

OCT 16 2009

# theman eater

## Faculty Council discusses Mizzou Advantage

*Other subjects included faculty e-mail and a syllabus statement change.*

**By Rachel Allred**  
Published Oct. 16, 2009

Faculty Council discussed plans and expectations for Mizzou Advantage during their meeting Thursday. They also discussed a new policy for surveillance of faculty e-mails, a syllabus statement change and revising bylaw guidelines.

Provost Brian Foster was a guest speaker at the meeting and explained the progression of Mizzou Advantage, a set of five initiatives to make MU more competitive with peer universities. Foster said the project is a plan to build upon MU's existing assets.

"The name of the game is really impact," Foster said. "In science, in therapies, in whatever we do we want to have a big impact."

Foster said the five strategic initiatives and the focuses of the program are food for the future, comparative medicine, media for the future, sustainable energy and how to manage disruptive information technology.

Foster said the units will bring more people to the campus and will broaden the university's reach.

"The organization will not be new institutes or new centers," Foster said. "They will be networks and they will be dynamic networks that will bring people together. The networks will include not just things on campus but also collaborators off campus."

The networks will work together to plan big projects, sponsor conferences on major topics and carry out other activities that people from around the world will be invited to, Foster said.

Foster said Mizzou Advantage has a budget of \$4 million a year, but he said it will have a return on its investment.

"We will have increased grants, increased grant revenues, increased philanthropic giving," Foster said. "We get at least \$4 million a year in these areas, and we ought to be able to increase that at least double in the next six or seven years."

As part of Mizzou Advantage, MU will also create 40 new course programs, which will be 13 to 15 hour courses, to bring students up to date on new media.

"The idea of the certificates was to give people a very broad understanding of the dynamics of the media world and where it's going so they have a leg up on their colleagues," Foster said.

At a Faculty Council meeting in September, members raised questions about the acceptable use policy, which allows the university to check faculty members' and students' e-mail accounts. Faculty Council Chairwoman Leona Rubin said specific guidelines have been established regarding the accessibility of e-mail accounts.

"IT personnel can access an e-mail account if the individual who owns that account is not available due to death, or they're traveling or they leave the institution," Rubin said.

Before an e-mail account can be accessed, a request has to be signed by multiple people, Rubin said. This creates a checks and balances system, but that doesn't apply when legal allegations are involved. Rubin said the policy isn't as imposing as the council originally thought.

"What seemed like something invasive turned out to be not very invasive," Rubin said.

Executive Board Member Leah Cohn discussed a change in the syllabus statement. She said the Missouri Students Association asked for a revision last year on the statement regarding intellectual diversity and who could be approached if someone feels discriminated against in class. Cohn said a new proposal would be discussed during the next meeting.

Cohn said the revision will include that the university community welcomes intellectual diversity, and students who have questions or concerns regarding atmosphere in class, including respect for diverse opinions, can contact one of various offices, including the departmental chairperson or the Equity Office.

## MU Police seek help identifying suspects in two cases

By Han Cheung

October 15, 2009 | 1:28 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — The MU Police Department is seeking assistance from the community to identify suspects in two separate cases, a burglary and an assault.**

At about 4:40 p.m. on Sept. 27, two males and two females broke into room 281 in the Hearnes Center and stole clothing belonging to the MU athletics department, according to police. The four people can be seen in a surveillance video. Note: The woman in the green shirt at the end of the video is not related to the case.

At about 6:20 p.m. on Sept. 19, a male in a black shirt assaulted a male and a female near the southeast corner of Maryland Avenue Garage, according to police. The suspect headed north on Deans Drive afterward. The police need help identifying the four people in the following photographs. Note: The time in the photographs is one hour behind the actual time, so they were taken at 6:21 rather than 5:21.

## MU looks to replace faulty fire sprinkler heads

By Kaylee Nelson

October 16, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — After sprinkler heads destroyed some State Historical Society of Missouri documents, MU is in the process of replacing similar heads in the building.**

MU identified 21 additional sprinkler heads that were the same type as the faulty head in the State Historical Society and will replace them by an unspecified date, according to a Columbia Fire Department news release.

A fire sprinkler head activated between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Sept. 30, said Gary Kremer, executive director of the State Historical Society, which is located on the ground floor of Ellis Library. Kremer said no one-of-a-kind documents were ruined. Some original documents were destroyed, but all of them had other original copies.

