

Nationally recognized university leader named

University of Minnesota president to lead UM

C. Peter Magrath (pronounced Magraw), one of the nation's leaders in higher education and currently president of the University of Minnesota, has been named president of the four-campus University of Missouri system.

The appointment of Magrath, 51, to succeed President James C. Olson, who retires July 1, was made by the University of Missouri system Board of Curators at a special meeting held in Columbia Monday, June 18.

Board Vice President Doug Russell of Lebanon announced that UM Vice President for Academic Affairs Melvin D. George has agreed to serve as interim president until Magrath assumes his duties on Jan. 1, 1985.

Russell said the search process had been long and difficult, but successful. He thanked everyone, both within and outside the University, who helped get the best person as president.

Magrath has been president of the University of Minnesota since 1974. In a statement announcing his plans to leave Minnesota, he said: "I believe my work here is completed. This is a good time then for me to accept a new challenge in a new place."

Following the announcement of his appointment at a gathering of curators, state officials, faculty, staff and students, and news media, Magrath thanked the Missouri curators for their confidence in him. "I intend to justify it and welcome the creative challenge represented by the University of Missouri," he said.

Text of Magrath's statement, back page

"I come to a major American university that has been very well served by President Olson; for Diane and me it is an honor to follow Jim and Vera Olson."

Magrath, whose salary will be \$100,000, announced that he plans to pursue three general objectives:



C. Peter Magrath

- A commitment to a realistic planning process that leads to specific, coordinated efforts to build and improve selected programs and activities. A creative planning process developed at the University of Minnesota under President Magrath's leadership has become a national model for state universities.

"I commend the curators for their commitment to planning," Magrath said. "Indeed, if that were not their thinking, I would not be here today."

- Improvement of the financial support of the University from the private and corporate sectors. The University of Minnesota last year ranked first among major state universities in the amount of private giving.

"I am eager to tie the generation of needed support to our planning and priority setting process," Magrath said, "and I am convinced that the University of Missouri can dramatically improve its financial support from the private and corporate sector."

- To personally tell the University of Missouri story by showing how it contributes to the state's bright future.



Diane Magrath

"I am eager to communicate and work closely with our governor, our legislature and citizens. This after all is the Show-Me state, and we have an obligation to show and tell our story — not for the University's sake but for the state's sake, for it is a vital ingredient in Missouri's economic and cultural prosperity."

Magrath and his wife, Diane, were married in 1978 and he recognizes her as an invaluable partner in the university presidency. He has a daughter, Valerie, from his first marriage, and a daughter, "Mo," a fifth grader, who came with his marriage to Diane and whose nickname, he noted, matches her new state's initials.

Prior to his tenure as University of Minnesota president, Magrath was president of the State University of New York at Binghamton from 1972 to 1974. From 1968 to 1972, he was a faculty member and administrator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, serving as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, dean of faculties, interim chancellor and vice president, and vice chancellor for academic affairs. He taught political science at Brown University from 1961 to 1968 and was associate dean of the Graduate School there in 1965 and 1966.

A native of New York, he earned a bachelor's degree summa cum laude in political science from the University of New Hampshire and a doctorate from Cornell University. His fields of scholarly specialization and interest are American government, particularly constitutional law and history and the operation of the U.S. Supreme Court; higher education administration and leader-

ship, public policy and financing; and international affairs. He served as an army artillery officer from 1955 to 1957, including active duty in the Panama Canal Zone.

He is chairman of the executive committee and a member of the international affairs committee of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, composed of the nation's major public universities; chairman of the graduate education committee and member of the executive committee of the Association of American Universities, an organization of many of the nation's best institutions of higher education; and chairman of the Commission on International Education and a member of the Identification Program for the Advancement of Women in Higher Education Administration for the American Council on Education. He also serves as chairman of the National Commission on Excellence in Teacher Education and holds a presidential appointment on the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

In addition, he is a widely published author. His writings include four books, a monograph and many articles on political science and higher education.

He has received honorary degrees from New Hampshire and Brown universities. Time magazine listed him among its 200 leaders for the future in 1974 and Change magazine named him one of 100 younger leaders in American higher education.

Diane Skomars Magrath is a native of Duluth, Minn. She has a B.A. degree in speech from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and an M.A. in speech/communication from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She was director of the Student Activities Center at the University of Minnesota from 1972 to 1978. Other positions she has held include psychometrist, foreign student advisor, student activities advisor, third grade teacher, telephone service representative and parish secretary.

