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252-328-6481
Knott receives ECU scholarship

Sophronia Knott of Smithfield has been accepted into the Honors College at East Carolina University. Her acceptance comes with a renewable scholarship covering the cost of in-state tuition for up to four years.

Founded in 2010, the Honors College admits fewer than 3 percent of incoming ECU students. The program delivers seminars, colloquia and living-learning experiences designed specially for top students. Participants reside together in Garrett Hall during their first year on campus.
Jean Vick Sutton

Mrs. Jean Vick Sutton, 68, passed away on Sunday, July 15, 2012 at Vidant Medical Center. The funeral service will be conducted today at 5 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel. Burial will occur at a later date. A native of Beaufort County, Jean had made her home with her late husband, Allen Ray Sutton, in Greenville since 1976. They were members of Hooker Memorial Christian Church for many years and she was currently a member of Red Oak Christian Church. Jean worked as a Medical Technologist for a number of years with East Carolina University Student Health, retiring with 15 years of service.

In addition to her late husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, Evelyn and J.P. Vick.
She is survived by her daughter, Amy Sutton Eagle, of Winterville; son, Andrew A. Sutton, of Greenville; grandchildren, Caleb Eagle, Will, Matt and Jacob Sutton; and brother, Jimmy Vick, of Wilmar.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service from 4 to 5 p.m. and immediately following the service at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Potter's Wheel Ministries, PO Box 8, Mt Olive, NC 28365.

Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home & Crematory.

Published in The Daily Reflector on July 18, 2012
Lawsuit’s dismissal sought

UNC, Davis don’t want records public

By DAN KANE
dkane@newsobserver.com

UNC-Chapel Hill officials and a lawyer representing former coach Butch Davis are asking a state judge to dismiss a public records lawsuit by The News & Observer and other media companies, contending all that can be made public in an NCAA investigation related to the football team has been released.

In court documents filed Tuesday, Davis’s lawyer, Jon Sasser, said that records of the former coach’s calls on his private cellphone are not public because Davis was not a public official in the eyes of the public records law, and that the phone records were not created in the course of public business.

Sasser said making the records public could “open a Pandora’s Box of unintended consequences.”

“Hundreds of bright, imaginative Duke students huddling in their tents in Krzyzewskiville would suddenly have the legal ability to bring the athletic department of UNC and NCSU to a standstill,” Sasser wrote. “Three students could ask for all of (N.C. State University football coach) Tom O’Brien’s playbooks, game films and practice videos.”

The media coalition has not asked for such records, nor has anyone suggested that they would be considered public.

State Superior Court Judge Howard Manning will conduct a hearing Thursday regarding the public records lawsuit.

The N&O and other media companies filed suit nearly two years ago to obtain records that would provide a clearer understanding of what went wrong and who was involved.

Last summer, shortly before Davis was fired, he told reporters he would make the cellphone records available. They had been reviewed by an attorney hired by UNC-CH, who told the university he saw nothing improper, but he did not make copies.

Striking a balance

The case regarding the phone records will likely hinge on Manning’s interpretation of the state public records law. Amanda Martin, an attorney representing the media, said the law holds that a record generated in the course of public business is considered public regardless of where it was created. The intent is to prevent public officials from keeping public business secret by using home email accounts and phone lines.

Marc Bernstein, the special deputy state attorney general representing the university, said in legal papers that releasing information such as the names of football players and audio recordings of them being interviewed as part of the investigation would violate the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, known as FERPA, which protects student academic records.

He said the university has produced thousands of pages of documents that “go to the heart of the issues involved in the investigation,” and that those records resulted in hundreds of detailed news reports. That shows, he said, “the university has struck the correct balance in providing information and protecting the identities of the students as required by federal law.”

He also said other records related to the university’s use of outside counsel should be protected under attorney-client privilege because at least one former football player has filed suit over his loss of eligibility from the NCAA probe.

Bernstein and Sasser also cited the state’s personnel law in not making some records public as they relate to the actions of Davis and other public officials. The personnel law generally does not allow the release of employee performance records.

The law does give public agencies the discretion to release such records if the agency’s integrity is in question.

See UNC, Page 11A
Duke kicks off digital health records plan

By David Ranii - dranii@newsobserver.com

DURHAM–Duke University Health System is going live Wednesday with the first phase of a $500 million plan to upgrade and standardize electronic medical records at its three local hospitals, clinics and doctors’ offices.

