

UM to fund Dental Benefits Plan

The University's Dental Benefits Plan, administered and insured by a private insurance company since it was first offered to employees three years ago, will become self-funded as of Jan. 1. Also effective Jan. 1 is a change in administration for processing claims submitted through the plan.

The dental program joins the medical benefits, long-term disability and worker's compensation programs in being self-funded by the University. Self-funded insurance

eliminates the need to have an insurance company underwrite the plan, which results in cost savings and a more flexible way to offer coverage to employees.

Many large private businesses have self-funded insurance programs, says Michael O. Reese, director of employee benefits for UM central administration, but the University is a pioneer among universities in self-funding of insurance programs.

Claims will still be administered by a

private insurance carrier. After seeking proposals from several companies, the University has signed a one-year contract with General American Life Insurance Co., which has home offices in St. Louis. The plan has been conventionally insured by Aetna of Hartford, Conn., since the plan's January 1982 effective date.

Employees who are covered by the program will submit claims incurred after Dec. 31 to the General American office in St. Louis. Claims should be directed to the attention of the Group Department, D2-19, P.O. Box 14476, St. Louis, MO 63178. Claims for dental expenses incurred before the end of 1984 should be submitted to the Aetna claims office. New claim forms for use after the Jan. 1 change will be available in campus staff benefits offices.

General American has toll-free telephone numbers for claim inquiries. Missouri residents may call 1-800-392-9117. Employees who live in other states may call 1-800-325-9514. St. Louis residents may call General American at 525-5159.

There will be no changes in the coverage provided by the dental program. Premium rates, which increased Oct. 1, will enable the University to build up adequate reserves for the self-funded program. Rates would be higher if the University continued its conventionally insured program, says R. Kenneth Hutchinson, assistant vice president for personnel services.

Individual notices of the dental program change will be sent to employees this month. Questions should be directed to campus staff benefits offices.

Research projects receive funding

Four new projects have been approved for funding under terms of the Research Assistance Act.

The state money approved by the UM system Board of Curators must be matched by at least twice as much from non-state and non-federal sources. Project directors have six months to arrange private support.

The Research Assistance Act was enacted by the Missouri General Assembly in 1982 to partially fund projects designed to enhance employment opportunity, stimulate economic development and encourage private investment in the state.

The most recent projects approved, listed by RAA amount, investigator and project title, are:

- \$30,568 to John Asplund, professor of animal science at UM-Columbia, "Studies on the Metabolism of Sulfur-Containing Amino Acids in Ruminants."

- \$27,801 to James Williams and Ralph Lipsey, assistant professors of animal science at UMC, "Improving Energy Efficiency in Beef Cattle."

- \$10,906 to William Miller, associate professor of nuclear engineering, and William Kennedy, assistant professor of nuclear engineering, both at UMC, "Design of a Portable Computerized Axial Tomography System for Utility Pole Inspection."

- \$147,698 to Marilyn Harrington, assistant to the dean of the School of Dentistry; Lloyd Olson, professor of medicine; and Robert Elenbaas, associate professor of pharmacy and medicine, all at UM-Kansas City, "Medical/Dental Research Data Base."

Board elects new president

The UM system Board of Curators elected as president for 1985 its vice president for 1984, Doug Russell of Lebanon. Russell presided over three meetings this year in the absence of David W. Lewis, who was ill for several months.

The board elected James S. Anderson, a Springfield business executive and engineer, vice president for 1985.

Russell, vice president of The Durham Co. in Lebanon, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Christopher Bond to the board in 1982. His term expires Jan. 1, 1987.

He served as chairman of the board's Long-Range Planning Steering Committee, which developed the 10-year long-range plan designed to pave UM's future. He also served on the board's presidential search and finance committees.

Russell is a 1977 graduate of UM-Columbia's College of Business and Public Administration.

Anderson is a 1955 civil engineering graduate of the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, now UM-Rolla.



Doug Russell

Weldon Spring land feasible for research park development

Development of a high-technology research park at Weldon Spring is feasible, according to a preliminary draft of a report presented to the Board of Curators at its meeting last week.

The final draft is scheduled for completion Jan. 1. The board may consider a recommendation regarding the University-owned property at its February meeting.

