

NEWS

Missouri General Assembly

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 4, 2016**

**CONTACT: Rep. Caleb Jones
573-751-2134
Sen. Kurt Schaefer
573-751-3931**

Republican Lawmakers Call for the Immediate Termination of Melissa Click

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – More than 100 Republican House members and 18 members of the Senate Majority Caucus signed on to letters submitted to the MU Board of Curators today calling for the immediate firing of Assistant Professor Melissa Click. Lawmakers joined together to admonish Click for her role in assaulting and suppressing the First Amendment rights of student journalists, and further inciting the unrest on the Columbia campus.

In the letter, the lawmakers wrote, “As a professional representing our University, Click failed to meet the obligations she has to her supervisors, fellow professors, University students, and the taxpayers of Missouri. As an academic professional, her first goal should have been to promote a safe and stable learning environment for all students, and to represent the University to the public in a way that strengthens the image of our flagship state institution of higher education. Instead, Professor Click’s comments served to inflame an already caustic situation that was clearly out of line.”

The letter focuses on Click’s actions, which include “a complete disregard for the First Amendment rights of reporters” and her assault on a “student videographer by grabbing his camera” and her calling on “those around her to bring in ‘some muscle’ to help remove the reporters.”

“At every turn, Click’s actions were unacceptable and inflammatory in a situation where the students and the public needed and expected university employees to serve professionally and as a calming influence,” said State Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia. “It’s imperative that the university act swiftly to remove her from her position.”

“I expect more out of the faculty and staff at the University of Missouri-Columbia,” said Sen. Schaefer. “The actions of both Basler and Click were unacceptable and inflammatory in nature, the university needs educators who display civility and patience even during emotional moments.”

The group of lawmakers concluded their letter by noting that, “the university now has the opportunity to send a strong message that leadership can and will act quickly and decisively to root out bad behavior. We urge you to do so immediately.”

The letter submitted to the University of Missouri Board of Curators is attached.

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December 18, 2015

University of Missouri
Office of the Chancellor
Attention: Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, PH.D
105 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, Interim President Mike Middleton and Members of the Board of Curators:

We are writing today to ask that you take immediate action to address the inappropriate and criminal actions taken by Assistant Professor Melissa Click during the recent protests on the University of Missouri – Columbia campus.

As a professional representing our University, Click failed to meet the obligations she has to her supervisors, fellow professors, University students, and the taxpayers of Missouri. As an academic professional, her first goal should have been to promote a safe and stable learning environment for all students, and to represent the University to the public in a way that strengthens the image of our flagship state institution of higher education. Instead, Professor Click's comments served to inflame an already caustic situation that was clearly out of line.

The fact that, as a professor teaching in the communication department and the school of journalism, she displayed such a complete disregard for the First Amendment rights of reporters should be enough to question her competency and aptitude for her job. As a professor in the School of Journalism, Click's role should have been to remind students that we must respect the First Amendment rights of all individuals, and that the student reporters there were doing nothing more than their jobs; jobs which are soundly protected by our Constitution. Instead, Professor Click assaulted a student videographer by grabbing his camera, and called on those around her to bring in "some muscle" to help remove the reporters. It should be evident that these actions are inappropriate, illegal, and unacceptable for a faculty member of the University of Missouri. The University of Missouri expects and deserves better.

The public spotlight that is now shining on Click because of her behavior has also revealed some of the "research" she is conducting at the University. Our constituents have expressed outrage at the fact she is using taxpayer dollars to conduct research on "50 Shades of Grey," "Lady Gaga," and "Twilight." While we recognize there may be some value in pop culture studies, her

behavior has the public questioning her “research” and her unacceptable actions during the protest. What is even more insulting is that Professor Click was on a research waiver from the University of Missouri so that she didn’t have to teach classes. Rather, Professor Click spent her paid time off from teaching to assault students, harass citizens of Missouri, and work in contravention of our Constitution. Professor Click, realizing the errors in her actions, has already resigned from the School of Journalism. We believe, however, it is exceedingly difficult to justify her continued service at the University of Missouri.

For these reasons, and to help prevent future inappropriate conduct, we call on you, the leaders appointed by the state of Missouri, to take immediate action. We call on you to remove Click from her current position as assistant professor of mass media in the University’s Department of Communications and to deny her pending application for tenure. Missourians hold our faculty members to a higher standard, and we must demand from them the kind of leadership that will set a positive example for all students.

The University now has the opportunity to send a strong message that leadership can and will act quickly and decisively to root out bad behavior. We urge you to do so immediately.

