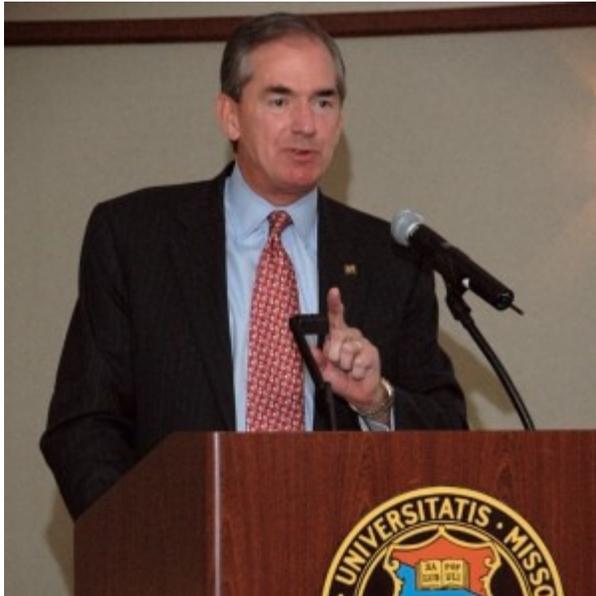


Spectrum

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President Forsee talks solutions to the funding crisis



Lead the way.

That's exactly what University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee wants the university to do as the state—and all public higher education institutions—find themselves in uncertain budget times.

In a [cover letter](#) addressed to the Missouri Department of Higher Education that accompanied the university's 15, 20 and 25 percent budget cut scenarios requested by the state, Forsee said he is committed to ensuring the university is part of the solution to the state's economic crisis.

"We will do everything we can to maintain the quality of our institution's teaching and research and to fulfill the breadth of our historic and unique mission among all public higher education institutions in the state," Forsee wrote.

The extent of the budget reductions that could materialize for the university in Fiscal Year 2010 are still uncertain. All public higher education institutions in Missouri learned last month that the state is anticipating an estimated shortfall of \$340 million in its budget through June 2009. Because the university typically receives more than \$400 million from the state each year, these scenarios could mean potential cuts of \$60 million to \$100 million systemwide.

The General Assembly will reconvene this month, and it may be some time before the university knows what reductions will be made in the FY10 state appropriation. The legislature also could withhold money from the university for the second half of FY09 as well.

Forsee said it is too early to tell what the ramifications are going to be, particularly for employees. The [hiring freeze](#) instituted in November will hopefully mitigate some of the possible mid-year withholdings, but budget reductions for FY10 could lead to increased tuition for students, layoffs for faculty and staff, reduction in new research support and the Extension budget, and the continued delay of infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

In the meantime, Forsee said it is imperative that the university remain committed to its core missions of teaching, research, service and economic development. He said it is these areas that differentiate the university from other public four-year universities in the state and positions the university to help the state find answers to its budget shortfalls.

“We are a unique institution in our ability to serve the needs of the state,” Forsee said, “and we remain committed to ensuring that public higher education remains affordable and accessible for Missouri’s citizens.”

To read more information about the potential for reductions, access audio or video from the Dec. 19 press conference following submission of the university’s report on budget cut scenarios to the state, or to offer a cost-savings suggestion via an electronic suggestion box, visit <http://www.umsystem.edu/budgetnews/>.

UM system’s Economic Development and Research Council



This month the University of Missouri System is launching a new Economic Development and Research Council to help bolster the state’s economy and job creation while promoting innovation and discovery across the four campuses.

“We’re committed to being part of the state’s solution to today’s tough financial environment,” Forsee said. “We have talented faculty and researchers whose expertise could drive a stronger economy from one community to the next across our state. We need to innovate our way forward, and we’re uniquely positioned to do so by providing career-advancing courses to people in Missouri jobs, educating our students and expanding opportunities for them when they

graduate, teaching and providing world-class health care, and moving our research into the marketplace to create new, higher-paying jobs.”

The council will include President Forsee, the vice president of research and economic development, general counsel, and chancellors, provosts and vice provosts for research at all four campuses. The state’s economic development director and the economic development directors from the four communities in which the university’s campuses reside will be invited to serve as ex officio members.

