

Spectrum

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Curators appoint Stephen J. Owens new general counsel



The UM Board of Curators appointed Stephen J. Owens as the University's next general counsel effective Jan. 22, 2008. Owens will replace Marvin E. "Bunky" Wright, who is retiring Dec. 31.

Owens, 52, is a partner and Chairman of the Class Action and Complex Litigation Division of Kansas City-based Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP. The firm has 360 lawyers in eight offices across the country. Owens has served as the firm's hiring chairman and as a member of the firm's board of directors and its executive committee. His practice has included business litigation, collegiate sports law, drafting and negotiating contracts and administrative law.

A veteran of 26 years with Stinson Morrison Hecker, Owens also has co-chaired the firm's Environmental Law Practice Group and its business litigation division. His private practice has included work as outside counsel for the University of Missouri.

"I am delighted Steve Owens will bring his outstanding leadership abilities and legal experience to the University of Missouri," said Board of Curators Chairman Don Walsworth. "Steve has a deep love for our institution, devotion to its great missions and familiarity with our legal operations and responsibilities."

Owens received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from UM-Columbia. He received his law degree from Wake Forest University.

"This is the University of four generations of my family, and I am humbled by this appointment," Owens said. "I have been privileged to represent the University as one of its outside counsel and I want to thank the Board of Curators for now giving me the opportunity to further serve our University as its general counsel."

The UM general counsel provides legal advice and representation for Missouri's premier public higher education institution, its Board of Curators, president, general officers, four campuses, University of Missouri Health Care and University employees acting in their official capacities.

Wright has served as UM general counsel since 1998. His accomplishments as an attorney include serving as president of the Missouri Bar, which honored him in September during its annual convention in Springfield, Mo.

Curators adopt resolution supporting academic freedom

The UM Board of Curators adopted a resolution at its bimonthly meeting Oct. 4-5 in Columbia, Mo., supporting academic freedom and intellectual inquiry and lending their support to a statement released by UM Interim President Gordon H. Lamb in September regarding a proposed state constitutional amendment.

In the resolution offered by Curator Judith Haggard, the Board recognized the University for promoting the common good through the conduct of enlightened teaching, world-class research, devoted service to humanity and respect for intellectual diversity.

The resolution also said the University is fortunate to have a faculty composed of distinguished teachers and researchers whose achievements in the pursuit of knowledge and inquiry are admired and respected throughout the world.

The resolution comes after Lamb released a statement opposing the proposed anti-research constitutional amendment known as Cures without Cloning. In the statement, Lamb said research being done at the University is a small but critical part of life sciences research that has the potential to extend life for people who have serious life-threatening diseases.

He said research must have protection “from the few who, seeking to reinforce their own personal biases, would shut down research done by highly competent and dedicated scientists.” Since his statement, UM chancellors on all four campuses and the Intercampus Faculty Council have adopted resolutions supporting the statement.

“I think Dr. Lamb has spoken eloquently about these freedoms, and the chancellors of the four campuses have joined in his support of academic and research freedoms that are so, so important to this University. I think we need to add our voice of support so the state of Missouri knows how this University feels in regards to academic freedoms and research freedoms,” said Curator Bo Fraser during discussion of the resolution at the board meeting. “This is an issue that is fundamentally important to this University.”

The resolution passed on a 6-to-1 vote. Curators John Carnahan and David Wasinger abstained while Curator Doug Russell voted against the resolution. Russell and Wasinger expressed concerns about involving the University in controversial political matters.

Board receives update on funding strategy for public universities

UM administrators from all four campuses in conjunction with representatives from each four-year public university in the state are making progress on a funding model that would aid the legislature in making funding allocations in coming years, the Board of Curators was apprised during its October meeting in Columbia, Mo.

The study group, led by UM Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Larry Gates, was initiated by the University of Missouri and expanded to include representation from the other four-year higher education institutions at the request of presidents of the Council on Public Higher Education (COPHE). Since then, the study group has developed funding formula guiding principles and discussed funding components.

UM Vice President for Finance and Administration Nikki Krawitz told the Board that six guiding principles have defined the work group's efforts, including a funding model that provides a realistic estimate of the overall funding needs of an institution and the belief that no institution should lose financial resources as a result of the funding model.

Three approaches were discussed to support the base budget, Krawitz said. After sharing the approaches with COPHE presidents, the work group was instructed to pursue the weighted student FTE model, which is designed to estimate the amount of state appropriations required to fund core missions and support functions through a single formula.