“The crux of what we’re doing is developing a single, seamless, integrated health record across Duke Medicine,” said Jeffrey Ferranti, chief medical information officer. “The tag line we’re using for the project is ‘one patient, one record, one system.’ ”

Duke’s massive investment is part of a tsunami of health records digitization by health care providers nationwide. It’s being spurred by the federal government with the goal of improving patient care and cutting health care costs.

Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, the federal government is providing $27 billion in financial incentives for hospitals and physicians to use digital health records. Financial penalties will kick in starting in 2015 for those who don’t, according to Bloomberg News.

The UNC Health Care System expects to shift to a systemwide electronic medical records system by next June. Today, UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill and UNC Health’s Raleigh hospital, Rex Healthcare, have different systems.

Likewise, WakeMed reports that it is “working with a group of physician leaders and hospital administrators to identify and invest in a solution that will provide readily accessible information across all providers and facilities.”

But not all hospitals are expected to meet the HITECH Act’s requirement that hospitals make “meaningful use” of electronic records. Giant consulting and technology firm Accenture estimates that roughly half of U.S. hospitals risk being penalized when enforcement begins in 2015.

Duke says the adoption of a unified digital records system will help it curtail duplicate tests, screens and scans and reduce costs.

Patient care will be improved in a number of ways as well. For example, doctors throughout the Duke system – which includes Duke University, Durham Regional and Duke Raleigh hospitals – will be able to see if a
patient is allergic to certain medications. That can be crucial if a patient is brought unconscious to the ER.

Just the act of standardizing its medical records has the potential to improve patient care by virtue of its consistency, according to Duke. Today, Duke has more than 135 different electronic medical records systems.

Duke is installing its system, which it calls Maestro Care, in phases. Phase 1, which goes into effect Wednesday, involves 33 primary care practices. It will take two years for the entire system to come on board.

At the macro level, the unified health records will enable Duke to examine the big picture of patient trends with an eye toward improving outcomes.

Dr. John Marucheck, an internist at North Hills Internal Medicine, a Raleigh-based Duke practice that starts using Maestro Care Wednesday, said he received more than 20 hours of training on the system. He rates its user-friendliness a 9 on a scale of 10 and views it as an improvement over the electronic medical records that the practice has been using.

“We’ve moved up to a comprehensive, powerful and user-friendly electronic health record,” Marucheck said.

The $500 million that Duke plans to invest in Maestro Care reflects “total cost of ownership spread over seven years,” Ferranti said. It includes not only the initial cost of acquiring and deploying the software but also the expense of maintaining and enhancing it over seven years.

The net new investment, after subtracting the cost of maintaining and supporting more than 135 electronic health records systems that are being eliminated, is “a little bit more than $300 million” over seven years, he said.

Duke also could receive tens of millions of dollars in federal funding that will partially defray its investment, Ferranti said.

Maestro Care is a customized version of software from privately held Wisconsin-based Epic Systems, which provides electronic medical records to large health care systems. From the outset, Duke can electronically transmit its Maestro Care records – with the patient’s permission – to other health care providers that use Epic software. And Duke anticipates expanding that capability to non-Epic providers over the next couple of years, Ferranti said.

Other North Carolina hospitals that use Epic software, Ferranti said, are New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, Winston-Salem-based Novant Health and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Ranii: 919-829-4877
Duke University Medical Center gets top 10 national ranking

From staff reports

DURHAM Duke University Medical Center has again been named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation’s top 10 hospital. It also was ranked as the best hospital in North Carolina.

It was among 17 hospitals out of 4,800 evaluated that earned a place in the magazine’s honor roll at the top of the rankings, which were announced Tuesday.

Three other hospitals in North Carolina had multiple specialties that earned national rankings, putting them in the top 3 percent of all U.S. hospitals: UNC Hospitals, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and High Point Regional Hospital.

The magazine evaluated 16 medical specialties at each hospital to derive the overall rankings. Duke ranked eighth in the country, with 13 nationally ranked specialties and two earned the next rating down, “high performing.” UNC had three specialties with national ranking and eight high-performing ones, and was rated third in the state overall.

