Once again, the University of Missouri System has dipped into the business world for its president, this time coming up with a former hometown boy, Timothy M. Wolfe.

The 53-year-old MU School of Business graduate, who grew up in Columbia, brings to the post a deep background in information technology.

Wolfe, who will assume his official duties Feb. 15, will visit the University of Missouri-Kansas City today.

"I think Kansas City will be very pleased," said Warren Erdman, the outgoing chairman of the UM Board of Curators who led the search.

In an 11-month search to replace Gary Forsee, a former CEO of Sprint Corp., a pool of at least 100 candidates was distilled to three. Curators made the final vote in their regular meetings Thursday and Friday in St. Louis.
In his comments, Wolfe indicated that Erdman had reached out to him with a phone call. Until then, Wolfe said, he had not thought about pursuing a position as a university president, although both his parents are university professors. Wolfe said he began seeking the position “vigorously” after conversations with Forsee.

The two talked about the great experiences they had attending Missouri colleges and how leading the system would give Wolfe a unique opportunity to “help other young people have a similar experience,” Wolfe said.

“I will work tirelessly to help all our campuses reach their full potential,” he said. “I can’t wait to get started.”

The three-year contract has a $450,000 base annual salary, $50,000 more than that of Forsee, and $100,000 in performance pay. The curators will set the criteria for the bonus in the next 60 days.

“Tim Wolfe comes back to us as a successful graduate with a 30-year career in business,” Erdman said. “He comes back to us now with national and international experience, but with a heart that has always stayed in Missouri. ... Now he wants to come home and give back to the university that prepared him for his success.”

Born in Iowa City, Iowa, Wolfe’s family moved to Columbia when he was in fourth grade. He attended Rock Bridge High School, where he quarterbacked the football team to the 1975 Class 3A state championship.

“This is a very special homecoming for me and my family,” Wolfe said. His wife, Molly, a Kansas City native, and their 16-year-old twins, daughter Madison and son Tyler, will stay in the Boston area through the school year and visit Missouri often.

Admitting he has much to learn, Wolfe said, “I will depend on the Board of Curators to navigate this tremendous university ecosystem.”

He said his experience in finance, marketing and management, married with his passion for education, will provide the tools he needs for “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Before a packed conference room in the Reynolds Alumni Center, Wolfe spoke of global and economic pressures that will force change and how the university must generate more revenue while delivering quality education and keeping tuitions low.

While their incoming president is the second to come from the business world, university leaders said they don’t see a trend.

“Who you hire has a lot to do with what is needed at the time,” said Leo Morton, the chancellor of UMKC. “I don’t think we need any one helping us redesign any curriculum. What we need is someone helping us getting the rest of the state to appreciate the value of this university, and that is marketing.”
Erdman, who is from Kansas City, said of Wolfe: “If there is one thing I’m really confident about, it is that he understands and respects the uniqueness of each of the system campuses.”

Forsee, the system’s 22nd president, left his post last December to care for his ailing wife. Steve Owens has served as interim president.

Before Erdman introduced Wolfe, he had warm words for Owens, who will go back to serving as the university’s general counsel.

“He deserves our deepest appreciation for his service in what some have said has been one of the most eventful years in our history,” Erdman said.

Wolfe said he will tour the state, visiting campuses and talking with administrators, faculty and students. He said he strongly values the input of students.

“They are our customers, so I want to hear from the students.”

According to a biography released by the university, Wolfe began his career in 1980 at IBM in Missouri, first as a sales representative in Jefferson City then as a manager in Kansas City. From 2000 to 2003, Wolfe served as executive vice president of Covansys Corp., a global consulting and technology services company based in Michigan.

He then moved to Novell Inc., a provider of infrastructure software, where he was responsible for more than 3,000 employees and partner firms in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Wolfe was between positions after Attachmate Corp. took over Novell earlier this year.

Wolfe’s father, Joe, taught communications at MU from 1967-97, and his mother, Judith, is a law professor at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover. An MU alumna, she taught in the Columbia public schools from 1968-72.

