

Spectrum

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Curators consider adding sexual orientation to policy

In response to a directive from Board of Curators President Ted Beckett, at the October meeting of the Board, the Executive Committee, chaired by Curator Paul Combs, conducted a three-hour hearing Friday, Nov. 13, at UM-Columbia on the University's "Executive Order 3 and related non-discrimination policies." More than 40 persons made statements at the hearing, which was attended by nearly 100 persons.

Committee members also received written correspondence and other communications directly and through the Board of Curators office.

In a telephonic meeting of the Executive Committee Dec. 1, members agreed to transmit all documentation to UM President Manuel Pacheco for his analysis and study and asked that he report his actions or recommendations to the Board of Curators at its Jan. 28-29 meeting at UM-St. Louis. Curator Malaika Horne, who made the motion, described the issue as "an important matter and a complex one that deserves fuller examination than can be provided" by the four members of the Executive Committee.

The issue was the focus of a peaceful demonstration by approximately 20 participants at the October Board meeting, where protestors urged that "sexual orientation" be added to the list of categories of persons protected by the UM System's non-discrimination policy.

President Pacheco, in the Nov. 13 hearing, suggested that the University's Executive Order 3, issued in July, 1997, by Interim President Mel George, appears to provide a policy basis for redress for any member or prospective member of the university faculty, staff or student body unfairly discriminated against for any reason, including sexual orientation.

1999 UM Board of Curators Meeting Dates:

January 28-29, UM-St. Louis

March 25-26, UM-Rolla

May 27-28, UM-Kansas City (new date)

July 15-16, UM-Columbia

September 2-3, (location to be determined)

December 2-3, UM-Columbia

Report made on educational fees

UM System President Manuel Pacheco reported to members of the Board of Curators that a special report on "Educational Fees at the University of Missouri" was distributed in late November to all members of the General Assembly and to Governor Mel Carnahan.

The report was prompted by concerns expressed by Senator Steve Ehlmann in an address to the Board at its July meeting in St. Charles County and a letter he subsequently sent to Board President Ted Beckett. Curator Beckett suggested that a detailed report put the University's fees in a national and historical perspective and that it be broadly distributed.

The report recounts that educational fees at the University of Missouri rose significantly from Fiscal Year 1992 through Fiscal Year 1997 as part of the Five-Year Financial Plan that "improved and strengthened the University by nearly every measure," Pacheco said.

The report also notes that 20 percent of the fee increases were dedicated to expanded student financial aid, which resulted in average net costs "that were and continue to be lower than those at other public universities in the Association of American Universities (AAU)."

With the completion of the Five-Year Plan, the Curators adopted a policy limiting further educational fee increases to the cost of inflation as measured by the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI).

The report recognizes that state appropriations for the University of Missouri also grew significantly during the course of the Five-Year Financial Plan "and helped make possible the University's nationally recognized financial stability," Pacheco said. Even so, state appropriations continue to lag those made to other public universities in the AAU, according to the report.

Even after increases in student fees, they constitute approximately 17.5 percent of the University's total revenues, Pacheco said. State appropriations provide another 26 percent. "Thus, students at the University of Missouri continue to receive educational benefits whose value far exceeds their cost," he noted.

Pacheco stressed that the issue of educational fees has been and continues to be a concern in Missouri and the nation. He indicated that Governor Carnahan's Conference on Higher Education this year will focus on the cost and affordability of higher education in Missouri and that the Governor has appointed a state commission to study the matter. Chancellor Blanche Touhill, of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, served on the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, which urged continued improvements in higher education management and communication to dispel misunderstandings about college and university costs.

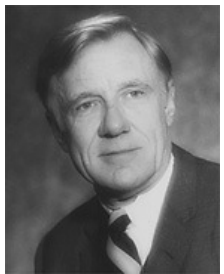
Pacheco suggested that "Educational Fees at the University of Missouri" is one contribution the UM System can make to the continuing discussion.

