

Spectrum

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Board elects Atkins and Bennett as 2005 officers

The University of Missouri Board of Curators elected Thomas E. Atkins to serve as board president for 2005. Curator Angela M. Bennett was elected vice president. The election was held at the conclusion of the Nov. 19 meeting in Rolla.



Atkins, of Columbia, succeeds Mary L. James, of Harrisonville, as president. Atkins was appointed to the board in 2001 by Gov. Bob Holden. During the past year he served as chair of the Executive Committee and as a member of the Finance and Human Resources Committee.

Atkins was nominated by Bennett, who praised him for sharing his time and his talent. "Our board and our System will be well served with Tom as president," Bennett said.

"I want to work towards serving the entire system of campuses," Atkins said. "I want every campus Board elects Atkins and Bennett as 2005 officers to be everything it can be, and we've got great opportunities, we've got great leadership, and we can go forward."

Atkins received his bachelor of science degree in accounting from UMColumbia. 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 a UM-Columbia Faculty/Alumni Award in 1997 and a Distinguished Service Award in 1999.



Bennett, of Kansas City, was appointed to the board in 2001 by Gov. Holden. She has served on the Executive Committee and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee this past year.

Bennett was nominated by Curator Sean McGinnis. She received two bachelor of arts degrees in political science and in radio, TV and film, as well as a juris doctorate, all from UM-Kansas City. She currently serves as Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, Kansas City.

She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, the Jackson County Bar Association and the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City.

Bennett has received numerous honors, including the UM-Kansas City Alumni Achievement Award in the field of Law and the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts' Woman of Achievement Award. She also received the Service Award from the UM-Kansas City Law Foundation.

Floyd recommends limited educational fee increase next year

University of Missouri President Elson S. Floyd focused on access and affordability in his report to the Board of Curators at the Nov. 18 meeting in Rolla. Floyd told the board that he will recommend a limited educational fee increase for the 2005-06 academic year.

Floyd said the recommended increase would be no more than 3.5 percent and would be the minimum needed to sustain the quality of the University's academic programs, while minimizing the impact on students.

"I believe that setting next year's educational fees at 3.5 percent or less will send a very strong signal of our intention to keep fees as low as possible, consistent with prudent financial management of the University and the preservation of the quality of the academic enterprise," Floyd said.

The board typically approves educational fee increases in the spring. Floyd will make his final recommendation at that time.

"I have concluded that we simply Floyd recommends limited educational fee increase next year must do all that we can to keep the next educational fee increase as low as we possibly can, in

line with the cost of inflation," Floyd said. "To enable students and their families to plan ahead, I believe we should signal our intention as early as possible."

Floyd noted that the past year marked the first time student fees accounted for a higher percentage of the University's operating budget than did state appropriations. Public universities rely primarily on a combination of state support and student fees. When income derived from one falls, the other must rise in order to balance the budget. Educational fees increased 7.5 percent for the current academic year.

In addition to educational fees, Floyd noted the other key component to accessibility and affordability is student financial aid. "Many students are taking on larger debt loads in order to make up the difference between financial aid and the cost of their education," he said. "We have invested millions of dollars in student financial aid programs to insure that students have the ability to go to the University of Missouri, and, once enrolled, have the means to stay in school until they graduate."

Approximately three out of every four University of Missouri students receive some form of financial aid, Floyd noted. The University recently set aside \$4 million in strategic funding to support 266 new need-based student scholarships.

Floyd said there are signs that students and families continue to recognize the value of public higher education. Enrollment has remained constant at the University, with more than 62,000 students enrolled for the fall 2004 semester. Average ACT scores for entering freshmen continue to exceed the national average, and undergraduate retention and graduation rates are both favorable.

"We must always be mindful of the sacrifices that students and families make to attend the University of Missouri. We must do all that we can to keep education within the reach of all Missourians," Floyd said.

University of Missouri briefs

Rolla professor inducted into National Academy of Engineering

Delbert Day, curators' professor emeritus of ceramic engineering in the materials science and engineering department at UM-Rolla, was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in October. He is the first faculty member of the University of Missouri System to achieve this honor.