It’s the 23rd consecutive year that the magazine has ranked Duke among the nation’s best hospitals. It’s the first year the magazine ranked hospitals within a state.
UNC spin-off Morphormics acquired for $5.7 million
Submitted by David Bracken on 07/17/2012 - 13:12

Accuray, a publicly traded radiation oncology company, announced Monday that it has acquired Morphormics, a company that spun out of UNC-Chapel Hill, for $5.7 million.

Morphormics develops medical imaging software systems that recognize and extract anatomical structures from medical images. Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Accuray has been licensing the company's software since 2008, using it to identify and draw boundaries of the prostate and other critical areas.

The technology allows a patient's radiation dose to be focused on the prostate, thus minimizing the amount of radiation that surrounding areas of the body are exposed to.

Morphormics founders included Edward L. Chaney, a professor at UNC-Chapel Hill's department of radiation oncology and biomedical engineering.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our company that will bring the benefits of our technology to more patients," Chaney said in a statement.

“Accuray’s acquisition confirms the value our technology offers in its ability to dramatically increase efficiency and accuracy in the delivery of image-guided medical treatment. We look forward to joining the Accuray team and further advancing innovation in this area.”

Chaney co-founded Morphormics in 2001 with Stephen M. Pizer, Kenan professor in the departments of computer science and radiation oncology, and Sarang Joshi.

In 2008, the company received a $2 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to commercialize its 3-D mapping technology that improves radiation treatment of prostate cancer.
Federal officials probe Penn State for possible Clery Act violations

By Jenna Johnson

As Jerry Sandusky awaits sentencing on 45 child-sex-abuse convictions, several investigations continue to examine the role of Penn State University leaders in the scandal, including a probe of whether the university violated a federal campus-safety law.

Five days after the former assistant football coach was arrested in November, the U.S. Department of Education launched an investigation into Penn State’s compliance with the Clery Act, which requires prompt public alerts of safety threats, annual disclosure of crime statistics and other steps to protect campus communities.

Federal officials declined to discuss the scope of the investigation. But a Nov. 9 letter from the Education Department to Penn State requested a long list of documents, including logs of all incidents of crime reported to any campus security authority from 1998 to 2011.

“They’ve asked for absolutely everything,” said S. Daniel Carter, who has been a campus security advocate for more than two decades and works for a foundation started by families of victims of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. Carter said the Penn State investigation may be the department’s largest to date.

When federal officials investigate a school after a high-profile incident, they typically broaden the search to the school’s handling of safety issues over a number of years, according to records that the department has made public. Usually these probes cover one to three years, maybe as many as five or six — but nowhere near the 13 at issue with Penn State.

A Penn State spokesman said the university is cooperating but declined to comment further.

The Clery Act, signed into law in 1990, was named for Jeanne Clery, who was raped, tortured and murdered in 1986 in her dorm room at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. The ultimate penalty under the law is loss of
federal aid funding. Officials have never gone that far, instead imposing fines of up to $27,500 per violation.

In the past five years, the Education Department has ramped up Clery Act enforcement. It now has a staff dedicated solely to conducting investigations. It also has partnered with the FBI to audit a random sample of universities, a practice that has revealed widespread problems with crime data reporting and a lack of policies to ensure compliance.

In 2007, the department fined Eastern Michigan University $357,500 — the largest Clery Act penalty to date — for not notifying the campus community that a student had been murdered in her dorm room in December 2006 and that the killer was at large. Instead, school officials led the campus to believe that the student died of natural causes. Two months later, a man was arrested and charged with her rape and murder. Soon after, Eastern Michigan’s president and two top administrators were accused of covering up the crime and fired.

The fine was later reduced to $350,000. Of the 13 Clery Act violations found at the school, three were related to the 2006 murder. The others resulted from a review of 2003, 2004 and 2005 data.

In 2011, Virginia Tech was fined $55,000 for what federal officials said were failures to issue prompt alerts during a gunman’s rampage that left 32 people dead in April 2007. An administrative judge this year overturned the fine, ruling that the university had issued a timely warning. The final decision in that case rests with Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

At the heart of the Penn State case is this question: When school officials were alerted to Sandusky’s behavior, did they meet legal requirements for documenting those incidents and announcing any threats?

