Presidents Report from the
Board of Curators' Meeting
January 31 – February 1, 2008
J C Penny Union
University of Missouri-St. Louis

On Thursday, Board subcommittees met.

In the Academic subcommittee, four members of the New Faculty Teaching Scholars Program from the different campuses gave updates on their experiences. Kumar Venayagamoorthy gave the report representing UMR. He spoke about the benefits of exposures to different teaching styles and how the program helped him in grantsmanship such as as NSF, for example, requires that teaching philosophy statements.

In the Chancellors' reports, UMSL (George) spoke of the campus' efforts in reaccredidation. MST (Carney) discussed the proposed revised mission statement for the campus. There were no questions in the subcommittee and the statement passed unanimously: "Missouri University of Science and Technology integrates education and research to create and convey knowledge to solve problems for our State and the technological world." [It was subsequently passed as part of the consent agenda.]

The building committee discussed selection of Architects for the Benton Stadler renovation/addition on the UMSL campus and the UMHC Surgery Tower. Considerable discussion occurred over the UMKC New Student Union.

Friday morning, the breakfast sponsored by the UMSL Faculty Senate was cancelled due to the snow that fell on the previous day and night. The full Board met on Friday.

Curator Walker (UMR Grad) chaired her first Board meeting, which was broadcast over the www. Future broadcasts should be accessible via the UM System web pages. The Board theme for the year is "Economic development through research, life sciences and technology". UM generates $5 in the State economy for each dollar invested by the State. Interim President Lamb was thanked for his service to the University. Gary Forsee was present at the meeting, but does not start work as President until mid-February. Lamb introduced Mike Nichols, the new VP for Economic Development, who gave an overview of opportunities for developing Missouri's economy. This included decentralization of authority for intellectual property and encouragement for disclosures.

The consent agenda was approved as submitted. This included student housing, health service and student fees. One item in the leave policy was questioned and a Curator was told that it was more of a consolidation of policies, rather than an expansion. [These policies have been vetted through the Faculty Senate Committees and IFC approved them.] There was also discussion
about extending web-based training on preventing sexual harassment, like that currently used at MST, to the other campuses.

Steve Knorr gave an update on Government Relations. Free tuition for returning veterans and additional hearings on the "Emily Brooker" bill are some of the things UM is following. The UM System or the campus' may be required to pick up an estimated $1M of the cost. Interim President Lamb reported on the Missouri 100 group that seems to be an effective way of getting the UM message out through the business community. The Curators seemed to be very supportive of this effort.

The Budget and Finance Committee reported on different scenarios for budgeting. A 4.1% increase in tuition will likely be proposed and is consistent with the CPI and recent changes in Missouri law. The tuition increases will be on the agenda for the Rolla meeting in April at MST. Approval for increases in fees for housing and dining were approved.

Physical facilities reported on projects related to the science building at UMSL, the medical building at UMC, the new student union at UMKC (there was considerable discussion of this in the subcommittee), the Orthopaedics Institute at UMHC, and the library renovation at UMKC.

Acknowledgement of Coach Anderson's (UMC BB Coach) recent decisions on player discipline were made.

Some of the items from the meeting can be accessed via the UMSystem web pages.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Blum
President, Faculty Senate