Brady Deaton, the chancellor of the Columbia campus, said that because Wolfe grew up with professor-parents and benefited from MU himself, “he comes with a unique perspective. He understands the value of the university.”
Timothy Wolfe named president of University of Missouri

By The Associated Press
GateHouse News Service

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Former software executive Timothy Wolfe was named the University of Missouri's next president today, capping a nearly yearlong search for a business-minded leader with ties to academia and Missouri roots.

Wolfe, 53, said he will assume leadership of the four-campus system in mid-February, using the time until then to visit with people around the state and learn more about the university. Among his chief challenges: securing financing for a university that has been repeatedly hit by state budget cuts and has been forced to raise student tuition.

Wolfe was the president of software company Novell Americas until it was acquired in April by Attachmate Corp. Previously, he was executive vice president of the consulting and business technologies firm Covansys and spent about two decades rising through the executive ranks at IBM.

A native of Columbia, Wolfe played quarterback for his high school's state champion football team and graduated from the business college at the university's flagship campus, where his mother earned four degrees his father is a retired faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences. University officials described Wolfe's hiring as a homecoming.

He replaces Gary Forsee, another former businessman, who stepped down in January to care for his wife, who is battling cancer. Interim president Steve Owens did not seek the job permanently and plans to return to his role as general counsel when Wolfe officially takes over as president.

The university Board of Curators started its presidential search with a list of about 100 candidates. It kept the finalist secret until today's announcement, which was made in front of a couple hundred people at the Columbia campus alumni center and live-streamed on the Internet. After addressing the crowd, Wolfe got a hug from the school's mascot, Truman the Tiger, and clapped along to the school fight song.

Wolfe pledged to develop a vision and strategy for the university that highlights "the critical importance of higher education in our economy, our health and for our future generations" and thus attracts financing from the state, businesses, alumni and other donors to fund the university's growth and pay competitive wages to faculty and staff. He said his business
experience has made him adept at finding cost-savings and new revenue opportunities, although Wolfe did not single out any particular potential new revenue sources the university might pursue.

"I understand I do not have a career in academia, but I vividly understand the importance of higher education," Wolfe said during his introductory remarks. He added: "I'm ecstatic and proud to be the newest member of the University of Missouri family."

Wolfe quickly waded into two of the hottest topics in Missouri's higher education community: Praising the recent decision by the Columbia campus to switch from the Big 12 to the Southeastern Conference and embracing Gov. Jay Nixon's push for performance-based funding for higher education institutions.

Wolfe agreed to a three-year contract starting Feb. 15 with a base salary of $450,000 in the first year and the potential to earn up to $100,000 in performance bonuses based on criteria to be determined within three months of his start date. The contract calls for his salary to be reviewed and potentially adjusted upward annually and, after the initial three years, for his employment to automatically renew each year unless either Wolfe or the university provides a six-month notice to end the agreement. Forsee had an annual salary of $400,000 and also was eligible for up to $100,000 in performance bonuses, though he declined to claim them.

Wolfe's contract also provides him with an automobile, a $45,000 relocation incentive for him to move from his home in suburban Boston and requires him to live in the official president's house on the Columbia campus.

Wolfe said curator's chairman Warren Erdman contacted him in early August to gauge his interest in the position, and his conversations with Forsee — who had resigned as chairman and CEO of Sprint Nextel before becoming the university president in February 2008 — played an important role in his decision to pursue the presidency.

The initial reaction to Wolfe's hiring generally was positive on the Columbia campus.

Kathy Moss, a clinical associate professor in the School of Health Professions, was among those who had eagerly watched the announcement on the Internet. She was impressed that Wolfe appeared "very warm and excited" about his new role and that he had embraced the primary challenge of helping the university grow in an era of reduced state funding.

State Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, who is a former university employee, said she found Wolfe's style reassuring, liked his business experience and appreciated family ties to the Columbia campus.

The university "is a big business, but it's more than a big business — you have to have respect for what the faculty do, and if his parents are faculty members, he obviously does," Still said.