The entire report can be found on the UM System website at www.system.missouri.edu/urel/main/second/ur/wfeerep.htm.

Curators elect Paul Combs Board President for 1999



Paul T. Combs



Hugh Stephenson, Jr., M.D.

The Board of Curators elected Paul T. Combs of Kennett as its president for 1999 at its Dec. 3 meeting. Combs, who was appointed to the board in 1995, chairs the Executive Committee and is a member of the Physical Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee.

Combs received a bachelor of science degree in accountancy from UM-Columbia in 1987 and became a Certified Public Accountant in 1988. He was a tax associate for Price Waterhouse from 1987 to 1989, then became vice-president of Baker Implement Co., a retail farm equipment firm with 10 dealerships in Missouri and Arkansas.

Curator Hugh Stephenson, Jr., M.D., of Columbia, was elected vice president of the Board. Stephenson was appointed to the Board in 1996. A member of the Executive Committee, he is Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and Chair of the University Hospital and Health Sciences Committee.

Stephenson received two undergraduate degrees from UMC in 1943 and his M.D. from the Washington University School of Medicine in 1945. Dr. Stephenson, who retired in 1992, is John A. Growdon Distinguished Professor of Surgery Emeritus at UMC's School of Medicine.

Beckett's final report details UM's successes in 1998



Curator Ted Beckett

The following is excerpted from a speech given by Curator Ted Beckett at the December Board meeting, his last as 1998 UM Board President.

I want to take this opportunity, at my last meeting as President, to recount briefly some of our University's achievements during 1998 and to recognize some of the people responsible for them.

At the outset, let me say how proud and gratified I am to have served as President of this Board at a time when the University of Missouri is making remarkable progress and receiving public credit for doing so. This institution, of which each of us is a part, is filled with talented and energetic students, faculty and staff members.

On a University-wide level, we could point to several accomplishments, three of which I would underscore. One is our remarkable success in the first year of President Pacheco's expanded effort to attract a fair share of federal research funding to the University of Missouri System. Our successful first-year request for Mission Enhancement Funding has strengthened teaching and research and has expanded our Endowed Chairs and Professorships program—an initiative that may have a greater long-term influence on the quality of the University than any other measure available to us. Meanwhile, the University continues to be recognized as one of the best-managed in the nation, according to the exceptional ratings attached to its bonds by Standard and Poor's and Moody's.

Although its effects have been cumulative, I want also to recognize the continued positive influence exerted by the University of Missouri on elementary and secondary education standards in our state. As you know, our Board approved stiffer core course requirements which took full effect in the fall of 1997. As you also know, school boards, teachers and school administrators and their students throughout the state have risen to the challenge. As a result, we have seen more—not fewer—and better-qualified students admitted to the University of Missouri. Students who cannot be admitted directly from high school have the opportunity to build an academic record at any of Missouri's fine community colleges and thus qualify to transfer to the University of Missouri later in their academic careers. This is the sort of partnership of public resources that should be enhanced between our University and the community colleges. It is wise public policy and it results in admitting transfer students who graduate at rates comparable to those of students who come to us as freshmen.

At the University of Missouri-Columbia, we have had a banner year in the number of research grants awarded to the campus and we have seen the largest such grant ever awarded to the campus—\$11 million for maize genome research. MU's partnership—with Washington University, the Missouri Botanical Garden, Monsanto Company and the University of Illinois—in the not-for-profit Donald Danforth Plant Science Center also recognizes MU's unique institutional capabilities. The establishment at MU of the European Union Center—one of only 10 winners, including Harvard, Duke and the Universities of Wisconsin, Illinois, Southern California and North Carolina—is an acknowledgement of its international presence and influence. In May, MU's broadly representative Strategic Planning Council presented the MU Strategic Plan—a document that will serve as a blueprint for the future of the campus. And, while we are aware of the dubious value of various campus rankings, MU has been named one of the best bargains in public higher education by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

