

Spectrum

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Floyd tells curators major tuition hike was "unavoidable"

UM System President Elson S. Floyd told curators meeting in Kirkwood May 22 that a major tuition hike this fall was unavoidable given the current uncertain budget climate. The board later approved a proposal to increase tuition this fall by \$27-per-credit-hour beyond an inflationary increase approved in March.

Floyd said that the University is mindful of the sacrifices that students and their families make to attend a well-respected research university.

"I strongly favor maintaining tuition at as low a level as possible consistent with the needs of the University to sustain a high level of quality instruction and services for our students," Floyd said. "As the son of working class parents, I deeply value access, afford-ability, and opportunity in higher education."

Floyd reminded the curators that they approved a proposal to increase undergraduate and graduate tuition by 3.2 percent for the 2003 fall semester, which was just enough to cover increases in operating costs caused by inflation.

"The recommendation at the March meeting was an expression of good faith and support for the governor and legislative leaders who were working hard to protect higher education from additional cuts," Floyd said. "The General Assembly did not succeed in producing a budget that held higher education harmless, and the prospects for improvement in state appropriations for fiscal year 2004 (during a special session) are not promising."

Floyd noted that the budget picture continues to be murky and the news is nearly all bad. The higher education budget passed by the General Assembly includes a 6.8 percent decrease in the core appropriation for the University of Missouri, which translates to a permanent cut of \$28 million. The tuition increase approved by the board May 22 will only produce \$24 million. The balance of \$4 million will have to be made up from other sources.

Gov. Bob Holden announced May 20 that he plans to veto the higher education appropriations bill when it reaches his desk. He has called a special session of the General Assembly to begin June 2 to address the funding shortfall.

On May 23, the governor announced that he would withhold an additional \$4.3 million from the University to make up for a deficit caused by unexpectedly low state revenue collections in the last few months of FY03.

The governor's latest action brings the total of cuts and withholdings absorbed by the University during the last two years to \$124 million. University officials have been advised to brace for additional withholdings early in FY04.

Floyd told the curators that he continues to focus on sustaining the quality of the academic enterprise and honoring the University's commitment to its students. He said the University has reduced operating expenses through a number of avenues during the past two years. Tuition is about the only option still left for coping with major cuts in state support.

Silverstein reports on role of public higher education

UM System Board of Curators President Connie Hager Silverstein welcomed fellow curators to her hometown of Kirkwood, Mo., to open the May board meeting. Standing in the same high school she herself attended and where her daughter is now a junior, she talked about the Kirkwood community's sense of energy and pride.

"Kirkwood is truly a railroad town, with tracks criss-crossing the city and a beautiful old and functioning train station at its heart," Silverstein said. "It has always been important for Kirkwood to be connected to St. Louis, and to have a direct and physical link to central Missouri and the rest of the state."

Silverstein asked the curators to reflect during the meeting on two important themes: the critical role of public higher education in Missouri from pre-school through college and beyond, as well as funding for higher education.

"Throughout the two days, we will use the Kirkwood School District as one proxy for public education in the state, as well as Webster Groves High School and Crowder Community College," she said. "Our presentations will span pre-kindergarten through middle school, high school, community college and the University." Presentations included discussions with high school administrators and students.

Regarding funding, Silverstein said the University was still trying to determine the extent of additional withholdings for fiscal year 2003 while facing the likelihood of cuts ranging from \$28 million to \$44 million for FY04. "Sadly, the fiscal picture does not look any brighter after 2004 based on current assumptions," Silverstein said.

"As we make decisions today and tomorrow that will guide and shape the University for succeeding generations, this board needs to be innovative and resourceful," Silverstein said. "We must have a renewed sense of urgency about finding new financial solutions. I encourage the chairs and members of our Finance Committee and our Resources and Planning Committee to spend some serious time brain-storming on new approaches for the long-term financial viability of the University."

