

Spectrum

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UM students better prepared, have higher success rate

UM Vice President for Academic Affairs Stephen Lehmkuhle briefed the Board of Curators Oct. 15 on Fall 1999 enrollments and exceptions. "More high school students in Missouri are completing college preparatory classes and are scoring higher on the ACT exam, and many of these better-prepared high school students are applying for admission to one of our campuses," he said.

At UM-Columbia, the number of students applying for the Fall semester has shown a steady increase since 1997. Of the students who applied, 83-84 percent were admitted during those three years. Slightly less than one-half — 48 percent — of the students who were admitted actually enrolled for each year. Primarily because of the increase in the number of applications, the number of first-time, full-time freshmen increased on the Columbia campus by 86 students since last year, Lehmkuhle said.

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At UM-Kansas City, there is a slight downward trend in the number of applications. However, the number of students admitted increased during this time, with a 68 percent acceptance rate for Fall 1999. The percentage of the admitted students who actually enrolled remained at 40 percent. As a result, fall enrollment is up from last year by 38 students for first-time, full-time freshmen at UMKC.

On the UM-Rolla campus, the number of students who applied was down for 1999 from the previous two years. The number of students admitted also decreased from 97 percent to 89 percent during this period. However, students who were admitted and actually enrolled increased from 40 percent to 46 percent. The net result was a decrease of 50 first-time, full-time freshmen on the Rolla campus since last fall.

Applications and admissions at UM-St. Louis are down from the previous two years — there was a drop of 52 first-time, full-time freshmen this fall, Lehmkuhle said.

He said the numbers of admission exceptions and the exception rates have risen from last year for UM-Columbia, UM-Rolla and UM-St. Louis, with a 17 percent exception rate at UM-Columbia, a 23 percent exception rate at UM-Rolla and a 40 percent exception rate at UM-St. Louis. The number of admissions exceptions and the exception rate for Kansas City decreased with an exception rate of 24 percent.

"There was an 89 percent success rate for those students meeting the admission requirements," Lehmkuhle said, meaning they had a grade point average of 2.0 or greater after completing 24

credit hours. "For those students who were admitted as exceptions last year, 71 percent had an academically successful year."

Lehmkuhle said the enrollment statistics illustrate two positive trends for the University. "First, students who meet the admission requirements have almost a 20 percent higher success rate than those students who did not meet all the admission requirements, which validates our admission criteria," he said. "The second good story is that the students admitted as exceptions also succeed at a high rate. The 71 percent success rate for students admitted as exceptions is much higher than the Board guideline of a 60 percent success rate for exceptions."

President Pacheco reports on status of UM's new strategic plan

The Board of Curators approved a new Strategic Plan and a Fiscal Year 2001 Resource Plan for the University of Missouri System in September. In the weeks since, all campuses, University Outreach and Extension and UM System administrative units have moved forward with the plans, UM System President Manuel Pacheco reported to the Board at its Oct. 15 meeting in Columbia.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC), comprising the President, chancellors and vice presidents, has continued its monthly meetings, with sessions Sept. 13 and Oct. 14.

The SPSC's work is focused on:

- Monitoring ongoing unit strategic planning and its connection to FY2001 financial planning for the campuses, Outreach and Extension and System Administration.
- Assuring that all such planning continues to be consistent with the UM System Strategic Plan approved Sept. 2.

Pacheco reported that on Sept. 29, at the invitation of the MU campus Faculty Council, he attended a general faculty meeting at which Chancellor Richard Wallace "did a superb job of discussing the new strategic plan" and the foremost campus planning issues. "I look forward to discussions about the strategic plan with faculty and staff on the other campuses," Pacheco said.

"Because of the complexity of the strategic plan, it will not be easy to communicate its implications for all members of the University community," he said. "We are working to disseminate throughout the University System clear and comprehensive information about the plan." (The complete plan may be found on the internet at <http://www.system.missouri.edu/urel/main/second/ur/sp799.htm>)

Pacheco said that priorities in strategic planning will differ from campus to campus and implementation of actions suggested by the UM System Strategic Plan will, inevitably, move at different rates on different campuses.

Pacheco promised the Curators that the SPSC will monitor progress toward achievement of the University's planning objectives and that he will make a strategic planning status report at each meeting of the Board.

Federal research funding continues to climb

From fiscal years 1996 through 1999, federal research expenditures for all four campuses of the UM System increased from \$54.9 million to \$74.7 million, Vice President for Academic Affairs Stephen Lehmkuhle told the Board Oct. 15. "There seems to have been steady growth from FY1996 through FY1998 that accelerated in FY 1999," he said.

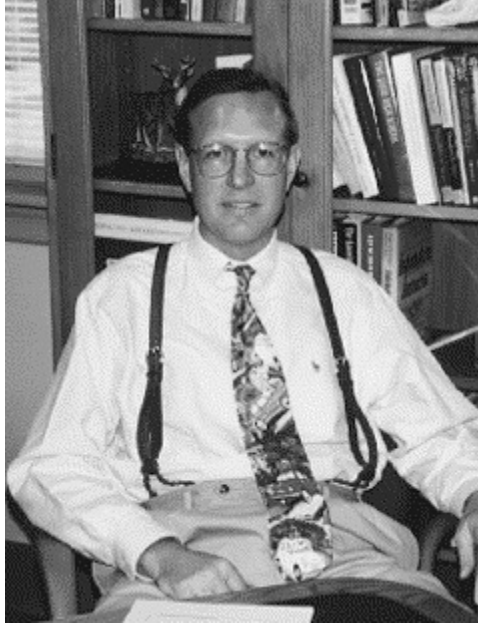
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The percentage increases ranged between 5 and 10 percent from 1996 through 1998, but there was a 17 percent increase in 1999 — double the largest increase observed since 1991. Federal research expenditures during the four-year period also increased for each campus, Lehmkuhle said. The UM-Columbia campus experienced a 19 percent increase; UM-Kansas City had a 16 percent increase; UM-Rolla had a 10 percent increase; and UM-St. Louis observed a 22 percent increase.

