 million cuts to higher education, which led to the elimination of 475 jobs across the UM System.

"People in this state care about higher education," Moore said. "Greitens cannot continue to defund and disrespect higher education without a very vocal response from Missouri residents and students."

The SCC is built around four main principles: education is a right, no cuts, no tuition hikes and no layoffs.
Dr. Maren Bell Jones, a veterinarian who graduated from University of Missouri, said she went to MU for 11 years before graduating from veterinary school. She said her student loan bill per month was almost double than her mortgage payment.

"We're asking [students] to take the cuts instead of looking at some of the other spending and budgeting issues," Jones said.

KOMU 8 News reached out to Greitens' office but got no response.

What's next for Gov. Eric Greitens?
With a vague Constitution, not many know

BY KATHRYN HARDISON, Mar 11, 2018

JEFFERSON CITY — No one in the Missouri Capitol seems to know what exactly is in store for Gov. Eric Greitens.

Until now, Missouri has never had an acting governor indicted on a felony. Nor has the state ever impeached a governor.

Former Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, came close after Republican lawmakers filed three articles of impeachment against him in 2014, alleging he had signed an executive order that violated a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, among other issues.

House leadership eventually dropped the charges after deciding Nixon’s actions did not merit impeachment.

While the Missouri Constitution clearly explains the processes of impeachment and succession, it doesn’t address at what point the governor is no longer capable of filling the role.
The uncertainty has lawmakers and leaders in the Capitol shrugging their shoulders in confusion.

However, a Missouri statute says that if convicted of a felony, Greitens would have to forfeit the office.

Missouri has had its share of legislative members who have been convicted, impeached or resigned. And governors in other states have been in high water like this, but criminal indictments against governors generally involve public corruption, which makes Greitens’ felony charge even more unusual.

**What the law says**

Greitens was indicted in February by a St. Louis grand jury for felony invasion of privacy after the court had reason to believe Greitens took and transmitted a nude photograph of a woman, whom he has confessed to having an affair with before he was governor.

While Greitens has not been found guilty by a court of law, House leaders announced last week a committee tasked to “investigate the facts” of the governor’s indictment.

Committee chairman Jay Barnes, R-Jefferson City, said the committee will decide what to do with the information after the reports are complete. The results will help the House know whether to file articles of impeachment.

Days later, the House unanimously approved the investigation and passed a resolution that gives the committee 40 days to investigate the allegations.

The committee’s deadline is the first week of April. If Greitens were to be removed from office, Republican Lt. Gov. Mike Parson would become governor.

Under Missouri law, it’s clear that a person convicted of a felony is not allowed to vote. But what about run the state?

The state Constitution only explains the impeachment process, including the powers granted to the House of Representatives in filing articles of impeachment. Usually, impeachment trials are heard by the State
Supreme Court, but in the case of the governor, a panel of seven jurists would be chosen by the Senate to hear the case.

Impeachment, resignation and death are the only ways a governor can be removed from office in Missouri. The Constitution does not mention what should happen if an official were convicted of a felony.

Frank Bowman, a law professor at the MU School of Law, offered insight into the interpretation of state law that helped bridge the gaps left by the vague state Constitution.

Bowman pointed to a Missouri statute concerning forfeiture of office (562.021), which says a person holding office that is convicted of a felony must forfeit the office.

Bowman said he interprets it to mean the governor would have to forfeit his governorship upon conviction of a felony.

“Essentially what it seems to say is that you’re automatically out,” Bowman said, “which is why the prosecution in the St. Louis (city) circuit court is so consequential, because if he’s convicted of a felony there, he’s out regardless of what the legislature has to say about it.”

Story continues: https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/state_news/what-s-next-for-gov-eric-greitens-with-a-vague/article_9f0cc736-1f16-11e8-820a-7f75cbf1b7c5.html
MU Engineering School host 5k/10k despite snow

By Nnamdi Egwuonwu

COLUMBIA - What goes great with a long run? Some say snow.

"It's not bad running weather," said Kacey Ellwein. "Once you warm up and your joints get used to it, it feels nice to have some cool snow falling on you."

Ellwein was just one of about 40 runners that participated in MU's School of Engineering's annual 5k/10k run on Sunday, as a part of the school's "Engineers' Week."

Jessica Stromsdorfer, one of the coordinators for the race, said while the event happens every year, the weather is less predictable.

"I think in other years it's just a gamble on the weather, but we like to do the event. It's outside and it get's people active," she said.

Participants had the option of running either a 5k or 10k, 3.1 and 6.2 miles respectively. St. Pat's Board, the engineering's club that planned the race, charged runners a $20 fee to participate. Proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity.

"They make a difference in our local community for families in need of homes and a lot of the engineering organizations volunteer for 'Habitat' throughout the year as well and go help build houses," said runner Becky Gann. "It's kind of a fun way to raise some money for them."

In the end, both runners and coordinators alike said the weather will without a doubt make this a run to remember.

"I think this will be a great memory for everyone even though the weather was bad this year," said Stromsdorfer. "It still turned out really pretty, it looks like a snow globe."
Engineers' Week is one of MU's longest traditions, dating back 115 years. It will continue until March 17. Other events include a hot dog banquet, a 'giving' day and a casino night.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

Some CPS students to walk out Wednesday

NO MU MENTION

By Waverly Colville

Columbia Public Schools officials are making plans for how to respond when some students walk out of class Wednesday to push for changes in gun policy.