**"The achievements of the University of Missouri and its people during the past year have been many, diverse and profound. We can all be proud of the University and of its presence in every part of our state and beyond."
—1998 Board President Ted Beckett**

At UM-Kansas City, the admission of well-qualified students continues. In the fall of 1997, the average ACT score for first-time freshmen admitted to UMKC was 24.9. Plans continue, also, to achieve Carnegie Research II status—putting UMKC in league with such urban universities as Brandeis, George Washington and Houston. UMKC has no interest in building a wall around itself. Instead, it hopes to become the academic home to a total of 15,000 students by attracting additional, and equally-well-qualified, students from beyond the confines of Kansas City to its very attractive campus.

UMKC has capitalized on the Endowed Chairs and Professorships program by completing funding for 17 such positions and filling 11 of them with nationally recognized scholars. In all, UMKC has 47 endowed faculty positions—43 of which are part of the matching program. The most recent endowed faculty additions have been in the Conservatory of Music, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business, Medicine and Law.

UMKC saw significant growth in grants and contracts as well as in its interdisciplinary Ph.D. program, which was created just eight years ago. And UMKC's Debate Program Director, Linda Collier, whose teams have repeatedly earned national championships, received a major grant to provide high school students with intensive debate training and tournament competition.

The University of Missouri-Rolla has distinguished itself again this year by nearly every measure of academic quality. In addition, in January, UMR opened the Southwestern Bell Cultural Center, which houses the Association for Black Students, the Voices of Inspiration Choir, a women's resource center, computer lab and study area. UMR also created a Center for Infrastructure Engineering Studies through the Mission Enhancement Program. The program will be a great help to a state concerned about its roads and bridges and power. With the establishment of a new degree program in computer engineering, UMR now offers bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees in computer engineering, a field in which demand is exceedingly high. The commissioning of the "Millenium Arch" sculpture was announced in October. The

work will be created by Edwina Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill, using UMR's renowned water jet technology. All approved housing units were also connected to the UMR computer network. UMR, for this and other reasons, continues to be ranked as one of the nation's most electronically-connected campuses. UMR was also ranked with MU as one of the best bargains in public higher education by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

The famous St. Louis Mercantile Library—the oldest library west of the Mississippi River—re-opened on the UM-St. Louis campus in October. The priceless collection, heavily related to the early history of railroads and waterways, now occupies 40,000 square feet of renovated space in the Thomas Jefferson Library on North Campus. In its second year, the Des Lee Collaboration Vision at UM-St. Louis is reaching thousands of students and citizens with innovative educational programs. The Collaborative includes 17 endowed professorships and ties to dozens of cultural and educational institutions in St. Louis, including the St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Historical Society, St. Louis Symphony and Missouri Botanical Garden. UM-St. Louis also opened two new centers — for Molecular Electronics and for Emerging Technologies. And UM-St. Louis received approval to offer a Ph.D. in education and a master's degree in social work, both being offered in cooperation with other University of Missouri campuses. In addition, UM-St. Louis introduced the University's first MBA program that is heavily reliant on Internet technology.

Thanks to University Outreach and Extension, Missouri citizens are benefiting from high-performance educational outreach programs developed by multidisciplinary teams from the four University of Missouri campuses and Lincoln University. Through the Outreach Development Fund, the University has invested \$1.3 million in 50 partnerships between the campuses and field staff to develop and deliver programs designed to meet high-priority needs expressed by citizens at the local level. More than 2,000 Missouri citizens are actively participating in planning, designing, delivering and evaluating educational programs locally through their county Outreach and Extension councils. The Outreach and Extension program is engaged in a comprehensive assessment of citizens' needs in every county.

The University of Missouri's outreach through telecommunications now extends to Northeast Missouri with the opening of the Telecommunication Community Resource Center in Kirksville earlier this year. There are now eight TCRC's in operation, in partnership with local communities, regional universities, community colleges and others. On the international scene, the Show-Me Project is assisting border communities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in developing community leadership programs, with assistance from the European Union.