Additionally, the university plans to host two statewide summits this year. The first is The Energy Summit, which will be chaired by Chancellor Jack Carney of the Missouri University of Science and Technology. The goal of this summit, scheduled for April 22-23 in Columbia, is to establish Missouri as a hub for alternative energies research and development. The events will include energy presentations, a keynote address from a prominent figure in the energy field and an evening reception featuring a prominent member of the energy research community.

The council’s second large forum, The Biological and Life Sciences Summit, is planned for this fall in Kansas City and will be chaired by MU Chancellor Brady Deaton.

Research expenditures systemwide accounted for \$326 million in Fiscal Year 2007. In the last four years the university has generated 98 U.S. patents, 108 signed licenses and options, and \$25 million in gross licensing income.

Look for more information about the Energy Summit in the next issue of *Spectrum*.

Federal assistance for public works projects



In a recent [letter](#) to President-elect Barack Obama University of Missouri System President Forsee advocated a public works program that would jumpstart construction projects on the

university's four campuses, stimulate our state's economy and create jobs.

President Forsee wrote that there are 73 different construction [projects](#) totaling \$737 million that could be started in as soon as 90 days and completed within two years, including replacing heating, cooling, electrical and sewer systems, roofing replacements, safety compliance and security improvements, and exterior repairs.

As reported, President-elect Obama recently promised to create the largest public works construction program in decades. On the top of his list are making government buildings more energy efficient, improving information technology at hospitals, creating alternative fuels and installing fuel-efficient heating and cooling systems.

Forsee assured President-elect Obama, "We are prepared to work with you in innovative ways to carry out these projects, which benefit the public good in many ways."

Forsee went on to list just a few of the university's services and projects that contribute to the welfare of the public, such as providing access to dental care, running a teaching health care system, and conducting research in alternative fuels and energy efficiency.

"I can think of few things that exemplify a 'public benefit' better than supporting infrastructure projects at public universities like the University of Missouri," said Forsee.

Forsee sent similar letters to other prominent government officials, including Governor-elect Jay Nixon.

UM's impact on economic development



In 2004, the University of Missouri added economic development to its mission statement, and since that time our economic impact on the state has continued to grow. Over the past several

years, the university has made innovation-based economic growth a top priority by bolstering research efforts on all campuses and taking new technology to market through public and private partnerships

Here's a breakdown of just some of the university's economic contributions to the state of Missouri:

- \$1.1 billion. The amount of economic activity this infusion of money creates
- \$572 million. The amount of money the University of Missouri infuses into our state's economy from outside sources, including federal grants, private donations and out-of-state tuition
- \$326 million. Amount of research expenditures generated by UM's four campuses in 2007
- \$158 million. The amount of tax revenue the state collects from employee salaries
- \$7 million. Amount in licensing revenues from research at UM in 2008
- 26,418. The number of university employees in Missouri
- 13,000. The number of jobs created each year as a result of this economic activity.
- 5-to-1. The return on investment generated by the university in annual operating revenues for every dollar appropriated by the state

To read more about the university's economic impact through research and development, click [here](#).

News briefs



UMKC names Leo Morton chancellor

After more than four months of serving as interim chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Leo Morton was appointed chancellor last month by UM system President Gary Forsee.

Prior to serving as interim chancellor of UMKC, Morton was employed as senior vice president and chief administrative officer of Aquila, Inc., of Kansas City. Morton was also in his third year of service as chairman to the UMKC trustees board when he stepped down to take the position of interim chancellor Aug. 1 when former Chancellor Guy Bailey resigned to lead Texas Tech University.

“Leo’s strong leadership as interim chancellor is a reflection of his untiring commitment to the critical role of higher education,” Forsee said. “His ability to develop partnerships with students, faculty, staff and the Kansas City community is an asset that will continue to help advance UMKC’s vision and mission. The continuity and stability of Leo’s leadership is immeasurable. He continues to be the right person to serve as UMKC’s chancellor.”

Morton holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University and a master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Curators Cairns, Walker and Walsworth retire

The terms of University of Missouri Board of Curators members Marion H. Cairns, Cheryl D. S. Walker and Don Walsworth expired Dec. 31, 2008.

Appointed to the board Feb. 14, 2003, Cairns served as the first chair of the External Affairs Committee, and worked to convey the university's mission and the benefit of public higher education to the state of Missouri.

