

SPECTRUM

News from the Jan. 30-31 Board of Curators meeting, Jefferson City

Webb Gilmore, in his opening address as board president, told curators the University and the board must be unified in 1991. He listed his priorities for 1991 as: system organization, communications and cooperation; faculty appreciation; additional resources; restoration and enhancement of quality; missions and program priorities; programs for minority and disadvantaged students; efforts to strengthen undergraduate curriculum; and interface between higher education and elementary and secondary education.

Less state money and higher operating costs will plague the University in fiscal 1992, President Magrath told the board. Due to Missouri's decreasing revenue situation, the state appropriation to the UM System is likely to be less than this year's. This could result in additional program reductions, higher student fees and no pay raises for faculty and staff, Magrath said.

New curators John C. Cozad, James L. McHugh and Cynthia Bramlett Thompson were sworn in as board members. Cozad, 46, of Platte City; McHugh, 59, of Webster Groves; and Thompson, 41, of St. Louis, were appointed by Gov. Ashcroft earlier this month to six-year terms on the board. They succeed Ed Turner, Eva Louise Frazer and Peter Raven, whose terms expired.

Efforts to increase funding for higher education must be tied to reform, said Higher Education Commissioner Charles McClain. McClain said he stands behind the recommendations of the Missouri Business and Education Partnership Commission and he stressed the importance of each curator taking a role in persuading the public that the status quo is not good enough for the University of Missouri System. Sen. James Mathewson urged the board to work with the General Assembly to let the issue of a tax increase for education be decided by the voters of Missouri.

The Student Fee Task Force recommended fees be raised. In an interim report, the task force said the University System fee structure, combined with the present level of state support, is not adequate for the University to fulfill its mission. The task force recommended the University adopt a policy of moderate tuition rather than the low-tuition policy of the last several decades.

The board endorsed a proposed three-campus cooperative nursing doctorate, but delayed action until a better fiscal situation allows expansion of University programs. Magrath said he asked the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to start assessing the program in the interim.

Gilmore named board committees for 1991. The Academic Affairs Committee will be chaired by John Lichtenegger, the Resources and Planning Committee by James C. Sterling, the Finance Committee by G. Andy Runge and the Physical Facilities Committee by Fred S. Kummer.

The board was informed that Gail L. Imig, director of University Extension since 1988, has announced her resignation. Imig has been named director of cooperative extension at Michigan State University-East Lansing. The appointment is effective July 1. President Magrath said, "I feel a great sense of loss for the University and for the state with the departure of Dr. Imig."

Next meeting: March 14-15, UM-St. Louis