The achievements of the University of Missouri and its people during the past year have been many, diverse and profound. We can all be proud of the University and of its presence in every part of our state and beyond.

No injuries from tornado but UM buildings hit hard



Damage to the UM Library Depository Building

Two University of Missouri System buildings were severely damaged by a tornado that ripped through south Columbia at 2 a.m. Nov. 10. Fortunately there were no injuries to employees because both buildings were vacant at that hour. Substantial damage was done to the University of Missouri Press and Records Management Building and the UM Library Book Depository, open less than a year.

"Repairs for both buildings will cost approximately \$1.5 million," Dennis Cesari, assistant vice president for management services, told the Board of Curators Dec. 3. "The Library Storage Building repairs will cost \$700,000 and \$800,000 will be spent on repairs to the Records Management/University Press building."

The good news is that the University will pay \$100,000 for the repairs, thanks to property insurance that requires a \$100,000 deductible per storm, Cesari said.

The 50,000-square-foot Records Management/University Press building received substantial exterior damage including broken windows, damaged siding and two overhead doors completely gone along with approximately one-third of the roof. Among the contents of the building at the time of the tornado were roughly 86,000 boxes of University records, a microfilm laboratory and 400,000 books belonging to the UM Press.

Although one of the areas hardest hit in the building was the microfilm lab, there was no apparent damage to the cameras, and because the storm brought very little rain, only about 200 boxes of records needed special attention to be dried out.

The 17,000-square-foot UM Library Depository housed approximately 300,000 volumes from the four campuses of the UM System. Although no books were damaged, Cesari said the tornado tore off the entire roof over the high bay book area. In addition major sections of siding on the south and east sides of the building were severely damaged, the roof in the dock area was destroyed and the south wall of the building was moved a few inches, requiring complete rebuilding.

Cesari said that in the days immediately following the tornado University staff, contractors, architects and engineers worked feverishly to clean up, assess damages and protect exposed books, materials and equipment. By the end of the week temporary roofs were installed and permanent repairs had begun.

Storage of records and operations in the microfilm lab were interrupted for one week while they were relocated nearby in the Quarterdeck Building's empty warehouse. The building was purchased by the University earlier this year to house hospital administrative offices. The UM Press book processing area also was shut down for one week and moved to the Quarterdeck Building. The microfilm lab and the Press' book processing services will operate at the temporary location until April 1 when all repairs to the damaged buildings are expected to be complete.



Damage to the microfilm lab in the Records Management/UM Press Building

Wayne Duncan, director of records management, said a disaster of this nature has always been the staff's worst imaginary nightmare that has now become a reality. He said due to previous disaster preparedness planning, large tarps, flashlights and other necessary supplies were already on hand.

Duncan indicated the staff worked long hours in the cold, with limited light spreading tarps, cleaning, checking for wet boxes, and moving the microfilm operation's equipment to the Quarterdeck Building. "Now that the immediate crisis is over, operations are pretty much back to

normal," he said. "Even though we expect some minor inconveniences in the coming weeks, the staff's spirits bounced back after some well deserved rest over the Thanksgiving weekend."

Although a new roof has been installed on the Library Depository, it has been shut down since the tornado. Processing will not be able to resume there until interior repairs are completed.

Missouri Biography Series wins praise and provides link to important citizens in state's history

For almost a decade the Missouri Biography Series, published by the University of Missouri Press, has accomplished a valuable and previously unmet goal — producing literary works focusing on notable Missourians. The series, which has published 17 books to date, focuses on both citizens who were born in the state and those whose careers had significant impact on the region. It has received overwhelmingly widespread praise from reviewers and readers, says William Foley, series editor.

"The purpose of the series is to encourage scholarship and support projects that educate readers about outstanding people who have Missouri connections," says Foley, a professor of history at Central Missouri State University who earned his doctoral degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Although the series had been in the planning stages for many years, Foley credits Beverly Jarrett for making it a reality shortly after she came to the press in 1989 to become director and editor-in-chief.