Student Ashley Johnmeyer, an 18-year-old freshman nursing major, said she had received an email from the university announcing the new president. She liked the fact he was coming from the technology sector.

"Since he was the president of computer stuff, maybe he can have better software for us to use," she said.
COLUMBIA, MO. • The University of Missouri went back to the business well Tuesday when it selected Timothy M. Wolfe, a former software industry executive, to be its new president.

As they did with his predecessor, former Sprint executive Gary Forsee, the system’s Board of Curators opted to hire a leader with a financial background, rather than someone from the academic or political realms.

Wolfe, whose hiring ended an 11-month search, spent three decades in the information technology sector, with lengthy stints at IBM and Novell. He served as president of Novell Americas until April of this year, when the corporation was bought by Attachmate Corp., leaving him out of a job.

Wolfe, 53, has strong ties to the system. He moved to Columbia as a fourth-grader, is a 1980 graduate of Mizzou’s business college and his father was a communications professor at Mizzou from 1967 to 1997.
Curators said he has a rare blend of qualifications. They include leadership skills honed in the business world, deep knowledge of Missouri because of his Columbia roots and an understanding of academia because of his parents' careers as college professors. His mother is a law professor in Massachusetts.

"He has Missouri values, he understands our citizenry, our economy and the challenges we face today," said curator Don Downing of St. Louis.

Curator Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City said Wolfe would bring "fresh eyes. Somebody to come in and say, 'Why do you do this?'"

Steve Wyatt, vice provost for economic development at Mizzou, said Wolfe could help build partnerships with business, furthering the university's research as well as employers' needs for a highly trained workforce.

Wolfe's contract calls for him to be paid $450,000 a year and up to $100,000 in bonuses. He also gets a $45,000 relocation incentive, a car and housing at Providence Point, the official home for the university president. Initially, he plans to commute between Columbia and Walpole, Mass., where his twin children are juniors in high school.

Wolfe was asked to apply by the chairman of the curators, Warren Erdman, who got Wolfe's name from Joan Gabel, dean of Mizzou's Trulaske College of Business.

The timing was perfect. Wolfe was unemployed and "looking for something that was rewarding" and different from his business career. He called the university system presidency a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Gabel said she met Wolfe in 2010 when he was the school's executive-in-residence speaker. After his speech she asked for his insights on the business college. That night he emailed her a full report on his ideas.

"He really gets leadership and really gets university life," Gabel said.

Wolfe's professional career began in Jefferson City when he was hired as a sales representative for IBM, later serving as a manager in Kansas City. By the time he left the company, he was a vice president. Later, Wolfe would spend four years with Covansys, a consulting firm based in Michigan, before moving to Novell.

Still, his lack of academic background is sure to cause some grumbling in offices across the system's four campuses. Wolfe has no higher degree beyond the bachelor's degree he earned from Mizzou.

"The guy they hired has no academic experience. How is he supposed to know how to run a university?" asked Karen Piper, a Mizzou English professor.

And while Piper said she's willing to give Wolfe a chance, she isn't swayed by the fact that his parents are professors.
"My parents both worked for the Department of Defense. Does that mean I can build bombs? No, of course not," she said.

Michael Baer, an executive search consultant with Isaacson, Miller in Washington, acknowledged that Wolfe's selection won't be popular with some faculty.

"But it's rational to look for someone with a business background to head a system," he said.

During Wolfe's introduction at Mizzou's Reynolds Alumni Center, he tried to bridge that academic-business gap by talking about his parents' teaching careers.

"My passion is in my DNA," Wolfe said.

Whether that upbringing will be enough to elevate the system's 23rd president in the eyes of his faculty remains to be seen. Some expressed encouragement Tuesday after learning of his parents.

"That will get him off on the right foot with a lot of people," said Joseph Martinich, a business professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Martinich said he has no qualms about a president's business background, as long as the executive understands the world of academics.

"It's important to run a university like a business," he said. "But it's not a business. Recognizing that difference is important."