The fire sprinkler head was a specialty head that had been manufactured by SimplexGrinnell in the mid-1970s, when the company was called Grinnell. Fire sprinkler heads are designed to activate when exposed to excessive heat and to shut off when the heat has dissipated.

Independent testing labs have shown that accidental activation of fire sprinkler heads is rare and happens in only one out of every 16 million heads, according to the Fire Department news release.

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## H1N1 vaccine available in Boone County, not MU

*FluMist has been approved for healthy people ages 2 to 49.*

**By Victoria Guida**  
Published Oct. 16, 2009

The H1N1 vaccine reached Boone County on Tuesday, but the MU Student Health Center has not received it yet.

The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services received 900 doses of the H1N1 vaccine known as FluMist, according to a news release. The vaccine is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for healthy people ages 2 to 49, but certain groups will receive the vaccine before others. Priority groups include those ages 2 to 4 and ages 5 to 18 with chronic medical conditions.

Pregnant women are also listed as a priority group, but they are not approved to receive FluMist, and the vaccine is not yet available for them, said the department's spokeswoman Geni Alexander.

The approved vaccine FluMist is a nasal spray offered by MedImmune. MedImmune spokeswoman Karen Lancaster said a vaccine that can be injected exists for those who are not approved to use FluMist. This includes pregnant women, people with underlying health conditions and infants less than 2 years old. This version of the vaccine is not available in Boone County.

Alexander said many of the first vaccines have gone to health care workers, including family medical physicians and pediatricians because they are exposed to members of the public.

Pam Roe, Student Health Center senior information specialist, said the university does not have the vaccine yet, but it will be posted on MU's Web site as soon as it is available.

"The Student Health Center, just like everyone in the state, has put in a request for how many doses we think we're going to need, but that's how far it's gone, we haven't heard anything back from the department of health," Roe said. "We are one of their priorities, though, because of the age group that we serve."

Roe said the Student Health Center recommends people get their seasonal vaccine at the outreach flu clinics they offer. She also said as soon as the H1N1 vaccine arrives, it will be offered at those clinics. The seasonal vaccine costs \$25 and the H1N1 vaccines will be free because the state is paying for them.

"If you're signed up for the seasonal vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine comes out the next day or something, we'll put you in the express lane for the H1N1," Roe said. "Then you can go ahead and get both. There's no reason why you can't have both at the same time."

Alexander said people should be patient when waiting for the priority groups to receive the first batches of the vaccine.

"Eventually there will be a vaccine for everyone that wants it," she said. "It's just not all coming out right now."

Students are encouraged to get the vaccine when it's available, Alexander said, but there is no way to be sure how prevalent H1N1 is since clinics stopped testing for it specifically once the virus was confirmed to be in the area.

"Anecdotally, we hear from physicians and other places that they are seeing a rise in the number of people presenting with influenza-like symptoms, but you know, it is this time of the year," Alexander said.

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## Amethyst Initiative legislation passes at joint session

*MU student governments urged Forsee and Deaton to sign.*

**By Megan Pearl**

Published Oct. 16, 2009

After an hour-long debate, the MU student governments passed a joint resolution to urge UM system President Gary Forsee and Chancellor Brady Deaton to sign on to the Amethyst Initiative. The Amethyst Initiative is a movement supported by 135 American college and university presidents who support a discussion on the legal drinking age and what changes could be made to encourage responsible drinking among young adults.

Josh Travis, Missouri Students Association Operations Committee chairman, gave the initial speech about the legislation. Travis claims the legal drinking age is not working and has developed an increase in the amount of dangerous binge drinking habits among underage university students.

Much of the debate was concerning the repercussions of changing the drinking age, not the legislation itself. Dissent developed quickly in response to the allegation the age limit is responsible for dangerous drinking habits among university students.

In a speech of opposition to the legislation, MSA Sen. Garret Bergquist said Mothers Against Drunk Driving publicly spoke against trying to lower the drinking age. According to the MADD Web site, an estimated 25,000 lives have been saved by the instatement of the age limit.

The discussion over the bill became heated on the topic of student drinking and arguments of legal contradictions on campus.

"The culture on campus is that of binge drinking," MSA Sen. Brett Dinkins said. "People do not binge drink because they cannot buy alcohol. They do it because they want to be drunk."

Travis' legislation also alleges a double standard between 18-year-olds being able to vote, sign contracts, serve on juries or enlist in the military, but who are then denied the ability to legally drink alcohol.