Since their marriage, she has devoted her efforts to being the married partner of the University of Minnesota president, which has included considerable travel, public speaking and media appearances. She has leadership responsibility for three national educational association spouses programs and has co-edited the book, "The President's Spouse: Volunteer or Volunteered." In addition, she shares the position of executive director of the Minneapolis Council of Camp Fire and has taken leadership roles in many community, cultural and service activities in the Twin Cities and elsewhere in Minnesota, including the Guthrie Theater Board of Directors and the Minnesota Orchestra Association.

Olson commends curators on choice

Editor's note: The following statement by UM President James C. Olson was read at Monday's news conference by Vera Olson in the absence of her husband, who had a previous commitment.

The appointment of Dr. Magrath to the presidency is a great moment for the University of Missouri and the people of this state. Dr. Magrath is widely recognized as an educator of national stature, and he will bring distinction on the University of Missouri and its graduates.

Indeed, I believe that in this trying period for higher education, Dr. Magrath could well provide the inspired leadership that may mean the difference between the mere survival of the University and its rise to still greater heights.

While I am sad to leave the presidency, I am most heartened to learn that the office will be filled by such a distinguished scholar and administrator. Both Vera and I wish Peter and Diane the very best.

I am also most pleased that the board has seen fit to name Dr. Mel George to serve as interim president until such time as Dr. Magrath can assume the office on a permanent basis. Dr. George is a most capable and respected academic leader. His familiarity with the operation of the University will no doubt keep it on a steady course during the busy transition period ahead.

Again, let me express my pleasure and congratulations. This is a very special day for the University.

George to preside through December



Melvin D. George

The interim president of the University of Missouri, Melvin D. George, has been vice president for academic affairs since 1975.

"The University is fortunate to have an individual of Dr. George's ability and experience to fill the interim position," said Board of Curators Vice President Doug Russell in making the announcement at Monday's press conference.

"We feel sure that Dr. George is more than capable of keeping the University moving forward in this transition period. Indeed, Dr. George has the full confidence and support of the board. We would hope — and expect — that Dr. George will receive the full support of the faculty and staff during this interim period."

As vice president for academic affairs, George is responsible for coordination and

planning related to University academic matters. He has general administrative responsibility for the Missouri Cooperative Extension Service, administrative responsibility for central research facilities, including the Research Reactor, and general oversight of academic personnel matters, among other responsibilities.

Before coming to the University of Missouri, George was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for five years. Before that, he was a mathematics professor, associate chairman of the mathematics department and associate dean of the Graduate School at UM-Columbia.

George received his B.A. degree in mathematics with highest distinction from Northwestern University. His Ph.D. in mathematics is from Princeton University.

IFC members praise selection

The following is a statement released Monday by David Leuthold, Marie Vorbeck and Truman Storvick, UMC representatives to the Intercampus Faculty Council.

Members of the Intercampus Faculty Council met with Peter and Diane Magrath on Monday, June 11. Each of the faculty members present was favorably impressed. Representatives of the group then met with the Board of Curators, expressing strong support for the selection of Peter Magrath as president of the University of Missouri.

At the University of Minnesota, Magrath has been faced with some of the same financial challenges as are being faced at the University of Missouri. In response to those challenges, the University of Minnesota has reorganized colleges, instituted an enhanced early retirement system, eliminated some programs and reallocated \$13 million internally. During Magrath's presidency, the University has also been successful in increasing private contributions. The University has also established an Institute of Technology and the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Magrath: A university can be managed and led

Editor's note: The following is the statement made by C. Peter Magrath, the newly appointed UM president, at Monday's news conference following a special meeting of the Board of Curators.

I thank the curators for their confidence in me; I intend to justify it and welcome the creative challenge represented by the University of Missouri. I come to a major American university that has been very well served by President Olson; for Diane and me it is an honor to follow Jim and Vera Olson. In Vice President Melvin D. George, who will serve as interim president, the University has another first-class professional; we worked together intimately in the past, and it will be fun to do so again. I look forward to working with Vice President Buchholz and the University's chancellors in providing leadership and direction to our University.

This is not the occasion to spell out in any detail my views and plans; that would be premature and presumptuous. But this is an appropriate moment to share with what will soon be my fellow Missourians a few of my thoughts and general objectives about our University of Missouri.

I am here today in large measure because I see a great challenge to help strengthen and build a University of Missouri for the 21st century — only 15 years away. I have come under the assumption and in the conviction that the University is one university, and that its well-being is critical to the economic and cultural progress of Missouri. We are fortunate that the University is sound and healthy; it has a history that promises a future of even greater service and value to Missouri. But I am convinced that it can and must be improved, and that one essential key to such progress is an even greater acceptance of the reality that the University of Missouri's quality and value will be enhanced in direct proportion to its campuses and statewide programs seeing their mission as the well-being and strength of the entire University. Old truisms, I submit, may provide us with fresh insights: The whole can be greater than the sum of the individual parts; but the individual campuses and our cooperative extension service can in turn be mightily enhanced if the entire University is nurtured and prospers.

