

Spectrum

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Board elects James and Atkins as 2004 officers



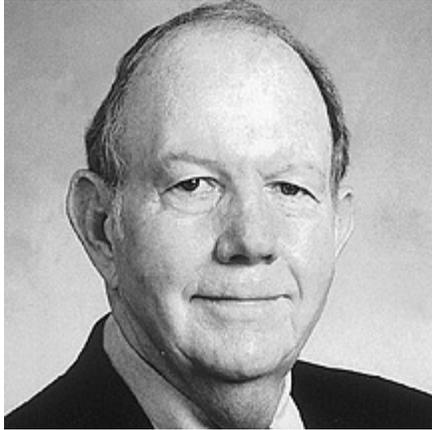
The University of Missouri System Board of Curators elected Mary L. James to serve as board president for 2004. Curator Thomas E. Atkins was elected vice president. The election was held at the conclusion of the Dec. 12 meeting in Kansas City.

James, of Harrisonville, succeeds Connie Hager Silverstein as president. James was appointed to the board in 1999 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. During the past year she served as vice president of the board, and also chaired the Executive Committee and served on the Physical Facilities Committee and the Resources and Planning Committee.

James received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She was a schoolteacher in San Antonio, Texas, and Harrisonville. She served as executive director of the Cass Medical Center Foundation for two years and was the human resources manager for the Cass County Publishing Co. for 26 years.

James is treasurer of the Cass Medical Center Auxiliary and vice president of the Congressional Award Council of Missouri. In addition, she is a member of the Harrisonville Area Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Belton-Ozanam Southland Cooperative Advisory Council. She previously served as vice chairman of the Harrisonville Park Board and vice president of the Cass Medical Center Foundation.

She also is a member of the Cass County UM-Columbia Alumni Association, a lifetime member of the UM-Columbia Alumni Association, and a trustee of UM-Columbia's Jefferson Club.



Atkins, of Columbia, was appointed to the board in 2001 by Gov. Bob Holden. He serves as chair of the Physical Facilities Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee.

Atkins received his bachelor of science degree in accounting from UM-Columbia. He is owner of Columbia Photo, Atkins Building Services, and is a managing partner in several residential and commercial real estate development partnerships.

He has served on the boards of Columbia College, Boone County National Bank, GTE/North, and Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. He also has served as campaign chair and board president for the United Way, and as president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Atkins is a lifetime member of the UM-Columbia Alumni Association and a member of the Jefferson Club. He was presented with an UM-Columbia Faculty/Alumni Award in 1997 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

In her final report to the board, outgoing president Connie Hager Silverstein praised every member of the board for supporting all four UM campuses as a single University. Silverstein encouraged the UM campuses to work together to achieve common goals.

"As we look ahead to 2004 and beyond, I ask our leadership teams to think about what they can do to help the University of Missouri as a whole," she said.

Outreach at UM System and UM-Columbia to consolidate

University of Missouri System President Elson S. Floyd announced Nov. 4 that direct administrative responsibility for UM System Outreach and Extension will be transferred from the Office of the President of the UM System to UM-Columbia Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Brady Deaton, effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Floyd cited the state's ongoing budget problems as the impetus for his decision to consolidate the two administrative functions under Deaton's academic direction.

"I remain committed to maintaining a strong Outreach and Extension program," Floyd said. "Given the fiscal crisis facing the University, I am convinced that this consolidation will preserve the public's continued access to outreach and extension programs that Missourians need and expect."

UM System Executive Vice President and Director of Cooperative Extension Ron Turner will continue to serve as UM System Executive Vice President and will assist in the transition of Outreach and Extension administrative functions to Deaton. Turner also will continue to work on special projects within the Office of the President.

Deaton announced Nov. 19 that Thomas Henderson has been selected to serve as interim vice provost for Extension and director of Cooperative Extension, effective Jan. 1.

Henderson has spent more than 30 years in Missouri extension work, first as a business and industry field specialist in Waynesville, Hillsboro and Jackson, and then later as a program director for University Outreach and Extension at the System level, followed by vice provost for UM-Columbia Extension.

Henderson said the goal during the transition process will be to set the stage for a new future. He cited four important components: align program and administrative support services to most effectively serve the people of Missouri; improve productivity and service by streamlining processes where possible; work toward a seamless educational delivery effort with the audiences served by Extension; and solidify relationships with existing partners and seek new collaborations within and outside the University.

Deaton said a UM System/UM-Columbia transition team will begin work immediately and a national search for a permanent leader will begin later in 2004.

Outreach and Extension offices throughout the state should see little if any change in local services as a result of the administrative consolidation.

"During the transition, the University will continue to provide essential extension programs and services to people in Missouri communities throughout the state," Floyd said. "I look forward to working with the strong statewide network of volunteer leaders serving on extension county councils as we seek to be responsive to local needs."

