

Spectrum

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Fall enrollment report shows UM students better prepared

According to enrollment records, new UM admission requirements implemented in fall 1997 have not resulted in restricted access to University of Missouri campuses. What has happened, UM Vice President for Academic Affairs Stephen Lehmkuhle told the Curators Oct. 16, is that the pool of applicants to the University is getting better.

"Data collected by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) which administers the ACT, since 1992 when the new admission standards were announced, indicates more high school students in Missouri are completing college preparatory courses, and many of these better prepared high school students are applying for admission to one of our campuses," Lehmkuhle said.

He also reported the numbers of admission exceptions and the exception rates have dropped from last year for every campus with a 15 percent exception rate at both UM-Columbia and UM-Rolla and 25 percent and 27 percent rates at UM-St. Louis and UM-Kansas City, respectively, for fall 1998. System-wide, the percentage of exceptions went down from 20 percent in fall 1997 to 17 percent in fall 1998.

Exceptions include students who (1) do not have a minimum ACT score of 24 or whose class standing and ACT percentile ranks do not total 120, and/or (2) have not completed high school core course requirements, including four years of English, four years of mathematics, three years of social sciences, three years of natural sciences, two years of a foreign language and one year of fine arts.

At UM-Columbia, the number of students applying for 1998 increased from 8,927 in fall 1997 to 9,522 in fall 1998. Of the 9,522 students who applied, more than 8,000 approximately 84 percent of the students were admitted for fall 1998. While the number of students admitted increased in 1998 compared with 1997, only about one-half of the students who were admitted actually enrolled. First-time, full-time freshmen increased on the Columbia campus by more than 300 students.

At UM-Kansas City, applications dropped slightly from 2,766 in 1997 to 2,695 in fall 1998. However, the number of students admitted increased in 1998, and the percentage of the admitted students who actually enrolled rose to 40 percent in fall 1998. As a result, fall enrollment increased by about 50 students for first-time full-time freshmen on the UM-Kansas City campus.

At UM-Rolla the number of students who applied, were admitted, and actually enrolled remained steady.

At UM-St. Louis the number of applications and admissions decreased slightly from fall 1997, but because a greater percentage of admitted students actually enrolled, there was an increase of about 90 first-time full-time freshmen for fall 1998.

Lehmkuhle said that of the students admitted in fall 1998, 93 percent had completed four years of mathematics and 97 percent had completed two years of foreign language, in compliance with the University's core course requirements.

Pacheco reviews first year at UM

University of Missouri President Manuel Pacheco gave a report on his first year in office to the Board of Curators at its Oct. 16 meeting at UM-Columbia. In addition to the organization of a new administrative team, Pacheco highlighted successful state funding for mission enhancement, increased federal research funding and progress on strategic planning and the Administrative Systems Project. (see story below.)

Mission Enhancement

He told the Board that the \$15 million appropriated in the current fiscal year for first-year mission enhancement will fund more than 80 new faculty positions.

"The Endowed Professor and Chair program, funded by \$4 million of the \$15-million appropriation, has already leveraged support for more than 100 endowed chairs and professorships, and broad searches for outstanding occupants of 60 of these positions are underway or will commence this academic year," Pacheco said.

He said mission enhancement will allow an increase for graduate student stipends, an area where the University of Missouri has been at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, the funding has allowed the formation of partnerships with other four-year institutions and community colleges to provide access throughout the state, with the help of technology, to UM's educational programs. Mission Enhancement funding also provides support for linking resources with high priority needs at the local level across the state.

Pacheco said the University's request for second-year Mission Enhancement funds continues to stress initiatives that support the same priorities: to enable UM to be more competitive in securing outside funding, to reduce the University's reliance on teaching assistants in lower division courses, to allow involvement in research for undergraduate students and to elevate the quality of the university's graduate education programs.

Pacheco said the Coordinating Board for Higher Education last week recommended that the University of Missouri receive an additional \$15 million in Fiscal Year 2000 for continued pursuit of Mission Enhancement priorities and objectives.

Federal Funding

Pacheco also reported on the success of a new federal relations program coordinated by Steve Knorr and Washington, D.C. consultants Van Scoyoc & Associates.

"By having this program in place, we have been able to secure some early successes and take advantage of opportunities that might otherwise have passed us by," he said.

He said the University of Missouri's federal initiatives for FY 97 totaled \$11.5 million in individual sponsored projects, with close to \$3 million of that being shared with consortia from other universities. The University of Missouri's federal initiatives for FY 98 will total more than \$28 million in individual sponsored projects, with close to \$8 million of the total being shared with consortia from other universities. "In less than a year we have doubled our capture of research funds," he said.

Highlights of the new federal funding include:

1. \$3 million for the Life Sciences facility at UMC. This is an area also identified for Mission Enhancement.
2. \$1.6 million for the Advanced Bridge Systems Center at UMR.
3. \$2 million for the Sinclair School of Nursing "Tiger Place" at UMC.

Pacheco said the efforts in Washington D.C. combined with the Mission Enhancement initiative, greatly increase the University's overall research capability.

As an example he cited the \$11-million grant given recently to UMC to work on Maize Genomics. It is the largest grant in UMC history. "We were able to work with Senator Bond to create a new \$40-million Plant Genome Initiative within the National Science Foundation and match that to our Plant Genomics efforts," Pacheco said. "Our federal proposal to the NSF was further strengthened because we were able to show a commitment from the University of Missouri toward maize genomics through Mission Enhancement."