"The weighted FTE model is market sensitive and academic program or discipline oriented," Krawitz said. "The model recognizes that cost differences exist in the delivery of academic discipline-based courses and programs for different levels of students and reflects in part the differences in mission and programmatic orientation of each institution."

A cost ratio matrix of academic discipline clusters and student levels has been developed that weights student credit hours at the doctoral level in a high-cost academic discipline approximately 10 times more than student credit hours in a lower division undergraduate course.

The work group is now turning its attention to performance funding and funding for strategic initiatives, as well as a discussion of policy goals and priorities for higher education in the state.

Retirement, endowment fund healthy, report shows

The Board of Curators heard a report from Rocaton Investment Advisors, LLC regarding the University's retirement and endowment fund annual performance at its October meeting in Columbia.

Both funds continue to perform well, according to Robin Pellish, CEO of Rocaton and the University's investment advisor. As of June 30, the retirement fund had market value assets of more than \$2.9 billion, while the Endowment Fund Balanced Pool had \$986 million in assets.

Both funds are managed using an investment strategy that includes investing broadly across global markets to reduce volatility and improve returns, using a wide variety of actively managed strategies to enable the funds to fully exploit opportunities in each asset class, and leveraging relationships across the two funds.

Ongoing monitoring will be critical, and the funds should continue to exploit new opportunities as the capital markets evolve, including an increase in allocations to alternatives and an allocation to Treasury Inflation Protected bonds (TIPs).

“Performance of the funds has been relatively strong compared with the funds’ benchmarks,” noted analysts from Rocaton. “Being diversified has certainly benefited the funds.”

Human Resources Vice President Ken Hutchinson to retire



R. Kenneth Hutchinson, UM vice president for human resources, will retire Dec. 31, 2007, after a 41-year career with the University. His duties have included labor and employee relations, compensation matters, faculty and staff benefits, recruitment, professional development, affirmative action and human resources information systems.

“Ken is a great executive with a justified national reputation for his broad and deep experience in management,” said UM Interim President Gordon H. Lamb. “Ken has served as a trusted advisor on critical decisions and provided constant leadership in relations with the University’s most valuable resource—our people.”

A native of Salisbury, Mo., Hutchinson joined UM in April 1966 in an entry-level personnel job at UM-Kansas City. Through a decade of promotions, he became director of employee relations and personnel at UM-Columbia. Two years later, he became chief human resource officer for the UM system and was promoted to vice president in 1998. Upon retirement, Hutchinson plans to do private management consulting.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with the University,” Hutchinson said. “To me, the University is a family of people, which includes curators, faculty and staff, dedicated to the work of this great University.”

University of Missouri briefs

Board approves architect/engineer and design selections on projects

The board approved the authorization to employ the firm of Segal Inc., of Stilwell, Kan., for design services for the Power Plant Combined Heat and Power Upgrade on the UM-Columbia campus, as well as the building project design for the Oak Street West Development, Phase II, on the UM-Kansas City campus.

Upgrades to the utility infrastructure on the UM-Columbia campus are needed to keep pace with current and future demand. The project consists of replacing an existing inefficient and unreliable boiler with a larger and more efficient one, as well as the replacement of the existing

fuel handling equipment. Design service costs to Sega Inc., will total approximately \$5.2 million for this \$76 million project.

UM-Kansas City is replacing the current 339-bed Cherry Street Dormitory with a new 328-bed, 83,000 square foot residence hall on the west side of Oak Street. The Cherry Street Dormitory was built in 1955 and underwent a limited renovation in 1996. It no longer meets the needs of students and has significant HVAC system issues. The project budget is approximately \$17 million and is funded by revenue bonds supported by housing system revenue.

Board amends the University's conflict of interest policy

The Board of Curators amended the University's conflict of interest policy to prohibit the acceptance of gifts for personal use from any prohibited source. Specific exceptions are noted, which would not be considered a violation of the policy. The language in the policy was patterned after similar policies studied in surrounding areas.

Curators rename UM-Kansas City Performing Arts Center

The Board of Curators renamed the UM-Kansas City Performing Arts Center the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center. The center, which opened in 1979, is the home of the University's Conservatory of Music and Dance and the Kansas City Repertory Theater.

Olson served as UM-Kansas City chancellor for eight years and was instrumental in building the performing arts center and turning the Conservatory of Music and Dance into a program of distinction. During his tenure, UM-Kansas City's School of Medicine was founded and numerous construction projects were completed, including the Miller Nichols Library and new buildings for chemistry and for the schools of law, biology, dentistry and education.