"Our goal is to increase our market share relative to the public AAU institutions, not just to increase the amount of federal funding for research," Lehmkuhle said. Federal annual research expenditures (rather than research awards or commitments) are the most conservative measures of research funding values. They are used by the data exchange of the National Science Foundation — the source used by the University to ensure accurate comparisons.

"We are hopeful that FY 1999 is the start of a new trend and an accelerated rate of growth in research funding," Lehmkuhle said. "We are seeing the impact of our recent federal research funding initiative."

Steven Graham named director of new Academic Leadership Institute



Steven Graham

Steven Graham, director of the Office of Continuing Professional Education and associate professor at UM-Columbia since 1991, became director of the newly-created UM System Academic Leadership Institute, effective Oct. 1.

UM System President Manuel Pacheco conceived of the Institute for Academic Leadership and Management to assist academic decision makers — department chairs, in particular — to more effectively perform their many managerial responsibilities. A 16-member committee of academic leaders from throughout the University, co-chaired by Stephen Lehmkuhle, vice president for academic affairs, and Ken Hutchinson, vice president for human resources, was convened last year to help define the role of the institute.

"Steve (Graham) will guide our efforts to promote and develop our academic leadership on the four campuses," Lehmkuhle said. "In my mind, it will be the quality of our academic leadership that will ensure the viability of the University during this period of rapid changes in higher education."

The institute will provide academic managers — faculty members, department chairs, deans, provosts, chancellors, academic vice presidents and others — with organized support.

Graham received a bachelor's degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Ia., in 1975, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Iowa in 1977 and 1983, respectively. In addition to being director of the Office of Continuing Professional Education and associate professor at UM-Columbia since 1991, from 1993-1996 he was associate dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Professional Education. From 1985-1991 he was director and assistant professor at the UM-Columbia College of Education.

RIM offers better coverage for University property

Damage claims to University property of \$100,000 or less are now covered by a new self-insurance program offered by the Office of Risk and Insurance Management (RIM) since July 1. Previously, the University had no blanket coverage for damage or loss claims of less than \$100,000, although other commercial insurance and self-insured options were available to departments, says Bill Payton, director of UM Risk and Insurance Management.

Historically, the Office of Risk & Insurance Management has offered various options allowing departments to buy down the deductible. However, there have been at least six losses during the last few years that were not covered by those options, requiring colleges or departments to pay the \$100,000 deductible.

The self-insured property program will be financed initially with funds accumulated in the discontinued Business Personal Property Program. Even though rates in that program were reduced in response to claims experience, a favorable balance resulted, according to Payton. All campuses and departments are automatically included in the program and no action is necessary until a department experiences a claim.

One significant change to the program is that any department is responsible for the first \$1,000 of any loss, up from \$100, Payton says.

Meanwhile, rates for comprehensive physical damage and collision coverage of University vehicles have been reduced, Payton says. This is the second rate reduction in the last five years. Rates were cut from 3 percent to 1 percent of vehicle value in 1996. The rate is now 0.5 percent of vehicle value.

Payton says it is important for department leaders to be aware of the risks, the availability of the new coverage and recent reductions in its cost. "We've already had a claim of approximately \$50,000 which would not previously have been covered and which would have been a campus responsibility," he said.

Design for MU Life Sciences Building approved by Board

The UM Board of Curators Oct. 15 approved schematic designs for the Life Sciences Center, a 207,000-square-foot facility to be located at UM-Columbia.

The \$50-million project will create space for interdisciplinary research in agriculture and biomedical sciences. A \$14-million federal grant toward construction awaits final approval from Congress; the balance of the funding is slated to come from other federal sources, state appropriations, and private fund-raising.

The University is requesting \$29 million in state funding for the project.

Information on volume purchasing agreements for PC hardware and software product lines available online

The University has volume purchase agreements for personal computing equipment, educational site licenses for software, and maintenance services for use in administrative and academic departments at all campus locations.

An online Internet web site containing VPA contract/pricing information can be found on the System-wide information system, UMINFO. Departments can access and print VPA contract/pricing information by selecting the Volume Purchasing Agreement menu selection at the following web address:

<http://www.system.missouri.edu/uminfo>

or directly at the URL:

<http://www.system.missouri.edu/busserv/vpamenu.htm>

Examples of the computing equipment that can be purchased from these VPA contracts include desktop workstations, notebooks, printers, and servers from major computer companies such as IBM, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, Dell, Gateway, Sun Microsystems, and Silicon Graphics.

For additional information about volume purchase agreements, contact Peggy Quisenberry at 573-882-9311 or via email at quisenberryp@umsystem.edu.