University of Missouri System briefs

UM-Kansas City student & faculty achievement presentations

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators heard presentations on UM-Kansas City student and faculty achievements Dec. 12.

UM-Kansas City faculty presenters included Ellen Yankiver Suni, professor of law and interim associate dean, School of Law; Bibie M. Chronwall, associate professor, School of Biological Sciences; James Mobberley, Curators' Professor, Conservatory of Music; Joe Seabrooks,

Director of Minority Student Affairs; and Wayne Vaught, assistant professor, Department of Philosophy and School of Medicine.

Student presenters included Henry Lin of Fort Wayne, IN, medical student; Tom Kernan of Floral Park, NY, senior in orchestral percussion performance; Geoff Gerling of Kansas City, MO, junior in communications/psychology; Kristen Schweizer of Savannah, MO, freshman in biology; Darin Martinze of Smithville, MO, junior in secondary education; Srija Charthamkudath of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, junior in business administration; Tennille Grant of Kansas City, MO, senior in liberal arts; Garry Buycks of Kansas City, MO, senior in business administration; and Stephanie Hill of St. Louis, MO, law student.

New student representative to the board

Gov. Bob Holden appointed Shawn Gebhardt the new student representative to the UM System Board of Curators. Gebhardt attended the Dec. 11/12 board meeting in Kansas City.

Gebhardt received a bachelor's degree in economics from UM-Kansas City in 2003. He is currently working on his master's degree in economics at UM-Kansas City, where he also works as a graduate research assistant. Gebhardt was awarded the Joe E. Brown Institutional Economics Award. He is a member of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri, Omicron Delta Epsilon and the Golden Key Honor Society.

The non-voting student representative position rotates every two years among the four UM campuses. Gebhardt succeeds student representative Vicki Eller, UM-Rolla, whose term expired. The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Missouri Senate.

Curators' professors named

The UM System Board of Curators approved the appointments of two curators' professors Dec. 12 in Kansas City.

The new curators' professors are Nelson Cowan, professor of psychological sciences at UM-Columbia, and Raymond D. Semlitsch, professor of biological sciences at UM-Columbia. Each will receive a \$10,000 annual stipend as long as they hold their respective positions. The appointments are effective Sept. 1, 2004.

Board passes resolution in recognition of Vicki Eller

The UM System Board of Curators approved a resolution in honor of Vicki Marie Eller, student representative to the board. The resolution recognizes Eller's service to her constituents as the student representative to the board from March 14, 2002 until Dec. 31, 2003.

During her tenure on the board, Eller served as an ex officio member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and as a participant in board development sessions. She also served on the search committees for a new UM System President and a new chancellor for UM-St. Louis.

Eller, a graduate student at UM-Rolla, was appointed student representative to the board in 2002 by Gov. Bob Holden. She received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from UM-Rolla in 2000.

Board approves revised mission statements

The UM System Board of Curators approved a revised mission statement for the UM System Dec. 11. The board also approved revised mission statements for UM-Columbia and UM-Rolla. UM-Kansas City, UM-St. Louis and University Outreach and Extension had no revisions to their July 24, 1997 board approved statements.

In addition to the University's three traditional missions —teaching, research and service — the revised UM System mission statement emphasizes the University's economic development efforts in Missouri.

President Floyd briefs board on consolidation proposal

University of Missouri System President Elson S. Floyd briefed the Board of Curators Dec. 11 on the status of the proposal to consolidate administrative functions of the UM System and the University of Missouri-Columbia. Floyd told the curators that he needed more information before he could make a final recommendation to the board on the form that a consolidated organization should take.

Floyd has been gathering information about the mission and organization of the University of Missouri since August. He has solicited feedback from faculty, staff and student leaders; government officials; alumni; community and corporate leaders; extension representatives; parents; former curators; and former presidents of the University.

"I have concluded that we cannot continue to sustain the organization we have in place today, given the resource limitations under which we must operate," Floyd said.

Floyd said consolidation of the positions and responsibilities of president and chancellor is an extremely difficult undertaking. "If we are to ensure that the System-wide interests of all our campuses are well represented under this organizational model, then the responsibilities of president and chancellor for System-wide and campus functions must be clearly delineated before we proceed with consolidation," Floyd said.

Floyd said the titles of president and chancellor should remain separate and distinct in any future consolidation, even if the positions were held by one chief executive.

Floyd said that he will ask staff members of the UM System and the Columbia campus to work on a detailed operational and organizational plan to realign staff responsibilities.

Floyd said that the continued service of UM-Columbia Chancellor Richard Wallace affords him the option of taking more time to develop a framework for consolidation.