Foley says the success of the series has grown far beyond initial expectations. Among the accolades for books from the series are those for two recent publications. The first full-scale biography of Kansas City political boss Tom Pendergast, entitled *Pendergast!*, received positive reviews, including one from *The Washington Times*.

Another recent release, *Becoming Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Woman Behind the Legend*, focuses on the much-loved writer's years in Missouri from 1894 to 1957. Utilizing her unpublished autobiography, letters, newspaper stories, and other documentary evidence, author John E. Miller fills the gaps in Wilder's autobiographical novels and describes her 63 years of living in Mansfield, Missouri.

Reviewers included *The New York Times Book Review* and the *Washington Post Book World*, which wrote "Miller does not try to make her (Wilder) any more —or less —than she was, and that is the virtue of this biography."

"We've been delighted with the results of the series," Foley says. "The books have overwhelmingly been quite favorably received."

Foley says from the outset the series was planned to cover a wide variety of subjects, although he admits establishing guidelines for what will be included is an ongoing process. "We decided early on not to create a standard format, to allow room for some variety the subjects of some books justify brief treatment, while others merit a lengthier accounting. We decided to allow the subject and the biographer to decide how best to handle each volume."

The latest addition to the series, which will be available in January, is a biography of Walter Williams, "Journalist to the World," entitled *A Creed for My Profession*. Williams was at different times in his career a member of the University's Board of Curators, dean of the world's first school of journalism school, which he founded, and president of the University during the Great Depression.

While in some cases manuscripts submitted independently are published as part of the series, Foley says more commonly the Press identifies people deserving of a biography and then authors or historians from all over the country are recruited to write the book. The intended audience for the series is both trade and scholarly —some books have narrow appeal but are about important figures and merit attention, and many others are written for a general audience.

Among the projects in the works, Foley says, are biographies of Satchel Paige, Stan Musial, Chester Franklin of the *Kansas City Call*, George Caleb Bingham and Director John Huston.

Also scheduled to be released by the UM Press in 1999 is a reference work, "the Dictionary of Missouri Biography," a listing of 760 Missourians from all parts of the state. Currently in the editing process, the dictionary features the entries of more than 200 authors, and is expected to be 800-900 pages in final print, Foley says. Part of the impetus for the project came when a Missouri Biography Series author could not find an up-to-date Missouri biography reference, as the last one was written in the 1940s. "The dictionary really reflects Missouri's diversity, and in the process is fun to read," says Foley.

UM establishes fellowship to honor Brice Ratchford



C. Brice Ratchford

The University of Missouri is establishing a new faculty fellowship honoring the late C. Brice Ratchford, according to UM President Manuel Pacheco.

Speaking at the UM Board of Curators meeting in Columbia Dec. 3, Pacheco said the fellowship will be awarded annually to a UM faculty member who personifies the late Dr. Ratchford's work to advance the University's land-grant mission. Members of the Outreach and Extension field staff are eligible for this recognition.

"Brice Ratchford's name is synonymous with innovation in American higher education, and his commitment to the advancement of the land-grant mission is unparalleled," Pacheco said.

Ratchford served as president of the UM System, 1971-76, and as extension director, dean and vice president from 1959 to 1970. Ratchford was instrumental in formation of the four-campus University system. Among his innovations was creation of a unified extension division in which all university extension and continuing education functions were coordinated. He also was responsible for bringing extension programs into urban areas.

Internationally, Ratchford's leadership of programs in South America and Africa provided the basis for cooperation and understanding between the University and world neighbors engaged in agriculture and community development.

A steering committee of Ratchford's colleagues and friends has established an endowment fund to support the fellowship. The first fellowship will be awarded in 1999.