Last week, in a report the university had commissioned, former FBI director Louis Freeh used the word “failure” in describing Penn State’s implementation of the law. Specifically, Freeh noted:

- As of November, Penn State’s Clery Act policy was still in draft form and had not been formally implemented. Although the school offered training to employees starting in 2007, the athletic department did not participate.

“The football program, in particular, opted out of most of the University’s Clery Act, sexual abuse awareness and summer camp procedures training,” the report reads. “The Athletic Department was perceived by many in the Penn State community as ‘an island,’ where staff members lived by their own rules.”
Since then, the school says it has formalized policies and hired a full-time Clery Act compliance officer, among other actions.

• When a mother reported to university police in May 1998 that Sandusky had inappropriately touched her 11-year-old son in a Penn State locker room shower, notes were kept in an “‘Administrative Information’ file,” the report said, but never publicly documented.

Early in that investigation, Penn State Police Chief Thomas Harmon e-mailed Gary Schultz, a vice president who oversaw the police department, writing: “We’re going to hold off on making any crime log entry. At this point in time I can justify that decision because of the lack of clear evidence of a crime.” Charges were never filed.

The Clery Act requires recording all reported crimes, even those that do not result in charges.

• In 2001, assistant coach Mike McQueary says, he saw Sandusky sexually assault a young boy in a locker room shower. The next day, McQueary made a report to head coach Joe Paterno, who alerted other officials. They ultimately decided not to involve the police.

Three Penn State officials — Schultz, President Graham Spanier and Athletic Director Tim Curley — agreed over e-mail to advise Sandusky to seek “professional help” and bar him from bringing children to campus, among other things. In agreeing to this plan, Spanier wrote that the “only downside for us is if the message isn’t ‘heard’ and acted upon, and we then become vulnerable for not having reported it.”

Under the Clery Act, the two coaches and the athletic director are considered “campus security authorities” who are obligated to report serious incidents to police for inclusion in annual crime reports and to decide if a campus alert is necessary. While Schultz and Spanier might not have had the same legal obligation, the report said, “they should have ensured that the University was compliant.”

Alison Kiss, executive director of the Pennsylvania-based Clery Center for Security on Campus, which was started by Clery’s parents, said the Freeh report raised questions about Penn State’s compliance with the law. “You kept seeing a missed report and a victim. Another missed report, another victim,” Kiss said. University officials “have a lot on their plates, but they need to pay attention.”
Plan to Close University of Missouri Press Stirs Anger

By JOHN ELIGON

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A tide of anger has been swelling here since May after the new University of Missouri president, Timothy M. Wolfe, disclosed plans to close the university’s publishing house, stoking arguments over the institution’s priorities and fueling an escalating national debate over the necessity of university presses and their future in the digital world.

Over more than five decades, Missouri’s press has printed prized academic titles including “The Collected Works of Langston Hughes,” “The Complete Sermons of Ralph Waldo Emerson” and “Mark Twain and His Circle.” Word that it was shutting down after losing its $400,000 annual subsidy drew outrage from professors, students, authors and alumni, and from the sons of President Dwight D. Eisenhower and of the black historian John Hope Franklin. A news release that the university circulated this week announcing plans for a new publishing operation seemed only to intensify the venom.

“As I try to read this, I toggle back and forth between nausea and migraine,” Andy Fristoe, who described himself as a friend of a Missouri Press author, posted on a Facebook page, Save the University of Missouri Press.
Such disagreements are playing out on campuses around the country, as tightening budgets have complicated efforts by university presses to keep up with the changing publishing marketplace.

Half a dozen universities have closed or suspended their presses over the past three years. Utah State’s press had to join a consortium of university presses in Colorado to survive. Another press, at Louisiana State, was spared after cutting the staff and making other organizational changes.

“I really wish that universities would step up and say these presses are essential, we should fund them 100 percent,” said Richard Clement, the dean of libraries at Utah State. “I think that most presidents would tend to agree, but given the budgetary climate and situation, they have to make choices, and unfortunately the choices have not favored university presses.”

Scholars argue that university presses are vital for academic discourse. They publish erudite texts that commercial presses do not, giving scholars a forum to share and further research. Professors often rely on them to publish the works they need for tenure and promotion. But they are usually money-losing operations. The presses at the University of Chicago, Oxford and Cambridge are the only ones widely believed to be profitable.