The board later viewed a video presentation by former Missouri Budget Director Jim Moody that described the financial outlook for the state. The board also heard from Kirkwood graduate and Missouri's Commissioner on Higher Education, Quentin Wilson. Kirkwood resident state Senator Michael Gibbons (R-District 15) shared his insights on the recent legislative session and the special session that will begin June 2.

Krawitz reports on FY04 budget, educational fee increase

The UM Board of Curators approved the fiscal year 2004 budget at its May meeting in Kirkwood.

State appropriations comprise 45 percent of the University of Missouri's operating budget. UM System Vice President for Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz reported to the board in Kirkwood that the UM budget for FY04 originally was based on the assumption that the University's state appropriation would remain relatively unchanged from the current year. However, the General Assembly's final higher education appropriations bill included a \$28 million cut to the UM System.

Holden announced on May 20 his intention to veto the General Assembly's higher education appropriations bill. A special session of the General Assembly will convene June 2 to consider the appropriation measures.

Assuming that the state appropriation would remain essentially level, the board in March approved a 3.2 percent tuition increase to cover the increased cost of operations caused by inflation. Krawitz said it now appears likely that the General Assembly's proposed \$28 million cut to the University's core budget may be the best case scenario for the upcoming fiscal year. To make up for the lost revenue, the board approved an additional increase in tuition on May 22 of \$27-per-credit-hour for all students. The additional increase beyond the rate of inflation is expected to generate \$24 million of the \$28 million shortfall.

Total fee increases for next year will now be 19.8 percent for in-state undergraduates, 9 percent for non-resident undergraduates, 16.5 percent for in-state graduate students and 7.8 percent for out-of-state graduate students.

The total current funds budget for the UM System will be \$1.9 billion, a 2 percent increase over the prior year before additional withholdings in state appropriations. Tuition and fees are budgeted at \$401.5 million, an increase of 5.9 percent from FY03. The change accounts for projected growth in enrollments and increases in tuition and fees. Budgeted revenues from gifts, grants and contracts total \$248.3 million, reflecting a decrease of 15 percent from FY03. Revenues for sales and services total \$644.5 million, up 3.4 percent or \$21.3 million from FY03. Approximately 56.8 percent of these revenues are attributed to University Hospitals and Clinics.

Expenditures for the next fiscal year are estimated at \$1.8 billion, essentially the same as the prior year's budget.

Budgets for salaries and wages include a 2 percent planned increase in funds available for salary adjustments. The total budgeted for salaries and wages is \$904 million. As priorities allow, the University is encouraged to supplement the general pool within each of its campuses and other administrative units to address the most difficult recruitment issues. Salary increases awarded to individuals will be based on relative quality of performance and market circumstances. Wage

increases for service and maintenance staff (union eligible) will be determined after meet and confer sessions are conducted.

Employee benefits are budgeted to increase \$37.7 million, or 21.7 percent, primarily as a result of the increase in the required contribution rate to the University's retirement plan.

The budget also calls for a continuation of the board's policy to set aside 1.25 percent of the replacement value of the physical plant for maintenance and repair.

Educational fee reduction for employees' spouses, dependents

Beginning fall semester 2003, eligible UM employees will have an additional benefit: educational fee reduction for dependents and spouses. The UM System Board of Curators approved amendments to collected rules and regulations, section 230.070, educational fee reduction for employees' spouses and dependents, at its May meeting.

The University will provide a benefit equal to a 50 percent reduction of educational fees for an eligible spouse or eligible dependent child of eligible employees, or up to 140 credit hours of University of Missouri college credit courses per eligible spouse or eligible dependent.

"The program has been encouraged for a number of years and is supported by the representative councils, both faculty and staff, on each campus," said Ken Hutchinson, UM Vice President for Human Resources. "After looking at the cost-benefit of the program, we believe this is an appropriate investment."