Day was recognized for discovering and developing radiotherapeutic glass spheres that are used to treat liver cancer, among other medical applications. As a member of the academy, Day may be called on by the federal government to research issues involving his area of specialty.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in ceramic engineering from UM-Rolla in 1958, Day received a master's degree in 1960 and a doctorate in ceramic technology in 1961, both from Pennsylvania State University. Day has been a member of the UM-Rolla faculty since 1961.

Day is co-founder of Mo-Sci Corp. in Rolla, which manufactures specialty glass products used in the transportation, electronics, sporting goods, aerospace and health care industries. He currently serves as chairman and chief executive officer.

Turner honored with resolution

UM Executive Vice President Ronald J. Turner was honored with a resolution approved by the UM Board of Curators at the Nov. 19 meeting in Rolla. Turner will retire Dec. 31, 2004.

Turner earned master's and doctoral degrees in speech from UM-Columbia. He later became associate dean for continuing education- extension at UM-St. Louis in 1977 and was named assistant to the president of the University in 1985.

In 1993 Turner became vice president for University outreach and director of cooperative extension, and in 1998 was named executive vice president.

Porter receives Pacheco Academic Leadership Award

UM-Columbia School of Nursing Dean Rosemary T. Porter received the Manuel T. Pacheco Academic Leadership Award in September at the Leadership Development Program dinner.

Porter received a diploma in nursing from St. Mary's School of Nursing, Milwaukee, Wis. She received a BSN and an M.A. in nursing service administration from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and a doctorate in administration of higher education from UM-Columbia. She has been a faculty member at UM-Columbia since 1975.

The award is presented to an academic administrator who exemplifies outstanding academic leadership at the University of Missouri, going beyond the call of duty to serve his/her constituents.

Board names distinguished and curators' professors

The UM Board of Curators approved the appointments of a curators' professor at UM-St. Louis and a curators' professor and distinguished teaching professor at UM-Rolla.

Richard Wright, professor of criminology and criminal justice, was designated a curators' professor at UM-St. Louis. Richard Brow, professor of ceramic engineering, was named a curators' professor at UM-Rolla. Abdeldjelil ("DJ") Belarbi, professor of civil engineering, was named a distinguished teaching professor at UM-Rolla.

The appointees will each receive a \$10,000 annual stipend as long as they hold their respective positions. The appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2005.

Board approves resource allocation principles

The UM Board of Curators approved the principles for annual budgeting and resource allocation at the Nov. 19 meeting. The revised principles continue to use the System and campus missions and strategic plans as the context for decision making under the Resource Allocation Principles.

The principles embrace responsibility management and delegate responsibility to the campuses for generating resources and wise stewardship. The principles reflect a commitment to the campuses to protect existing base funding. They also provide for the allocation of new state resources to support increases in the base using comparator institution data, strategic investments, and performance funding.

James delivers final report to board

Curator Mary L. James praised University of Missouri leadership during the past year in her final report as board president at the Nov. 18 meeting in Rolla.

"What distinguishes this year is that the University is beginning to realize the impact of Dr. Floyd's leadership," James said. "He is a talented and energetic leader who is so passionate about his work and the opportunities this institution offers its students and the people of Missouri. He believes in the University's mission and values, and this was very apparent in the update of the Strategic Plan."

James said that the new Strategic Plan sends a clear message that the University will strive to be efficient, effective and accountable without compromising quality. "With clear goals and expectations in place, implementation follows, and Dr. Floyd has aligned his action steps with the strategic goals," James said.

"One of the many steps (President Floyd) has taken, and I believe the one that defines his leadership, is to open up the lines of communication both outside and within the University family," she said. "His message is forthright yet positive, and his enthusiasm for the University contagious. Dr. Floyd's open and inclusive administrative style set the tone for the programs and policies he has advanced or supported this year."

James also praised the Academic Leadership Institute, a program to bring together department chairs from across the System to develop their leadership skills. Floyd supports a companion program to develop administrative leadership skills.

Such examples of Floyd's leadership indicate the possibility and potential for the University, James noted. "The University of Missouri is a great place to learn. It is a great place to teach, and it is a vital resource for the people of Missouri."

James also spoke of the service and outreach missions of the University. Service was the theme for her tenure, exemplified by campus presentations and the September board meeting in Mount Vernon, the location of the Southwest Research Center and Missouri Rehabilitation Center.