Walker, appointed to the board Jan. 8, 2003, served as vice chair of the board in 2007 and chair of the board in 2008. She has served on the Executive, Human Resources, Finance, Physical Facilities and Management Services, Resources and Planning, External Affairs and the Governance committees. Walker made economic development the theme of her term as board chair and promoted the university's role as an economic driver for the state.

Walsworth was appointed to the board Jan. 8, 2003, and served as vice chair in 2006 and chair of the board in 2007. Walsworth served also on the Governance, Physical Facilities and Management Services, Compensation and Human Resources, Finance and Audit, Resources and Planning, External Affairs and Executive committees, in addition to chairing the presidential search committee that selected Gary Forsee as the university's 22nd president.

The board of curators is the governing body of the University of Missouri and consists of nine members who are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Curators serve six-year terms with three terms expiring every two years.

Governor-elect Jay Nixon is expected to appoint three replacement members of the board sometime early this year.

Board election

At their Dec. 12 meeting in St. Louis, the board of curators elected a new chair and vice chair to serve a one-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2009.

Curator Bo Fraser, who served as the board's vice chair in 2008, was elected chair. Curator Judy Haggard of Kennett, Mo., was elected vice chair.

Fraser, of Columbia, Mo., serves on the board of directors for Benedictine College. He also is a founding member of the Community Development Cooperative, formed to address housing issues in the central area of Columbia, and of the Regional Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), a public-private partnership to promote economic development in Boone County.

Haggard is a Family Nurse Practitioner at the SEMO Health Network in Kennett, Mo. As a certified substance abuse counselor, she previously served as the director of community services

and as a clinical therapist at the Family Counseling Center in Kennett. She also has taught health occupations at Kennett High School and was a clinical instructor at the Kansas City Research Hospital's School of Nursing.

Curators' Professors

The board of curators approved MU Chancellor Brady Deaton's recommendation to award Curators' Distinguished Professorships to Professors Lee Wilkins, journalism, Wilson Freyermuth, law, and Sandy Rikoon, rural sociology for their exemplary service, research and contributions to MU.

As curators' professors, each will receive a \$10,000 stipend as long as they hold their respective positions. The appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Research news



Mechanism of muscle aging is focus of UMKC School of Nursing research

Marco Brotto, associate professor at the UMKC School of Nursing, and his colleagues may have discovered what causes muscle strength to decrease as people age. To learn more about Brotto's research, which will be published in an upcoming issue of *Aging Cell*, a leading journal on the biology of aging, click [here](#).

Missouri S&T researcher to study the American flapper at Harvard

Kate Drowne, an associate professor of English and technical communication at Missouri University of Science and Technology, plans to study how novels and other works of fiction in the 1920s portrayed flappers through a non-residential fellowship at Harvard University. Drowne says the flapper was "viewed by some as a perfect role model for the new woman, free of old fashioned Victorian ideals, and by others as a harbinger of disaster, signaling the destruction of the nation." To learn more about Drowne's research, click [here](#).

UMSL biologists find link between moths, cuckoos

UMSL Professor of Biology Robert Marquis and his team discovered changes in the U.S. cuckoo bird's post-migration behavior are linked to gypsy moths—the cuckoo's food supply. To learn more about the first documented case of a non-native species, the gypsy moth, affecting the migration of a native species, the cuckoo, click [here](#).

MU researcher refining synthetic molecules to prevent HIV resistance

Donald Burke-Aguero, associate professor in MU's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, recently identified broad-spectrum aptamers, or synthetic molecules that can prevent HIV from reproducing. To learn more about Burke-Aguero's research into possible alternative HIV treatments, click [here](#).

Spectrum's campus photo contest winner



Wow! We received 22 amazing photographs from all four University of Missouri campuses and University Hospital, and nearly 850 readers voted for their favorite.

We are pleased to announce that Katrina Kouba, media specialist at the Columbia campus's Academic Support Center, is the winner of the first *Spectrum Online* campus photograph contest with 147 votes for her photograph of MU's historic columns in the snow. Katrina will receive a gift certificate for \$50 to the MU bookstore.

You may download a wallpaper-sized version of the winning photograph for your desktop [here](#).