In their early decades the bottom line did not matter. Cornell started the first university press in the United States in 1869, and the presses were set up to publish the research results of faculty. As time passed, however, presses were increasingly asked to generate revenue for their institutions. Now their future at many campuses revolves around two questions: Are presses part of a university’s core mission, akin to an academic department? Or are they business investments, expendable if they fail to draw profit?

“Many institutions are grappling with these questions — and all of them should, because support for scholarly communication remains vital, not just for scholars themselves, but for the university’s ability to communicate with the world around it,” said Kathleen Fitzpatrick, director of scholarly communication at the Modern Language Association.

Other universities have taken steps to revolutionize their publishing systems. Project Muse, which has published academic journals online as part of the Johns Hopkins University Press since 1995, began publishing full-length digital books in January.

After closing its press in the mid-1990s, Rice University reopened a digital-only operation in 2006, but it shut that down after four years. Rice’s example revealed a difficult truth about digital scholarly publishing: it is still
expensive. Most of the cost in producing scholarly writings comes before anything is printed on paper, through expenses like hiring people for peer review.

Speer Morgan, the editor of the literary magazine The Missouri Review, will head the new press. Under the University of Missouri’s new plan, the more than 2,000 books already published by the existing press operation, which will make way for the new one after production of its fall books, will be digitized and promoted by university libraries, a news release said. The new press will publish about 25 titles a year in hard copy, slightly less than the current output of 30, and digital format, though most will be in print initially, according to Brian L. Foster, provost of the university’s Columbia campus.

The university also will honor the contracts of authors signed to coming works and plans to publish the titles on its spring list, Mr. Wolfe said. Administrators do not know exactly how much the new model will cost, Mr. Foster said.

“One of the things that I believe is, if in fact we come up with a model that is more effective at disseminating scholarly work,” Mr. Wolfe said last week in an interview, “the other presses are going to have to look at this model and say, ‘Can we do what the University of Missouri is doing?’ ”

Before becoming president in February, Mr. Wolfe spent his entire professional career in business. When he announced in May that he would eliminate the press’s subsidy, detractors said he did not appreciate its value. Mr. Wolfe defended the decision-making process, saying he relied on the university’s chancellors and vice presidents who have lifelong backgrounds in academia.

But Mr. Wolfe acknowledged that he had never spoken to or consulted employees of the current press, and none of them were involved in the creation of the new model. Many critics said the new plan was vague and full of corporate jargon. They were concerned about the prospect that under the new plan students would be handling much of the work. “Will established scholars be willing to work with such a haphazardly staffed press?” Bruce Joshua Miller, a sales representative for university publishers, and Ned Stuckey-French, a professor at Florida State who has published with the Missouri press, wrote in a more than 1,500-word news release responding to the university’s announcement. Mr. Miller and Mr. Stuckey-French have led much of the resistance, creating the Facebook page and an online petition that has gathered more than 4,700 signatures.
The administration seemed unaware that the press already was doing the supposedly new things described in the plan, Clair Willcox, the current editor of the press, said. The press, for instance, already publishes e-books, he said.

“‘The staff was enraged,’” Mr. Willcox said his colleagues’ response to details of the new plan. “They were looking at descriptions of what they already did. It suggests that somehow they weren’t doing a good enough job over here.”

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: July 18, 2012

Because of an editing error, an earlier version of this article misspelled the surname of a critic of the plans to shut down the University of Missouri Press. He is Andy Fristoe, not Frisoe.
The proper penalty for Penn State

By Joe Nocera - The New York Times

NEW YORK–You just can’t make up a coincidence like this.

On Thursday, the same day Louis Freeh, the former director of the FBI, issued his damning report about the cover-up of Jerry Sandusky’s sexual crimes by the Penn State hierarchy, the NCAA lowered the boom on – are you ready for this? – the California Institute of Technology.

One of the world’s great engineering schools, Caltech is never going to be mistaken for Penn State as an athletic force. With fewer than 1,000 undergraduates, it is a Division III school, which means, among other things, that it doesn’t grant athletic scholarships. Its basketball team ekes out about five wins a season, and its baseball team, according to The Times, has lost 227 games in a row. At Caltech, unlike your typical athletic powerhouse, “student-athletes” truly are students.

Part of being a student at Caltech means “shopping” for courses for the first three weeks of each trimester. Students are allowed to sample classes before they have to register for them.