University courses include undergraduate, graduate and professional programs. University programs of study which blend undergraduate and graduate courses also are included. Graduate and professional credits for spouses and dependents will be considered taxable income. Consistent with the employee educational assistance program, activity fees, books, and other expenses are the responsibility of the participant.

Definitions of eligibility specify criteria for participation. For example, employees must be currently employed as benefit eligible employees with five years of continuous, full-time service immediately prior to the deadline for registration fee payment, and must remain University employees through the beginning of the course in which the spouse or dependent is enrolled.

UMSL dedicates new arts center

Interim Chancellor Driemeier congratulates Chancellor Emeritus Touhill following the ceremony.

A ceremony on May 23 marked the dedication of the \$52 million Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

The new center is a signature building for the campus and for the St. Louis community. It features two performance spaces—a 1,630-seat proscenium theater and a 300-seat music and theater hall.

Designed by world-renowned architects Pei, Cobb, Freed and Partners, the 128,000-square foot facility includes an enclosed atrium to showcase art exhibits and accommodate cultural, academic and corporate events. The building is equipped with catering facilities, beverage service areas and an outdoor terrace and gardens. It will open in Sept. 2003 with a series of grand opening performances and events.

Touhill, who retired as chancellor of the UM-St. Louis campus in Dec. 2002, spearheaded the effort to raise funds for the new structure. The state allocated \$40.4 million towards its construction. Touhill led the effort to raise an additional \$11.6 million in private donations.

Among the 300 in attendance at the dedication were members of the UM System Board of Curators. Also present were state Senator Wayne Goode (D-District 13) and former state Representative Sheila Lumpe, who sponsored the legislation that provided initial funding for the performing arts center.

Cairns brings commitment to children and education to board



Marion Cairns has a long and distinguished history of service to children and education, which undoubtedly had something to do with Gov. Bob Holden's decision to appoint her to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators in 2003.

"When I heard that she was nominated, I was ecstatic, as both a graduate of the University and a citizen of the State of Missouri," said John Rawlings, editor of *Sporting News* and a friend who has attended Webster Groves Presbyterian Church with Cairns for 13 years. "Marion is smart, she is a real strategic thinker, and she is passionate about children and education. I don't know what more you would want from somebody than those qualities to serve on the board."

Cairns, 74, received a bachelor of arts degree from Monmouth College. She also holds an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Monmouth College and an honorary doctorate in law from Webster University.

"Without realizing it, from the time that I began my career, every experience I have had along the way has been useful later," Cairns said. "My education also was useful."

The political science classes she enrolled in as a student certainly became valuable. Cairns served as a representative for the 97th District (Webster Groves and Glendale) in the Missouri

House of Representatives from 1977-1991. While a member of the General Assembly, she sponsored and successfully passed legislation to improve funding for education, prevent child abuse, assist crime victims, and reform nursing homes.

"I know she will do an outstanding job as curator," said former state representative and UM-St. Louis graduate Kaye Steinmetz. "During the time we served together in the General Assembly, Marion was very committed to the issues related to children and families."

Cairns believes her legislative experience has prepared her well to serve as a curator. "I understand the constitutional issues regarding the UM System and the difference between policy and administration," she said. "I hope that I bring an ability to look at things from all sides, to work with other people and to come to a common understanding."

Others note her ability to balance multiple viewpoints. "I feel she will be an excellent curator who will take the time to study every issue and look at it from a balanced perspective and make decisions based on what is best for the entire System," said Emmy McClellan, a UM-Columbia graduate who succeeded Cairns in the General Assembly. Rawlings agrees. "One of the things I particularly like about Marion is that she and I are on different sides of the aisle politically, but it is never personal with her," Rawlings said. "She can debate the issues passionately and move on to whatever is next."

A former school administrator and teacher, Cairns serves on the Superintendent's Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Webster Groves School District. She also is a member of the advisory council for the Salvation Army's Hope Center for Children.