The research park's feasibility is based on an assessment of the potential of the St. Louis region and the Weldon Spring site as well as projections of growth in employment and in research and development facilities nationally. The study was funded by a grant from the state.

The feasibility report, prepared by Team Four, a St. Louis planning and community development firm, estimates the total development cost at \$8 million. The team suggests that a well-planned and implemented research park at Weldon Spring could secure a sufficient share of national and state growth in research and development facilities within 11 years to use the 225 acres of readily developable land.

The report points out that the St. Louis region has an existing personnel base of skilled technicians and research support workers, with nearly 60,000 people working in established high-technology industries in the area.

According to Team Four, the Weldon

Spring site has a number of features many corporate research and development facility planners consider important, including proximity to major educational, cultural, recreational and residential opportunities.

The area around Weldon Spring is the most rapidly growing part of the St. Louis region in housing, population and employment.

Predicted cash flows from 50-year ground leases could produce an 11.3 percent return on investment, generate 2.9 million square feet of new facilities construction and provide work for about 4,300 research and development personnel based in Missouri.

Team Four suggested goals and a land development strategy using the concept of a master developer/lessee by establishing a non-profit organization. It also reported that over the past 14 years, employment in technology-intensive sectors has grown 17 percent faster than the rest of the private economy. Research and development spending has grown at a compound rate of 15.6 percent annually compared to 7 percent for the private economy.

According to the report, by 1995 advanced-technology sectors are likely to add 1.95 million jobs nationally. Research and development facility construction is projected to total 40 to 45 million gross square feet annually throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s.

New vice president to choose associate

The search for a new associate vice president for academic affairs will not begin until a new vice president for academic affairs is appointed.

The associate vice presidency will be open Jan. 31 when Thomas Collins resigns to accept a post as vice provost of the

University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Incoming UM President C. Peter Magrath is expected to name a new vice president for academic affairs after the first of the year. The new vice president will initiate the search for a new associate vice president.

Holiday closings affect employees

Official University holidays for employees are Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but some employees will have additional time off because of campus closings.

Other than those providing essential services, UMca offices may choose to suspend operations during the holiday period from Saturday, Dec. 22, through Tuesday, Jan. 1. However, employees who want to work during that period, other than the two University holidays, will be allowed to work.

The Columbia campus will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Dec. 31. Employees are asked to take vacation time, personal days or time off without

pay for those two days.

The St. Louis campus will again close during the holiday period as an energy conservation measure. The campus will be closed from Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. Employees must use vacation time or personal days or take time off without pay for the five working days that fall during that period. In most buildings, the temperature will be lowered to 55 degrees to conserve energy.

Some offices will be closed during the holiday period at UM-Rolla and UM-Kansas City, but the campuses will be open.

UMKC gets OK for phone system

A \$3.3 million contract for purchase and installation of a campus phone system at UM-Kansas City has been approved by the Board of Curators.

Low bidder on a major portion of the contract was Alltel Telecommunication Systems of Little Rock, Ark., with a bid of \$2.75 million.

The system will tie together with a single exchange all three UMKC campuses: the main Volker campus and Hospital Hill in Kansas City and the Truman campus in Independence. Final contracts will be signed as soon as loan funding can be obtained.

The new system will be "state of the art and beyond," says Joseph Doerr, UMKC vice chancellor for administrative affairs. The system has voice and data capability with potential video capability.

"We also expect to use our own phone lines for computer interconnects," he adds. "We will lay proprietary cable to interconnect main frame and minicomputers so in the future faculty, staff and students can communicate much faster than they now do by phone."

The new system will be paid for in five years with funds now budgeted for telephone services.

In addition to networking all schools and departments within one exchange (276), the new system will provide greater access to outside lines, direct inward dialing so calls may be answered at individual desks, voice messaging, conference calls, automatic call-back, call waiting and call forwarding, as well as long-distance calling routed through the most economical routing system. Future enhancements include sophisticated security and safety capabilities.

Doerr says the current system is fragmented and antiquated. Seven exchanges are needed for communication among faculty, staff and students on the three campuses. "More than three years ago," he says, "we knew something had to be done. We were functioning with an electro-mechanical system in an electronic age. With the breakup of the Bell System, we decided to explore the possibility of purchasing our own system."