Those wishing to contribute to the Ratchford memorial fellowship endowment may send gifts to the Office of the Executive Vice President, 309 University Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

New Alzheimer's research to begin in Missouri

Some new and exciting directions for research on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are being developed in Missouri, according to Dr. David McDonald, the chairman of the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Program Advisory Board. McDonald, a professor of psychology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, said that the ADRD Advisory Board has recommended eight new projects for funding for 1998-99, and the recommendations have been transmitted to the University of Missouri's Board of Curators for approval. Successful applicants will be informed after Board action this month.

The eight successful proposals were chosen from 20 submitted in this year's competition. The topics proposed ranged from studies in the basic molecular biology of neuron death in Alzheimer's patients to investigations of various types of memory in normal elderly and Alzheimer's patients, and include designing new pharmacological compounds for enhancing memory. "The quality of the proposals submitted this year was unusually high," McDonald said, "and the Advisory Board felt that nearly twice as many deserved support if the funds had been available." The total to be awarded for the work, which is to begin in 1999, is \$227,000.

The ADRD program was established by the General Assembly in 1987 to provide funds for research projects in Missouri that promote and advance the knowledge in the areas of Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative brain disorders. Its goal is to enable investigators, particularly junior investigators, to test new ideas on a small scale and then use the pilot data to apply for larger grants from the Alzheimer's Association, the National Institutes of Health, and other sources. In addition to research projects dealing with issues of cause and diagnosis, research proposals are especially encouraged that address management and provision of health care and services relevant to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, the impact on care givers, and cost containment.

The Missouri General Assembly appropriates approximately \$240,000 each year for the program. The maximum amount that can be awarded to a single project is \$30,000 per year, which is an increase in the \$20,000 per year specified in the original legislation. The maximum level was increased by the legislature in 1997, in large part because of the strong backing the Missouri Alzheimer's Coalition gave to the bill, which was introduced by Representative Lana Stokan, a long-time supporter of the Missouri Alzheimer's Association activities and now a member of the ADRD Advisory Board.

The ADRD Program Advisory Board is appointed by the University of Missouri Board of Curators to advise on the administration of the program and to establish research priorities, solicit proposals, and provide for peer review of the background and ability of each investigator, the merits of the work proposed, and an evaluation of the potential for each research project to achieve productive results.

Many of the studies that have been supported by the ADRD Program have led to further work that is supported by other granting agencies. "This is precisely what was envisioned when the program was established," said the director of the program, Dr. Armon Yanders. "More dollars have been received from other sources than the state of Missouri initially provided for the research, so we benefit both ways." He added that the ADRD staff is now collecting new figures on what these returns are, and he hopes to have them available next spring. "The fact that the maximum award has been increased to \$30,000 has not only led to better proposals, but will also make it more likely that the pilot projects will receive outside support," he said. "The higher limit will enable the collection of additional data that can make a more convincing case for expanding the studies. The only downside is that fewer studies can be funded each year, because the level of appropriations has stayed the same. We could fund twelve projects when the grant limit was \$20,000, but only eight can be supported now."

A new cycle of competition will begin next March, when the *Call for Proposals* will be mailed to any person or institution interested in making a submission.

Questions concerning the ADRD Program, or requests for more information on the research program or the guidelines for applying may be sent to the Director, ADRD Program, 521 Clark Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. Information is also available at the ADRD web site, www.system.missouri.edu/alzheimers or by telephone at 573-882-1714.

University promotes hotel preferred provider program for official travel

The University has implemented a new hotel management program aimed at improving hotel services for University employees while reducing cost. The new Preferred Provider Program includes partnerships with selected hotels in Columbia, Jefferson City, Kansas City, Rolla, St. Louis and Springfield. Preferred Provider hotels agree to provide their last double or king room available at the prescribed rate, all have inside access for security, and all have reduced corporate rates. Hotels have been selected in locations convenient to the campuses and other businesses in the area. Employees are encouraged to use Preferred Provider hotels to assure low rates in the future, but may use other hotels if necessary.

A complete list of Preferred Provider Hotels can be found at <http://www.system.missouri.edu/uminfo/trv/tr101.htm>.