"There is an inconsistency in the rules for arrest on regular day versus game days," said Blake Lawrence, Residence Halls Association speaker of Congress. "If the campus is dry, then why can parents and alumni bring alcohol on game day, and then the next day arrest students for the very same thing?"

Of those opposed to the initiative, biased intentions of the creators and the people signing the petition were a primary concern.

"This is not an open discussion," Dinkins said. "The discussion is about all the things you can do under 21 except drink alcohol, and they obviously believe the drinking age is too high. It is a lobbying effort to lower the age limit."

Operations Committee Vice Chairman Evan Wood responded to this claim in his speech by saying he felt bias was a non-issue. He said the Amethyst Initiative wants to open a discussion about the drinking age and any debate is open to public input.

Among further dissent, the question was raised of what effect signing the Amethyst Initiative would have on MU's public image.

"It would reflect as a university that is willing to discuss issues that are affecting college-aged students, such as the drinking age," Wood said.

Although the legislation was passed through the student governments, it does not mean Forsee and Deaton will be forced to, or choose to, sign the statement.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## **Biden visits St. Louis, touts stimulus impact**

By Jake Wagman

POST-DISPATCH

THU, Oct 16 2009

**MU mention page 2**

ST. LOUIS — Vice President Joe Biden returned to St. Louis on Thursday to fill two roles: traveling stimulus salesman and campaign rainmaker.

Biden's trip to St. Louis was his second since last year's vice presidential debate at Washington University. On Thursday, the vice president made brief stops on both sides of the city border as the administration seeks to promote its economic recovery efforts and help other Democrats pining for Washington in 2010.

Around the time Biden was touching down in St. Louis, the White House released figures showing that a small portion of stimulus funding has been able to provide an incremental employment benefit.

Biden's boss, President Barack Obama, was on a similar trip Thursday, visiting New Orleans for the first time since he was sworn into office.

The vice president's itinerary here featured a speech at the St. Louis County Police and Fire Training Center in Wellston and remarks to a private fundraising event near Forest Park for U.S. Senate hopeful Robin Carnahan.

The audiences were vastly different — future cops and firefighters at the first stop, wealthy political patrons at the second — but the message was largely the same.

Biden portrayed an economy that, while still not in pristine shape, has come a long way. Biden took credit for the improvements in the stock market — which, he said, shows confidence in White House policies — and lauded stimulus efforts as helping to retain police and other emergency responders.

"Are we home yet? No, no we are not," Biden said at the county training center.

"But we've stopped the bleeding. The patient is gaining consciousness. We are making progress."

While Biden was trumpeting stimulus success, Obama's administration on Thursday posted details it had promised on a small fraction of Recovery Act spending up to now in the form of federal contracts.

The piecemeal information reflected outlays of just \$16 billion of the \$787 billion Recovery Act, most of which has not yet been spent. The White House said the new data supported conclusions that the stimulus package had created or saved about 1 million jobs in its first seven months.

The new data showed that Missouri had received 218 contracts valued at \$146 million, work that had directly created 475 jobs. Roughly \$54 million, or about a third of the contracts' value, had been spent.

In Illinois, the White House reported letting 219 contracts valued at \$479 million, creating employment for 288 people. Just \$21.6 million of that money had been spent.

The contracts represent a fraction of all that will be awarded and do not include grants and loans states are receiving. More contract details are scheduled to be filed Oct. 30; the White House said they will be posted at its [recovery.com](http://recovery.com) website.

Information released thus far shows that Missouri universities are faring well in stimulus spending. **The University of Missouri had won 43 research grants for a variety of projects, totaling nearly \$17 million;** Washington University was scheduled to receive more than \$12 million for 36 projects. Among the Energy Department's stimulus grants is a \$3 million award to the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in Creve Coeur for advanced biofuels research.

Though Biden said that the "still horrendous" job figures would be worse without the recovery plan, others said that even calling the stimulus a limited success is premature.

Missouri state Sen. Scott Rupp, R-Wentzville, who is co-chair of a stimulus

oversight committee in Missouri, said 70 to 80 cents of every dollar of the stimulus hasn't been spent yet.

"Most of the money hasn't even hit the street, so to tout its success at this point is ridiculous," Rupp said. "To me it's been a dismal failure."

In Wellston, Biden met with county police and fire recruits, who probably received more face time with the vice president than the political donors who paid top dollar to listen to him at the Carnahan event.

At the fundraiser, Biden sprinkled well-worn tales of his upbringing in Scranton, Pa., with praise for Carnahan, who is in her second term as Missouri secretary of state.

