

FACULTY SENATE & UNIVERSITY ASSEMBLY  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Report of the Chairperson  
December 11, 2007

**NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL**

As you have no doubt heard from various media sources, the UM Board of Curators' took action on the name change proposal initiated by UM-Columbia campus. There was a lot of media attention to this issue. The Curators didn't ask me what I thought of the proposal, but some reporters asked me questions after the fact. The action taken by the Curators was considered a "compromise" position, though from what I can tell, it gave the folks in Columbia what they really wanted, which was exclusive use of the name "University of Missouri." The one concession that our side got was that the "official" name of the Boone County campus continues to be "University of Missouri-Columbia." That is, there was NOT a name change. (Aside. Even our beloved KWMU didn't report the result quite correctly.) We did have the support of a couple curators, but the Board is packed with UMC alumni, so they had the votes to give UMC what they wanted.

I've been asked about what we will do now. The implication is that we should raise some ruckus. I've even had a couple high-level UMSL advocates offer their personal support for such actions. I'm extremely disappointed by the decision by the Board. I'm frustrated that the progress our campus had made toward full-partnership in the UM mission has been dealt a blow in terms of public perception. But, many of us see it as a sign of that very progress that the Columbia campus would feel threatened enough that someone might perceive them to be just like the St. Louis campus. The proposal by UMC was arrogant and the result was achieved through the power of its historical dominance – not because of some superiority of value. They are bigger because of history, which gives them more alumni, and that translates into more votes on the Board of Curators.

The Curators have spoken. It's a "done-deal." UMSL will continue to move forward and we will look for ways to capitalize on OUR good name and reputation.

Be assured that I will never use "University of Missouri" to refer to our sister campus in Columbia, and I hope that you won't either. We must continue to remind everyone that UMSL is NOT a "branch" of the campus in Columbia and that UMSL is a vital part of the four campus University of Missouri.

**NEW BOARD OFFICERS**

Cheryl Walker, a UMR alumna, but resident of St. Louis, was elected to be the 2008 chair of the Board of Curators. Curator Walker has an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering but is now a practicing attorney. Curator Bo Fraser was elected to be vice-chair of the Board.

**UPCOMING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CURATORS**

The Curators of the University of Missouri will meet on our campus, January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. I encourage you to attend the meetings and meet the Curators. More information about events related to those meetings will be forthcoming.

## **BY-LAWS REVISIONS**

Some major revisions to the Senate and Assembly by-laws were distributed at the joint meeting in November. Please send any comments you have to Matt Keefer, chair of the By-Laws & Rules Committee. These changes will be voted on at the next joint meeting of the Assembly and Senate on February 19, 2008.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Steering Committee met on December 4, 2007 and discussed the November meeting of the Board of Curators. The chancellor will report on other activities from the Kansas City meeting.

The Steering Committee also discussed issues related to:

- Campus calendar and its completeness and accessibility on the website
- Signage to make our campus more visible from I-70
- Baseball field construction
- Planned new construction at Express Scripts
- Educational benefits for employees and dependents