Olson led the effort to raise private and public funding for the performing arts center. Before his death in 2005, he and his wife established the James and Vera Olson Fund for the Arts at the University of Missouri. It is from the Kansas City community, as well as UMKC, that the recommendation to name the performing arts center in honor of Olson was brought forward.

Board approves live audio Web streaming of curators' meetings

The Board of Curators at its October meeting approved implementation of live audio Web streaming of its open meetings beginning in January 2008. The meeting audio may be accessed on the Board of Curators Web site at www.umssystem.edu/ums/curators/. Archived audio files searchable by content also will be available online following each meeting.

The Board said the online audio will help improve access for those interested in policies affecting the University of Missouri but who cannot attend the meetings.

United Way campaign continues

The University of Missouri and the Columbia campus are participating in a United Way campaign. The campaign kicked off with the annual Day of Caring in mid-September. More than 60 employees worked four or more hours at the Central Missouri Food Bank packaging bulk food for distribution to needy families or painting food collection barrels. More than 18,000 pounds of food was processed that day by UM employees and 126 barrels painted.

Curators chairman Don Walsworth receives 2007 Missourian Award

Board of Curators Chairman Don Walsworth was one of 12 recipients of the 2007 Missourian Award, given to Missouri natives or longtime residents who have made outstanding contributions in civics, business, arts or politics. The awards were presented Sept. 29 in Jefferson City, Mo.

Walsworth is chief executive officer of Walsworth Publishing Co. Inc., a 1,500-employee operation that is one of the largest yearbook publishers in the world. Past recipients of the Missourian Award include Sam Walton, Walt Disney and Jack Buck.

The awards were created, with Gov. Mel Carnahan's blessings, in 1993 by retired Springfield, Mo., real estate banker Ralph Slavens and his wife to honor Missourians who had given back to their communities. A five-person committee selected this year's winners.

Schonberg honored as recipient of Pacheco Leadership Award



Dr. William P. Schonberg, chair and professor of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at UM-Rolla, is the 2007 recipient of the Manuel T. Pacheco Academic Leadership Award.

Schonberg was presented with the \$2,500 award at the Leadership Development Program event on Sept. 24. The award, created in 2002, is presented to an administrator who exemplifies outstanding academic leadership at the University of Missouri.

Schonberg served as interim dean of the School of Engineering on the Rolla campus during the 2006-2007 academic year where he was responsible for six engineering departments and various special programs, worked to implement cooperative programs in civil and electrical engineering at Missouri State University and served on the External Affairs Restructuring Committee. He also has served as professor and chair of the Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering department.

Schonberg received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University and his master's and doctorate degrees from Northwestern University. He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

UM expands emergency notification capabilities on all campuses

The University of Missouri's four campuses will expand their emergency notification capabilities to students, faculty, staff and administration through a new partnership with 3n (National Notification Network), the leading mass notification system provider.

Using 3n's InstaCom Campus Alert system, the University will be able to communicate quickly and reliably in any situation. The 3n system notifies message recipients using a variety of notification systems, including phone, e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging, pager, fax and smart phones.

"The University of Missouri is committed to providing a safe and secure environment to learn, live and work," said Dr. Gordon H. Lamb, interim president of the University of Missouri. "By partnering with 3n for its mass notification services, the University builds on that commitment in a significant and strategic way."

With about 64,000 students plus thousands of faculty and staff spread statewide across four campuses, the University of Missouri's crisis notification and communication needs are far-reaching and complex. The University needed the capacity to issue event-based alerts tailored to specific, targeted audiences, as well as the ability to communicate rapidly across a single campus or systemwide for large-scale emergencies.

"The incident at Virginia Tech reinforced the need for colleges and universities to adopt a crisis notification solution that communicates rapidly and reliably across newer technologies popular with students," said Cinta Putra, CEO and co-founder of 3n. "We are excited to support the University of Missouri system and the state of Missouri in their proactive efforts to ensure the safety of their constituents with the most comprehensive and reliable notification solution available."

The University identified several key criteria in its notification system selection process: ease of use; ability to integrate with existing systems; guaranteed infrastructure security and reliability;

and ability to address challenges specific to a campus environment, including delivering messages using student-friendly contact paths, such as instant and text messaging.

Spectrum readership survey

The Spectrum readership survey is now closed. Thank you for your interest.