Cairns strongly believes in the Jeffersonian concept of higher education: that a university should educate the whole person so that students are citizens who take responsibility beyond themselves. This is certainly a fitting philosophy for someone who embodies the principle herself, particularly since the University of Missouri was shaped in accordance with the ideals of Thomas Jefferson, who was an early proponent of public higher education.

"Ultimately it all boils down to educating the students so that they make a difference," Cairns said. "Besides a vocation, I believe an education should enable students to live a fuller life through participation in society as a whole and to bring them a greater appreciation of opportunities."

With the state's current fiscal crisis, Cairns notes that the University is increasingly viewed as an important economic development tool. In looking at ways to retain jobs in the state, she said "one of the more exciting things is the technology being developed, not only in life sciences but in some of the engineering programs, to enhance economic development in Missouri." She notes that the University also plays an essential role in educating teachers and offering professional development.

Cairns also has been active in numerous organizations. She is a member of the American Association of University Women, Focus/St. Louis, and the Committee on Resolution of Fee Disputes of the Bar Association of Metro St. Louis. In addition, she serves on the boards of the

Edgewood Children's Center, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, and the Family Support Network Advisory Board.

Her work has been rewarded with, among others, the Chancellor's Appreciation Award from UM-St. Louis, the Child Advocate of the Year Award from the Missouri Child Care Association, and the Senior Citizens of Greater St. Louis Appreciation Award.

When she isn't busy attending meetings, answering correspondence, or reading about the UM System, Cairns enjoys traveling. "We have a place in Montana, and in the summer I do quite a bit of hiking," she said. In her spare time, she also enjoys visiting with family or friends, reading and golfing—though she claims she isn't any good.

During her tenure on the board, Cairns envisions maintaining a quality education—including administrators, faculty, staff and students—as one of her main goals. "Without the students we really don't have a reason to exist," she said. "The students make it all worthwhile."

February 2003 research board awards announced

The University of Missouri Research Board, a System-wide panel composed of 20 faculty members, has awarded over \$1 million to support 43 research projects across the University's four campuses.

The board has established a network of UM experts in each discipline. The board addresses specific criteria in evaluating a request. The board then considers the recommendations of the peer reviewers. Richard Rosenfeld, professor of criminology and criminal justice at UM-St. Louis, is chair of the research board.

In February, researchers from the UM System filed 139 requests for grants, totaling over \$4 million. Approximately 32 percent of the requests were approved and approximately 21 percent of the total dollar amount requested was awarded.

The board granted twelve engineering requests for a total of \$264,966; six in humanities and fine arts for a total of \$94,744; eight in life sciences for a total of \$307,245; seven in physical sciences and mathematics for a total of \$169,980; and eleven in social and behavioral sciences for a total of \$186,537.

UM-Columbia

- Carol Anderson, History, \$13,800
- Charles Brown, Veterinary Pathobiology, \$43,900
- Meera Chandrasekhar, Physics & Astronomy, \$20,000
- Cathy Cutler, Research Reactor Center, \$34,275
- Jeffrey Dorale, Geological Sciences, \$19,248
- Bettina Drew, English, \$12,000
- Paul Duval, Chemistry, \$32,100
- Eric Greidinger, Internal Medicine, \$31,960

- Mark Houston, Marketing, \$6,100
- Philip Jen, Biological Sciences, \$24,060
- Mark Kirk, Biological Sciences, \$43,916
- Peter Klein, Agricultural Economics, \$13,100
- Jonathan Kriekhau, Political Science, \$25,000
- Devoney Looser, English, \$12,000
- Dudley McCaw, Veterinary Medicine & Surgery, \$39,783
- William Mitchell, Veterinary Pathobiology, \$39,376
- Wouter Montfrooij, Physics & Astronomy, \$35,560
- Luis Occena, Industrial & Manufacturing Systems, \$24,000
- Christopher Okonkwo, English, \$12,000
- Galen Suppes, Chemical Engineering, \$20,700
- Wayne Wanta, Journalism, Dean's Office, \$1,000
- Gang Yao, Biological Engineering, \$24,000