Because this is my firm belief, I will pursue certain general objectives:

1) Planning is absolutely critical. It must be realistic planning tied not to generalized wishes and daydreams, but planning defined as a set of choices and priorities reflected in the resources we seek and the budgets we implement. Planning is too disruptive to be undertaken lightly. It raises anxieties and is deliberately designed to face present problems by forcing choices so that tomorrow's needs can be met. For that reason we all have a vested interest in an effective planning system that is credible because it works. My definition of planning does not include elaborate reports that serve as dust catchers on bureaucratic shelves; rather, it is a process that leads to specific, coordinated efforts to build and improve selected programs and activities.

I commend the curators for their commitment to planning; indeed, if that were not their thinking, I would not be here today. Because planning and the budgetary decisions that must follow it are so critical to the strengthening of our University, I hope that we can proceed deliberately — under the firm guidance of Dr. George — so that I can place my own imprint and experience on this process.

I cannot overemphasize how important the planning and priority setting process is, if we are serious — as I am — about strengthening the University's ability to serve the state. It is the way to build on our strengths. It needs to be done because without it there is no way to measure our progress and needs as a University committed to first-class teaching, excellent research, and high quality public service. Our governor, legislators, and citizens have every right to expect a tough planning and priority setting process of us: we have an obligation to do it both because it is right and because it will increase our credibility as we work to fulfill our University's aspirations. It is needed, too, to assure a continuation of the excellent relationships that the University of Missouri enjoys with the other public higher education systems and with Missouri's excellent private universities and colleges. In higher education we have an obligation to work together in a cooperative fashion.

Without a real commitment to planning we will not maintain the quality we now have nor improve it as we must in many areas. It is absolutely critical if we are to be competitive for the best faculty, pay merit and market related salaries where justified, and both attract the best students and serve all students well.

2) Resources — money, to speak plain English — are needed if a public university is to serve its state as a unique investment for its economy and quality of life. I am eager to tie the generation of needed support to our planning and priority setting process, and I am convinced the University of Missouri can dramatically improve its financial support from the private and corporate sector. All campuses and colleges can and must benefit, and I am dedicated to the proposition that a centrally coordinated approach will serve our total University. I have some ideas on this that will be a high personal priority for me once I arrive.

3) Similarly, it will be my personal objective to help tell the University of Missouri story — by showing how we can contribute to our state's bright future. I am eager to communicate and work closely with our governor, our legislature and citizens. This after all is the "Show Me" state, and we have an obligation to show and tell our story — not for the University's sake, but for the state's sake, for it is a vital ingredient in Missouri's economic and cultural prosperity.

My final comments are personal. I am a land-grant person. I love our great public universities, and I love this central — core — part of America.

I like challenges, and I like to challenge others — one challenge will be figuring out how to pronounce my last name and why on earth do I say it that way! Mystery is fun too sometimes, and for now I'll try to mask the identity of the name that goes with the initial "C."

My family is vital to me. My life's partner is Diane, and she is invaluable to me as a partner in my work as a university president. I have two daughters, Valerie, from my first marriage, and one who came with my marriage to Diane — Mo, whose nickname matches her new state's initials.

I believe in leadership, and I know a university can be both managed and led. It is not easy, but it can be done. I place a high value on discussion and consultation; I in fact insist on it. But I also believe that decisions and actions must follow discussion and consultation.

Missouri — as a state of opportunity for all of its citizens of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds and experiences — excites me. I am anxious to learn about Missouri and its University, and to work hard on its behalf.

I look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation to Jan. 1, 1985.

Magrath will be 17th UM president

C. Peter Magrath, when he assumes office next year, will be the University of Missouri's 17th president. The first 16 and the years of their tenure (the list does not include periods during which interim presidents served) were:

John Hiram Lathrop, 1841-1849 and 1865-1866

James Shannon, 1850-1856

William Wilson Hudson, 1856-1859

Benjamin Blake Minor, 1860-1862

Daniel Read, 1866-1876

Samuel Spahr Laws, 1876-1889

Richard Henry Jesse, 1891-1908

Albert Ross Hill, 1908-1921

John Carleton Jones, 1922-1923

Stratton Duluth Brooks, 1923-1930

Walter Williams, 1931-1935

Frederick Arnold Middlebush,

1935-1954

Elmer Ellis, 1955-1966

John Carrier Weaver, 1966-1970

C. Brice Ratchford, 1971-1976

James C. Olson, 1977-1984

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