(Please Note Attached Signature Pages)

CC: Interim President Mike Middleton
Curator Donald L. Cupps
Curator Maurice B. Graham
Curator Pamela Quigg Henrickson
Curator John R. Phillips
Curator Phillip H. Snowden
Curator Yvonne S. Sparks
Curator David L. Steelman
Curator David L. Steward

(Name/District)

Cloria Brown

Marshe Heger ^{D95}

S. Nick Kopy ^{#17}

J. B. #52

K. King 116

W. Miller 110

K. Fisher ^{#10} 121

A. Baker 51

John 9

T. Brown 4

Mike Carpenter 30

D. 62

(Name/District)

V. K. 161

Denny Hoskins 54

Mike Benshoft 59

Mike Perry 96

Sue Allen 100

Thomas Flanagan ¹⁶³

C. B. 162

J. Miller 108

Her Kalkmeyer 53

Steven L. 122

Warren. Jare 125

Ken W. #12

(Name/District)

Bill Jones 50

John Jones 61

Spencer Julian 137

Dave Muntz 48

R. Long 64

David Wood 58

K. O. 111

Donna [unclear] 146

Todd [unclear] 152

John H. Behr -56

Allen Andrews -1

John D. Weiman 103

(Name/District)

[unclear] 44

D. Jaser 101

Allen 112

[unclear] 124

Cyff [unclear] 134

Nando Brown 57

Zedell F. Shumbe 5

Ann [unclear] 65

Sh [unclear] 154

Randy [unclear]

[unclear] 127

Jerry Duggan 141

(Name/District)

Will Bj 55th

Andru Koenig 99

Adrian Penney 104

Sheila Soler 31

Alani Franklin 123

Jim Hansen 40

DON PHILLIPS 138

Lyle Rowland 155

Salvador

RJ (143)

T.J. Berry 38

Bill E. Kild 20

(Name/District)

Joseph 89

J. Egerton 2

Pai Oun 109

Joe Chi 120

KL 136

Mark Moon 157

Byron Kobler 34

Jack M. Gogh 39

VA 148

Rachel 107th

Janice Gunn 32

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De Entlicher 128

Sandy Crawford 129

Bill Kent 159

Steve Hubert 151

Higher Ed
Chair

Steve Cookson 152

Sonja Gantzel 33

Sheryl Dor 98

Becky Ruth 114

Lydia 43

Bill Riblet 160

Jeff Newager 130

Nancy Ross Jr

Craig Redman

(Name/District)

Charles James 100

Kevin Kent 14

Barry Tom 42

Steve 131

Mr. Bob 102

John 139

Kathryn Sevan 147

Zyanna 140

John 113

Paul Hunt 144

Bob Kelly 8

Charles L. Boyce 47

(Name/District)

(Name/District)

Andrew McDaniel 150th

Patricia Pike 126th

John L. Cross 35th



December 18, 2015

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Attention: Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, PH.D
105 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Chancellor Foley and Members of the Board of Curators:

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Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, PH.D

December 18, 2015

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While the Senators agree with the points expressed above by the House of Representatives relative to Melissa Click we want to include the conduct of Janna D. Basler, Senior Associate Director of Student Life, recently reinstated to her University job and who also participated vocally and publicly in the protest as inappropriate conduct for a staff member of the university.

For these reasons, and to help prevent future inappropriate conduct, we call on you, the leaders appointed by the state of Missouri, to take immediate action. We call on you to remove Click from her current position as assistant professor of mass media in the University’s Department of Communications and to deny her pending application for tenure. We also call on you to remove Basler from her position of Senior Associate Director of Student Life. Missourians hold our faculty and staff members to a higher standard, and we must demand from them the kind of leadership that will set a positive example for all students.

The University now has the opportunity to send a strong message that leadership can and will act quickly and decisively to root out bad behavior. We urge you to do so immediately.

Sincerely,



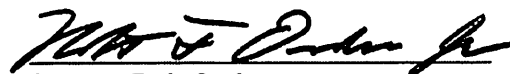
Senator Kurt Schaefer



Senator Ron Richard




Senator Mike Kehoe



Senator Bob Onder

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, PH.D
December 18, 2015
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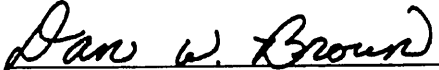
Senator Mike Cunningham



Senator David Pearce



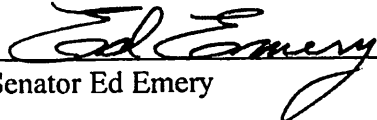
Senator David Sater



Senator Dan Brown



Senator Rob Schaaf



Senator Ed Emery



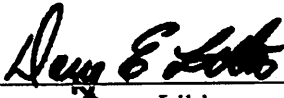
Senator Brian Munzlinger



Senator Dave Schatz



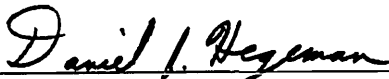
Senator Gary Romine



Senator Doug Libla



Senator Jay Wasson



Senator Dan Hegeman



Senator Jeanie Riddle



Senator Eric Schmitt