UM-Kansas City

- Ann Corry, Dental Public Health, \$26,000
- Tamera Murdock, Educational Psychology, \$15,563
- Jeffrey Rydberg-Cox, English, \$32,944
- Marne Sherman, Psychology, \$25,000
- Ann Smith, Basic Medical Sciences, \$49,975
- Ganesh Thiagaraja, Engineering, \$21,933
- Jon Van Horn, Chemistry, \$20,292

UM-Rolla

- Badrul Chowdhur, Electrical Engineering, \$20,000
- Charles Chusuei, Chemistry, \$23,880
- Xiaoping Du, Mech. Aerospace & Engineering, \$21,933
- Robert Landers, Mech. Aerospace & Engineering, \$15,000
- Rajiv Mishra, Metallurgic Engineering, \$24,000
- Dan St. Clair, Computer Science, \$24,000
- E. Keith Stanek, Electrical Engineering, \$21,400
- Ganesh Venayaga, Electrical Engineering, \$24,000
- Yangchua Xing, Chemical Engineering, \$24,000

UM-St. Louis

- Timothy Baumann, Anthropology, \$21,788
- James Chickos, Chemistry, \$18,900
- Michael Griffin, Psychology, \$25,000
- Jon McGinnis, Philosophy, \$12,000
- Lyman Sargent, Political Science, \$6,000
- Ann Steffen, Psychology, \$21,986.

University of Missouri System briefs



UM-Columbia professor appointed to National Science Board

Douglas D. Randall, professor of biochemistry and director of the Interdisciplinary Plant Group at the University of Missouri-Columbia, has been appointed to the National Science Board, the governing body for the National Science Foundation.

Last fall U.S. Senator Christopher Bond recommended that President George W. Bush nominate Randall for the prestigious post. In April the Senate confirmed the president's nomination of Randall, whose term on the NSB will expire in 2008.

The NSB advises the president and Congress on national science policy and governs the National Science Foundation. The NSF's responsibilities include promoting the progress of science; advancing national health, prosperity and welfare; and helping secure national defense.

"Doug Randall is one of America's star scientists in the life sciences. I am fortunate to have him as one of my top science advisors as I work to build the Missouri life sciences industry," said Bond. "I was proud to make his nomination to the National Science Board, and his appointment will only raise the already high stature of the University of Missouri."

Randall holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from South Dakota State University and a doctorate in biochemistry from Michigan State University. He joined the UM-Columbia faculty in 1971. UMC's Interdisciplinary Plant Biochemistry and Physiology Group, established by Randall and his colleagues, now includes more than 40 research teams.

The only other person from the University to serve on the NSB was Frederick Middlebush, a charter member of the organization, who served two terms, from 1950-1962. Middlebush was president of the University of Missouri from 1935-1954.

UM-Kansas City receives award for budgeting project

The Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada announced the University of Missouri-Kansas City as a winner of its 2003 Awards for Excellence in Government Finance.

UM-Kansas City received the award for its project "Budgeting for Excellence: Creating New Standards for Higher Education Financial Management," a strategic budget planning approach. GFOA's most prestigious award recognizes contributions to the practice of government finance exemplifying outstanding financial management.

New UM supplemental retirement plan available

The University has recently received approval from the IRS to offer the UM Supplemental Retirement Plan to faculty and staff. The plan, administered by Fidelity Investments, offers an opportunity for employees to save for retirement on a tax-deferred basis. Contributions to this plan are irrevocable and cannot be changed so long as participating individuals remain employees of the University.

Contributions by employees, as well as investment earnings on the contributions, are not subject to federal or state income taxes, based on current tax regulations, until funds are actually withdrawn from the plan. Employee contributions can be made to this plan as well as to the UM Tax Deferred Annuity Program and the UM Deferred Compensation Plan.