Wolfe's financial skills are certain to be put to the test as soon as he sets foot in his office on Feb. 15.

He'll be guiding the system through turbulent economic times that show no sign of easing.

To deal with the economic pressures, Wolfe said he will examine "all the things we do on a daily basis" and also look for new revenue sources.

The system has recently faced a decline in state appropriations as legislators have grappled with budget shortfalls. During a recent curators meeting, system officials said they have little reason to think they won't face the same pressure this year as the state seeks to plug a $780 million gap, created by declining federal Medicaid payments and the need to replace one-time federal stimulus money.

State support, as a percentage of the system's budget, has been on the decline for more than a decade. In 2001, state funding represented 55.4 percent of the system's budget. This year, the number has fallen to 31.6 percent.

Given the current landscape, a leader with strong business skills could be critical, said Thomas George, chancellor of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"These are tough times. We need people with a business acumen," George said. "We can use all the help we can get."
Already, curators have started the process of raising tuition at least 3 percent by next summer. A decision is not expected until February, at the earliest. They hope to learn more about what to expect in terms of financial support when Gov. Jay Nixon delivers his annual State of the State address next month.

Tuition increases earlier this year were a point of contention between the system and Nixon, who had asked the curators to keep increases at 5 percent. Instead, the system pushed ahead with a 5.5 percent hike.

In response, Nixon later hit the system with an additional 1.1 percent cut in funding, leaving UM with an unexpected $4.4 million budget hole.

The presidential search was steeped in secrecy and avoided the embarrassment of the 2007 search when businessman Terry Sutter rejected the post in favor of a position with a steel manufacturer. Former U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof, R-Columbia, was also a finalist at that time but was not offered the job.

In contrast, Tuesday morning's announcement marked the first time Wolfe's name was uttered publicly in connection with the job.

"They kept it so secret. People who I would have thought would know something didn't know anything," said Stephen Montgomery-Smith, a professor of mathematics at Mizzou.

And that's not the way it should be, in the eyes of some faculty members, who'd prefer to see candidates brought in for open forums — rather than interviewed in secrecy by a small search committee.

"I find it kind of disturbing that faculty weren't involved," said Piper, the English professor. "I never heard of any finalists, even."

**TIMOTHY WOLFE**

Became 23rd president of the University of Missouri system Tuesday

**Education**

Bachelor's degree in personnel management, 1980, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Work Experience**

1980 — Hired by IBM Corp. as a sales representative in Jefferson City.

2000 — Leaves IBM as vice president and general manager of global distribution sector.

2000-03 — Executive vice president of Covansys, a consulting firm based in Michigan.

2003 — Hired by Novell, an infrastructure software provider.

2011 — Leaves Novell as president of Novell Americas when the company is purchased.
Tim Wolfe named to University of Missouri top spot

New University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and his wife Molly are greeted by Truman the Tiger at the Reynolds Alumni Center Tuesday. Wolfe will begin duties on Feb. 15, 2012.

By Janese Silvey

A relatively unknown businessman with a familiar background has been tapped to lead the University of Missouri System.

Age: 53
Family: He and wife Molly have 16-year-old twins, Madison and Tyler. His father, Joe, is a former communications professor at the University of Missouri, and his mother, Judith, taught third grade in Columbia Public Schools and has several degrees from MU. She is now a professor of law at Massachusetts School of Law in Andover. Wolfe was born in Iowa City, Iowa, and moved to Columbia when he was in fourth grade. He was a quarterback for the Rock Bridge High School football team.

Education: Graduated from Rock Bridge High School and from MU with a bachelor’s degree in personnel management.

Career: President of Novell Americas, a provider of infrastructure software; executive vice president of Covansys, a consulting services company, from 2000-03. He previously spent 20 years at IBM, where he was promoted to vice president and general manager of the global distribution sector. He started his career with IBM in 1980 as a sales representative in Jefferson City.

Dec. 1, 2010: University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee announces he will take a leave of absence after learning his wife has cancer.