A steering committee was established and a consultant was hired to determine the feasibility of UMKC owning its own telecommunications equipment. A study revealed economical benefits to purchasing equipment, so the committee and a consultant designed the system.

Installation of the UMKC system is the first step in UM's effort to update telecommunications capabilities. Coleman Burton, director of telecommunications for the University system, says the UMKC system, which positions the campus well to meet changing needs for telecommunications for at least the next decade, will serve as a model for other UM campuses as they plan their systems.

UM-Columbia is in the planning stage and may have a new system operable by the summer of 1986, Burton told the University cabinet last week. The Rolla and St. Louis campuses are still in early stages of the process to assess needs and plan new systems.

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School of Basic Life Sciences to open at UMKC

A School of Basic Life Sciences at UM-Kansas City begins operations Jan. 1, following approval last week by the Board of Curators. The new school will provide strong educational programs in the basic health sciences for students in the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The concept and plans for the school have been discussed and evaluated by faculty, administrators and external consultants for several years. "This School of Basic Life Sciences will enhance further the teaching and research programs at UMKC," says Chancellor George A. Russell. "The school will be staffed by some new appointments but primarily by faculty already teaching life science courses. By coordinating and clustering them in this innovative way, we expect to increase efficiency and minimize administrative costs."

Ronald A. MacQuarrie, professor of chemistry and medicine at UMKC, will be acting dean of the new school. MacQuarrie, who earned his doctorate at the University of Oregon, has been at UMKC since 1973. He will report to Eugene Trani, vice chancellor for academic affairs. MacQuarrie, former chairman of the chemistry department, was released from other administrative duties several years ago to work on plans for the school.

The school will have three research divisions, a laboratory animal center and an office of radiation safety. Courses offered in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, biophysics and physiology will support degree programs in dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and pharmaceutical science as well as some bachelor, master's and doctoral degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. Existing master's degrees in microbiology and chemistry and a doctoral degree in biochemistry will be offered by the school.

The three research divisions are basic medical sciences, such as anatomy and physiology; cellular biology, including microbiology, immunology and virology; and molecular biology and biophysics, including biochemistry, biophysics and genetic engineering. Acting directors recruited from existing faculty will head each division and join selected individuals from outside the school to comprise a dean's council to recommend administrative and research policies.

A plan fostering educational and re-

search training opportunities for faculty and students will be developed by the dean's council. All governing practices and bylaws will be developed and recommended by the faculty through the council and the dean to the chancellor for final approval.

Board approves contracts for construction projects

Construction contracts for two UM-Columbia building projects and architectural plans for a UM-Rolla building have been approved by the UM system Board of Curators.

The board awarded a construction contract to Rajac Construction Co. of Jefferson City to renovate a portion of the ground floor and all of the second floor of Schweitzer Hall on the Columbia campus. Rajac's bid of \$1,274,000 was the lowest received on the project. Construction, which will start soon, is expected to take about nine months.

Financing for this second phase of renovation of Schweitzer will come from state capital appropriations and campus planning and renovation funds.

Additional contracts for the UMC Hospital and Clinics Capital Improvements Project were also approved by the board. Major funding for the improvement project is from a \$19 million revenue bond issue.

Contracts were awarded to the C. Rallo Construction Co. of St. Louis, \$1,465,200 for general construction on the new lobby/concourse; Baker Erection of Kansas City, Kan., \$233,642 to provide steel joists, metal floor, roof deck and shear connectors and to erect structural steel for the lobby/concourse; Reinhardt Construction Co. of Centralia, \$377,600 for general construction work on the ambulatory surgical unit; J. Louis Crum Co. of Columbia, \$507,062 for plumbing, mechanical and air conditioning work on the ambulatory surgical unit; and Howerton Electric Co. of Jefferson City, \$130,495 for electrical work on the ambulatory surgical unit.

The curators approved plans for a building to house student health, public information and security facilities on the Rolla campus. Architects will now prepare final plans and specifications.

The building, designed by the architec-

The school will be supported by appropriations from the state as well as private funds. A state-of-the-art genetic engineering research laboratory has been equipped with funds authorized by the Research Assistance Act.

tural firm of Fraser Thomson and Associates Inc. of St. Louis, is expected to cost about \$1.1 million, to be financed by campus funds and a loan.