“During those three weeks,” read an NCAA news release issued Thursday, “because they were not actually registered in some or all of the courses they are attending, some students were not enrolled on a full-time basis.” And part-time students, you see, are not allowed to play intercollegiate athletics. Between 2007 and 2010, according to the NCAA, this happened with 30 athletes in 12 sports.

It would be hard to imagine a more frivolous violation of the rules – or one that could do less harm to the integrity of college sports. What’s more, Caltech turned itself in after a new athletic director realized that the practice of shopping for classes probably violated NCAA rules.

Yet the punishment imposed on the school was severe: three years of probation, a postseason ban in a dozen sports, the erasure of wins and individual records that were gained with ineligible athletes, and more.

Indeed, Caltech was cited for “a lack of institutional control,” which is pretty much the worst thing you can be accused of in NCAA-speak.
In the wake of the Freeh report, there has been a lot of speculation about what punishment the NCAA should impose on Penn State – and even whether the Sandusky scandal is within its purview.

I’m in the camp that says the NCAA should throw the book at Penn State. The legal system will take care of whether others besides Sandusky deserve to go to prison for failing to report his predatory behavior. Penn State itself will almost surely finish the painful process of removing the halo from the head of its late coach, Joe Paterno, which the Freeh report has begun.

But only the NCAA can impose the “death penalty,” forcing Penn State to shut down its football program for a period of time. Yes, it would make a mess of television schedules, not to mention the rest of Penn State’s athletic teams – which rely on the revenue that football generates – but it’s the only way to send the right message.

That message is this: No university should ever be as beholden to its football program as Penn State was. At other big-time sports schools, there are all kinds of daily hypocrisies that people avert their eyes from in the name of college football or men’s basketball. Sadly, we accept these hypocrisies as the price to be paid for the money college sports generates and the entertainment it provides.

But at Penn State, football was of such overweening importance – and Paterno was such a godlike figure – that a sexual predator was allowed to roam free because of his association with football.

A janitor spots Sandusky in the shower with a boy but is afraid to say anything because crossing Paterno “would have been like going against the president of the United States.” Sandusky uses the lure of the football program to attract his victims. Paterno and others in the Penn State chain of command, in Freeh’s words, “repeatedly concealed critical facts relating to Sandusky’s child abuse” – to avoid bad publicity for the football program. A great university sold its soul to its football team.

As regular readers know, I don’t have much faith in the NCAA. It has congealed into a bureaucracy that cares only about enforcing its rules, no matter how silly or retrograde. But here is a chance to put its money where its mouth is.

The NCAA proclaims that part of its mission is to “integrate athletics into higher education.” If it really believes that, it will impose the death penalty on Penn State, to send a signal that no school should put football above its own integrity.
Anything less than that will send another signal entirely. Namely, that in the eyes of the NCAA, what happened at Penn State is no worse than what happened at Caltech.

*Joe Nocera is a columnist for The New York Times.*
Penn State case brings insurance attention
Steve Berkowitz, USA TODAY  July 17, 2012

Colleges across the country are bracing for increases in the cost and scrutiny associated with carrying liability insurance after the Penn State child sex abuse scandal.

"You're going to see more institutions purchase higher limits of liability because of these high-profile events," says John McLaughlin, managing director of the higher education practice at Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, an insurance broker for colleges.

Ohio State chief risk officer Mark Briggs says underwriters will take a look at coverages and see if they are fairly priced.

Both predict underwriters will ask more questions and seek more details about schools' policies, procedures and actions regarding sexual abuse and molestation.

"(Insurers will want to) really define the extent of their exposure," McLaughlin says. "They are going to want to understand exactly what types of policies and procedures are in place, whether they are being clearly followed, what type of education and training are in place."

Says Briggs, "It's (insurers) saying, 'OK, demonstrate to us the nature of your policies and how they are enforced.'"

Former FBI director Louis Freeh's investigation into Penn State's handling of former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of children found "the absence or poor enforcement of policies relating to the protection of children and employee misconduct."

Janice Abraham, president and CEO of United Educators Insurance, says her group has a thorough underwriting process, adding, "We don't anticipate any changes at this point."

But Anne Mulholland, director of higher education for Aon Risk Solutions, another broker for schools, says insurance company managers are looking over their shoulders more than they were three months ago. "They're being more judicious," Mulholland says.