Wednesday is significant because it will mark one month since the Valentine’s Day mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Students around the country are planning to walk out of their classes for 17 minutes at 10 a.m., in honor of the 17 people killed.

Principals at CPS high schools referred questions to the district’s central office. CPS spokeswoman Michelle Baumstark said the district has heard rumors of the walkout happening at secondary schools. Although the district does not expect elementary school students to participate, there is a plan in place in case they do. Parents will have to sign students out.

District employees cannot participate in walkouts, demonstrations or protests while at work. Any walkout at CPS would be entirely student-planned, Baumstark said.

She said there is a plan in place to provide security on campuses but it will not be released because of safety concerns.

“We want to make sure our educational environment is not disrupted,” Baumstark said. “But we also have an obligation if this takes place on our campus to keep our students safe. And so while education is our purpose, safety will always be our first priority. We have plans in place that will address safety of our students.”

At Battle High School, junior Grant Bradshaw is helping plan for a walkout. He posted on Instagram about the walkout and is planning 17 minutes of silence to honor the victims.
“I think doing this in school will hopefully show our local legislators, representatives and officials that we have a voice,” Bradshaw said. “To be a part of something that can potentially make a difference in our community is better than sitting in class.”

Paige Flottman, a senior at Battle, is also involved. The two met with Principal Kim Presko to discuss the school’s plan. Flottman and Bradshaw estimate more than 50 students from all grades will participate.

The school will allow them to go onto the football field and will provide supervision, Flottman said.

Teachers are expected to keep teaching, Baumstark said. The district also has a plan for students who choose not to participate in the walkout to ensure they also have supervision.

The school has a partnership with the Columbia Police Department with school resource officers at all four high schools and a floating school resource officer who goes between middle schools throughout the year, CPD spokeswoman Bryana Larimer said. She also said CPD and CPS have talked about the walkout and there are plans in place, though exact details have not been released.

“We aren’t sharing all the specifics of our plans with the public because it’s also a safety concern for us,” Baumstark said. “It’s not like they’re inside of our secure building so we have to be careful about that.”

There are several other days the district is aware of regarding possible protests. March for Our Lives will occur on March 24, a Saturday, and another national walkout is scheduled for April 20 — the anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting.

Flottman and Bradshaw both said they are supporting and possibly participating in future protests as well.

“Students my age are not only making the difference now but will be making a difference,” Flottman said. “By the end of the year, a fourth of high schoolers at Battle will be able to vote and I really see my generation stepping up and starting to vote even more than most 18-year-olds usually do.”
How a Harassment Controversy Tore a University Apart

NO MU MENTION

By Katherine Mangan

Inside the University of Rochester’s department of brain and cognitive sciences, a scattering of researchers work behind windows of frosted glass, rarely stepping out to interact with colleagues unless they’re conducting research together.

The chill in the hallways of this prestigious department was evident on a recent afternoon as snowflakes swirled outside. Ever since a tenured member of the department, T. Florian Jaeger, was accused and then largely exonerated of violating the university’s sexual-misconduct policies, the department, and indeed, the institution as a whole, has been a bitterly divided place.

Certain points are without dispute. Early in his career at the university, Jaeger partied with students, blurring personal and professional boundaries and engaging in behavior that made some uncomfortable. His actions, which involved raw, unfiltered language and intimate relationships with students, prompted a number of graduate students to steer clear of working with him.

There’s widespread disagreement, though, over whether his behavior nearly a decade ago amounted to sexual harassment, as defined at the time, and whether it matters that it might be viewed differently today.

There’s also considerable dispute over specific allegations, including that Jaeger left students with the impression that in order to succeed, they had to socialize with him and tolerate a sexually promiscuous environment.

Jaeger is on paid academic leave this semester, continuing research and working with graduate students but not teaching. His status for the fall is uncertain.

Critics from inside and outside the university are demanding that Rochester adopt a tougher response to complaints of harassment. But a report by a law firm hired by the university concluded that Jaeger’s behavior didn’t actually rise to that level — at least legally — and that some of the accusations against him were misleading or inaccurate.
So how can Rochester respond in ways that are fair to everyone involved? And when actions on both sides have generated so much mistrust and disagreement, is healing possible?

Jaeger’s accusers, including some current and former faculty members and graduate students, believe he got off on a technicality when the university determined, through two separate investigations and appeals processes, that troubling and unprofessional behavior did not constitute a policy violation. Even the law firm’s outside review, which cost the university $4.5 million, found that some women say they avoided working with the professor because of what they considered his inappropriate comments and behavior.

But faculty members and students who have come to his defense say the complainants have gone too far in describing him publicly as a "sexual predator." His behavior, while offensive, ended years ago, they contend, after it was called to his attention.

“Whenever you raise questions, you might be attacked. You're one click away from a horrible backlash.” The fact that the outside report acknowledged some of the complaints against Jaeger but largely exonerated the university only deepened fractures within the department, giving each side ammunition to use against the other.

What nearly everyone would agree on is that the fallout has had devastating consequences for the department, the university’s reputation, and the students and scholars caught in the cross hairs.

The case serves as an illustration of how much is at stake, and how many lives can be affected, in the battles over sexual harassment being waged at colleges nationwide. It also points to the need to re-evaluate policies and practices that can allow offensive behavior to go unchecked until a law or policy is broken. By then, as Rochester has found, attempts at mediation will very likely face long odds.

As trained mediators sit down with students, faculty members, and staff this month, questions are likely to be raised about justice, fairness, and whether professors who have behaved inappropriately can eventually be reintegrated into campus life.

Story continues.