Biden provided further hints that his son Beau, Delaware's attorney general, will run for the vice president's old Senate seat, saying: "I find it a hell of a lot harder to watch my kid run" than run himself.

Then, Biden looked at Robin's mother, Jean, herself a former U.S. senator who served briefly with Biden.

"I may need a little bit of advice from you," Biden said.

The fundraiser was held at the Lindell Boulevard home of Alan Mandel, a St. Louis attorney, and his wife, Annette, the former mayor of Creve Coeur. The event comes as Carnahan and her presumptive GOP opponent, U.S. Rep Roy Blunt, are locked in a battle for fundraising supremacy.

Blunt raised \$1.3 million to Carnahan's \$1.07 million for the quarter that ended Sept. 30. Blunt has an even larger advantage in cash on hand: \$2.3 million to Carnahan's \$1.8 million. Each candidate raised more than \$900,000 from individuals, while netting the rest from political committees.

Carnahan's event was not open to the public, allowing Blunt to continue his criticism that Carnahan has been staying away from situations where she could be quizzed on her policy positions. "I've been out talking about the issues and appearing at event after event in Missouri," Blunt said. "I'd like to see the

other campaign held to that same standard."

Bill Lambrecht, Tony Messenger and Kevin McDermott of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Blunt, Carnahan both top \$1M in Mo. Senate race

By DAVID A. LIEB

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday, Oct. 16, 2009

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Republican Roy Blunt and Democrat Robin Carnahan each took in more than \$1 million this past quarter — and spent most of it — as they built up their campaigns for Missouri's 2010 Senate race.

Campaign finance reports released Thursday show Blunt raised more money than Carnahan for the second straight reporting period, slightly widening his cash advantage. But the gap is not large, and both campaigns are likely to receive considerable aid from their national political parties.

Missouri's race to replace retiring Republican Sen. Kit Bond is expected to be among the most closely contested next year as Republicans seek to dent the Democrats' filibuster-proof majority in the Senate.

Blunt, who represents southwest Missouri's 7th Congressional District, raised \$1.3 million from July through September and spent \$789,986. Carnahan, Missouri's secretary of state, raised a little less than \$1.1 million and spent \$601,481.

After adding previous contributions and subtracting expenses, Blunt reported almost \$2.3 million remaining in his campaign account, and Carnahan had more than \$1.8 million.

**"They're raising roughly comparable amounts of money, maybe a little bit of an edge to Blunt, but this is going to be a very serious, very competitive race," said political science professor Jay Dow, of the University of Missouri-Columbia.**

Blunt and Carnahan both are spending at a fairly rapid pace, considering the election is a year away. Blunt spent nearly 61 cents of every \$1 he received during the past three months; Carnahan spent 56 cents of every \$1 raised.

“Roy Blunt is an active candidate, and he’s running a high-energy campaign,” said Blunt spokesman Rich Chrismer. “It includes traveling the state, meeting voters, raising resources, establishing your campaign infrastructure, holding events and news conferences.”

Carnahan spokesman Linden Zakula said part of the reason for her spending rate is that the campaign has been adding staff, focusing on fundraising and building its mailing operations.

They are “things that will help us build our campaign momentum, both now and long term,” Zakula said.

The candidates also are reaching out for some big-name support. Carnahan hosted a fundraiser Thursday in St. Louis with Vice President Joe Biden. Blunt held a St. Louis fundraiser in September with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Blunt and Carnahan already have far more money in the bank than other candidates for the Missouri Senate seat.

An aide for Republican Chuck Purgason said the state senator from southern Missouri had raised \$11,035 since he entered the race in late July through the end of September, and had \$1,067 on hand after expenditures.

“Lack of money doesn’t concern me,” Purgason said. “I know it’s important, but I think what you’re seeing out there is a perfect storm brewing of anti-incumbency” against Washington officials.

Republican Mark Memoly of Lee’s Summit reported raising \$300 for his U.S. Senate campaign and spending \$17.50.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## University tensions addressed by Difficult Dialogue

By Michelle Hagopian

October 15, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Kourtney Mitchell faces racism on a daily basis.

"I definitely experience quite a bit of racism in my own life," said Mitchell, 23, a staff member at the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. "Everything from straight out institutionalized racism to just very blunt on the street racism."

**So when Mitchell attended an event on race and civility hosted by the MU Difficult Dialogues program, he had an vested interest.**

"It's incredibly important for me, the African-American community and the well-being of our society and community," he said. "People need to be aware of these things."