Strategic planning

Pacheco also reported on ongoing strategic planning at the University. He said UM will continue to utilize a strategic planning process that will allow the University "to adjust constantly to changes in the environment and will require us continually to assess our progress or shortcomings according to measureable benchmarks."

Eileen Heveron hired to be ASP executive director

Eileen D. Heveron, formerly of the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon, Va., has been appointed executive director of the University of Missouri's Administrative Systems Project, effective Oct. 15.

The Administrative Systems Project is an effort to streamline and make more effective and user-friendly the core business and service processes historically included in the finance, human resource, and student systems. These processes include such varied activities as registering students, awarding financial aid, paying employees, managing grants and contracts, purchasing supplies and equipment, and developing and monitoring budgets.



Heveron held two titles at the Center for Innovative Technology: senior director for technology industry development

and director of intellectual resources. She has also served in administrative positions at the University of Maryland, American College of Radiology, California Institute of Technology, Claremont Graduate School, Western State

University, and in the software industry.

She earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of California-Irvine in 1976 and a master's degree in management from the University of Redlands in 1979. She earned a doctorate in education from the Claremont Graduate School in 1986.

"I'm pleased to bring Eileen Heveron to the University of Missouri to lead this systemwide project," said President Manuel T. Pacheco. "Her skills and experience will contribute greatly to our efforts to see that the University performs its missions more efficiently."

University prepares equipment to process dates after Year 2000

The University's largest administrative services system, the UM System Student Information System, will be shut down Nov. 23-27 while it is converted to be "Year 2000 ready." During the conversion there will not be access to the UM Student Information System which includes admissions, registration, grades, class lists, cashier offices, student advising and residence hall information. The conversion is the last of a four-part process started last December to prepare the University's core administrative systems software to process four-digit years before the year 2000.

While efforts such as this have been underway for many months to identify and correct potential computer software Year 2000 deficiencies throughout the UM System, employees are being reminded to thoroughly evaluate all equipment that could be involved. "This could affect an enormous range of items, from PC's on the desktop to elevators and door access systems anything that utilizes embedded chip systems," said Barb Harris, associate director of UM Management Information Systems.

Even though most UM departments are either in the assessment phase or have converted their systems, University departments are encouraged to evaluate and inventory which equipment may have Year 2000 implications.

By the end of 1998, UM departments should complete the process to "inventory, prioritize and fix" the Year 2000 problem, concentrating first on equipment that is "mission critical." It is also recommended that contingency plans be in place in case of outages.

UM employees also are reminded that the University's fiscal year 2000 begins July 1, 1999, and that computer systems must be prepared to handle leap day Feb. 29, 2000.

It is every department's responsibility to test its own equipment, but computer support staff on each campus are available to advise, direct and provide information. For assistance in preparing for the Year 2000, the University's Year 2000 Project Strategy can be viewed on line at: www.missouri.edu/iats. Also, please see list below.

Year 2000 campus contacts

- Barb Harris, UM, 573-882-9248 HarrisB@umsystem.edu
- John Beaumonte, MU, 573-882-9244 BeaumonteJ@missouri.edu
- Dave Dearth, UMR, 573-341-4841, dearth@umr.edu
- Bill Salisbury, UMKC, 816-235-1482, SalisburyW@umkc.edu
- Jerrold Siegel, UMSL, 314-516-5086, siegel@louie.umsl.edu
- Mike Lynch, UMCHC, 573-882-6013, Lynch@mailsvr.hsc.missouri.edu

UM System staff and programs honored for achievement

The University of Missouri System has won an award from the National Association of College and University Business Officers, for the "Cash Receipts Re-engineering Project" led by Dave Smarr, pictured right, and Holly Bush, pictured left, of UM Accounting Services.

Departments included in the project were cashiering, accounting, information technology, investment and banking and auditing.

The re-engineering of the process resulted in improved cash control, and has saved the University about \$620,000 annually.

Rick Finholt, executive director of the UM Office of Economic Development and Research Parks, was honored with a first annual Excellence St. Charles Award, sponsored by the St. Louis Business Journal, SSM St. Joseph Health Center and SSM St. Joseph Hospital West.

Finholt was credited for leading the development of the high-tech corridor in St. Charles County, including the Missouri Research Park. Companies within the research park employ 1,500 workers and pay more than \$1 million annually to St. Charles County in personal property and real estate taxes.

Administrators and new faculty members tour state

Nearly 40 UM faculty members, University President Manuel Pacheco, three chancellors, a vice chancellor and Executive Vice President Ron Turner participated in the first UM System-wide New Faculty Tour Oct. 23-25.

"The tour adds a state-wide dimension to the orientation of new faculty members," Pacheco said.

He said it was planned to familiarize new faculty members with Missouri, its education systems and their governance, and the state-wide presence and mission of the University of Missouri System.



The tour began in Columbia and traveled to Jefferson City, Rolla, Lebanon, Springfield and Camdenton.

Board Review available on-line

At the end of each UM Board of Curators meeting, a summary of the meeting is posted in a Board Review public folder in Microsoft Outlook/Exchange, and at:

<http://www.system.missouri.edu/urel/main/second/ur/wurbr/wurbr.htm>