Curators also hired the architectural firm of Stone, Marraccini and Patterson Inc. of St. Louis to begin planning an engineering laboratory and classroom building for the Columbia campus. The building would be located west of the present engineering complex that faces Francis Quadrangle.

At the last legislative session, the state appropriated \$177,000 for planning the building. The University has requested a 1985-86 appropriation of \$11.4 million for construction.

Resolution says UMSL stays

The Board of Curators at its meeting last week passed a resolution stating its intention to maintain the UM-St. Louis campus as a part of the University system.

The resolution was adopted in response to student and prospective student concern caused by this fall's recommendation by the state commissioner of higher education that UMSL and Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis be merged into a public institution separate from the University system.

"It is the intention of the board . . . to continue to provide appropriate opportunities for undergraduate, graduate and professional study on that campus," the resolution says.

"The board appreciates the desire of the commissioner for improved access for students to public higher education in St. Louis and will work with the commissioner and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to accomplish that goal without separating the St. Louis campus from the University of Missouri."

Jobs

The following administrative/professional and academic vacancies were listed with *Spectrum* as of Dec. 7. Anyone interested in a position should contact the appropriate department or personnel office.

UMC: professor, physics/astronomy; asst. professor, surgery, speech/dramatic art, chemistry, economics, entomology, Russian, political science, psychology, history, organic chemistry, child health (4), industrial education, radiology, statistics; asst./assoc./full professor, industrial engineering, mechanical/aerospace engineering (2), clinical psychology (2); asst./assoc. professor, medicine, social work, physics/astronomy, mathematics (2), child health, curriculum/instruction, electrical/computer engineering (2); assoc./full professor, law; instructor/asst. professor, veterinary anatomy/physiology (3); asst./assoc./full professor and chair, industrial engineering; instructor/asst./assoc./full professor, mechanical/aerospace engineering; assoc. professor, practical arts/voc-tech education (2); asst./assoc. professor and state extension specialist, agronomy; asst. instructor, broadcasting; instructor/assoc. director, continuing medical education; instructor/4-H specialist, Co-operative Extension Service; research associate, dairy science, pharmacology; director,

forestry/fisheries/wildlife; head football coach; asst. football coach (9); librarian I or II/medical cataloger; assoc. professor/coordinator of orchestral activities, music; instructor/asst. director of health journalism, news-editorial; fellow/clinical instructor, radiology; resident veterinarian, veterinary medicine/surgery (2); intern, veterinary medicine/surgery (2); professor and chair, veterinary pathology; manager, energy engineering, power plant engineering project, development research; computer programmer/analyst II; industrial hygienist; information specialist; asst. director, development (2); fiscal assistant, psychology; sr. continuing education coordinator; administrative associate II; coordinator, interior design. **UMca:** assoc. archivist; research specialist; asst. editor; landscape architect; reference specialist; sr. systems programmer.

UMC Hospital: administrative nurse II; clinical nurse I (2); education nurse I (2); food service supervisor I; sr. systems programmer; vocational evaluator; manager, audiology/communication disorders; assoc. administrator, ambulatory care; accountant; coordinator, staff development, safety; sr. information specialist.

UMKC: grader, business/public administration; research assistant, chemistry (2),

biology; asst./assoc. professor, removable prosthodontics, law (5), accountancy; visiting professor, theater; adjunct faculty, biology; instructor/asst. professor, speech communication; research associate, affirmative action, Institute for Human Development; laboratory assistant, chemistry; theater assistant (10); lecturer, chemistry, computer science; choral director, Conservatory of Music; music history teacher, Conservatory of Music; asst./assoc. professor/director of bands, Conservatory of Music; asst./assoc./full professor, computer science; computer operator, dentistry; intern, education; librarian III/head of public services and collection development; librarian I/cataloger; assistant to the chancellor.

UMR: asst./assoc./full professor, geological engineering; assoc./full professor, mining engineering/assoc. director, Rock Mechanics and Explosives Research Center; visiting assoc. professor, mechanical engineering; asst. professor, mechanical engineering; lecturer, speech, music; director, alumni constituent relations.

UMSL: asst. professor, education, chemistry, anthropology; asst./assoc. professor, computer science (2); visiting asst. professor, political sciences; asst./assoc./full professor, optometry.