The event, Courageous Conversations about Race & Civility: A Dialogue for Everyone, was a town hall meeting and an interactive theater held Thursday night in MU's Cornell Hall.

The Difficult Dialogues Initiative is a nationwide program designed to help higher education institutions handle tensions in a university setting. The program is made up of students who act out real-life situations where conflict arises in a civil, interactive way. MU's Difficult Dialogues troupe addresses issues such as race, religion and sexual orientation.

Roger Worthington, MU's chief diversity officer, said the interactive theater is used as a catalyst for dialogue.

"We hope we can create a dialogue at MU for the Columbia community that will actually be more civil and more thoughtful and hopefully more productive," he said.

When Worthington addressed the crowd of nearly 100, he did so in hopes of opening up a conversation in the room.

"We want you to express yourself about controversial subject matter," he said. "Difficult dialogue contains emotions that are real, and we don't want to strip that away."

Worthington and Nathan Stephens, director of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center, opened up the floor to the Difficult Dialogues troupe, comprised of five students and a faculty member. The troupe performed "Identity Politics," a skit that delved into the issue of affirmative action on college campuses. The actors performed for the audience and demonstrated the various viewpoints on race and ethnicity present in society. After the skit, audience members had the opportunity to come to the microphone and ask questions that the actors would answer in character.

Open discussion and a short video addressing race issues in society followed the skit.

Worthington said the discourse in America has become more volatile.

"When you look at broader discourse in American culture right now, I think there's a lot of hostility and anger and maybe even hate that is being raised to the surface," he said.

Carolyn Magnuson, a part-time MU faculty adviser for elementary education, said this was her first time attending an interactive theater.

"It absolutely met my expectations, and I was very pleased with what I personally gained from the dialogue and theater," she said. "The whole conversation was excellently facilitated in an expert way."

# theman eater

## IncludeME MU drafts new proposal

*The proposal would expand the university's non-discrimination policy.*

**By Jessica Silverman**  
Published Oct. 16, 2009

IncludeMe MU, a campaign to include gender identity and expression in MU's non-discrimination policy, met Wednesday night with Triangle Coalition to review the new proposal for Chancellor Brady Deaton.

"Our interest in changing the verbiage of the policy is rooted in the injustices that members of the university community with non-traditional gender identities are currently experiencing," the proposal states.

Because the non-discrimination clause does not include gender identity or expression, students, faculty and staff have no protection against failing courses or evaluations, having their employment terminated or being discriminated against because of those things.

Last spring, IncludeMe MU had 82 percent of the student body vote to add "gender identity and expression" to the Missouri Students Association's constitution.

"There's a general misunderstanding about what (gender identity) is," Triangle Coalition Multicultural Liaison Yantézia Patrick said. "People can be harassed based on gender expression if they're an effeminate man or a masculine woman."

Patrick said people don't understand the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation.

Transgender interest group Fluidity President Emily Colvin said gender identity is the gender someone identifies with. Biological sex and sexual orientation are different.

"Expression is who you are," Colvin said. "Somebody can be male but expresses female expression. Someone can have feminine traits but that doesn't mean their identity is female. The typical tomboy's gender is female but their gender identity is not really female."

Erin Horth, TriCo president and a leader of IncludeMe MU, said the campaign protects those who don't perform their gender in ways society sees as acceptable.

Horth said she brought up the proposal to Deaton in the past.

"I had a very informal conversation with Deaton," Horth said. "He brushed me off. I didn't really get a response from him."

The chancellor said he had heard about the IncludeMe MU campaign from MSA President Jordan Paul, but didn't say anything in support, Horth said.

"Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton did support it, but wasn't optimistic of getting it done in the near future," Horth said.

Horth said the logic of the administration is politics.

"People on the board of curators and the university are afraid to pass it," Horth said. "They're worried about repercussions from the legislature because it's all political."

Horth said if MU includes the phrase in the policy, the government could take some of the school's funding.

"It's conservative views," Colvin said. "Men should wear men's clothes and women wear women's clothes and we should all be good Christian boys and girls."

According to the proposal, 280 other colleges and universities in the U.S. include gender identity and expression in their non-discrimination policies.

The proposal said the English and women's and gender studies departments changed their statements of non-discrimination to include gender identity and expression.

Horth said the chancellor can show support but can't approve the change.

"It has to go to the president and then the Board of Curators," Horth said. "But Deaton has never officially expressed support."