Jan. 7: Forsee steps down permanently. UM General Counsel Steve Owens is appointed interim president, and Board of Curators forms a search committee.

March 7: UM announces it has hired Florida-based Greenwood/Asher & Associates as a search consultant.

June 16: Curators review more than 100 names of potential candidates. That pool is later whittled to 40 who were interviewed by phone, then four finalists. Two were called back for second interviews.

Dec. 6: Presidential advisory committee meets Wolfe in the panel’s first meeting since March.

Dec. 8: Curators’ presidential committee unanimously approves the hire in a closed session.


Wolfe’s full biography on the UM website is available here.

Tim Wolfe, an unemployed former president of infrastructure software provider Novell Americas, was announced as the university’s 23rd president during a ceremony this morning at the Reynolds Alumni Center.
Wolfe replaces Gary Forsee — hired as system president after being ousted as CEO of Sprint — who resigned in January just shy of his third anniversary.

Wolfe starts duties Feb. 15. He plans to spend time between now and then visiting faculty and students on the four campuses and getting up to speed on issues.

“I think asking him to hang out for a while before taking the reins is good,” said Leona Rubin, chair of the UM Interfaculty Council. “He needs to learn university speak.”

During his public comments today, Wolfe acknowledged not having a background in academia but assured the audience he has a passion for higher education, in part because his parents have been college professors.

Having such passion topped a list of criteria the UM Board of Curators drafted earlier this year after a series of public hearings.

“He meets the qualification statement our stakeholders laid out for us last spring,” board Chairman Warren Erdman said when asked what made Wolfe stand out from a pack that once included more than 100 candidates.

Wolfe’s business background also was preferred, although curators said they considered applicants from a variety of backgrounds.

Unlike after Forsee’s hire, faculty members likely won’t balk at a businessman leading the university this time, Rubin said. When curators “met with faculty groups before they started the process, most were so pleased with what Forsee had done,” they preferred another businessman, she said. “Forsee broke that mold.”

After watching the announcement via the university’s live video stream, Rubin said she is taking a wait-and-see attitude on Wolfe, but “he certainly seems relaxed and like a nice man.”

Most of Wolfe’s comments reflected what UM administrators routinely outline as the challenges campuses are facing, mainly that enrollment continues to grow while funding lags. He also suggested the university find new sources of revenue — a suggestion discussed at length last week at the curators meeting in St. Louis. He said he wants to deliver higher education at “lower costs.”

At a news conference after the announcement, Wolfe said it is too early to be specific. He declined to give an opinion on administrators’ proposal to increase tuition by an amount equal to the consumer price index, likely 3 percent, deferring that discussion to interim President Steve Owens and curators.

Wolfe said he has yet to meet Gov. Jay Nixon or lawmakers, and he suspects those initial conversations will be introductions and not funding discussions.
Curators made a three-year contract with Wolfe that allots him a $450,000 base salary and a
$100,000 bonus based on performance criteria yet to be set. He will live at Providence Point, the
official UM president home. His family will remain at their home outside of Boston, commuting
to Columbia on weekends and summer months.

Wolfe called the position a "very special homecoming.” He and his parents moved to Columbia
when Wolfe was in fourth grade. He is a graduate of Rock Bridge High School.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
Tim Wolfe, new UM president, has strong Columbia ties

By Zach Murdock
December 13, 2011 | 7:42 p.m. CST

Madison Wolfe, left, Molly Wolfe and Tim Wolfe clap along with Truman the Tiger after the announcement of Timothy M. Wolfe's appointment as the University of Missouri System president. Wolfe is the 23rd UM president.

Hoffman

Timothy M. Wolfe throws a pass in a football game during his senior year of high school. Wolfe led his team as quarterback to win the state championship in the 1975-1976 school year.

COLUMBIA — Tim Wolfe, a career software and technologies executive with old ties to Columbia, is the University of Missouri System's 23rd president.
"Today is a very, very special homecoming for me," Wolfe said Tuesday morning shortly after he was introduced at MU's Reynolds Alumni Center.

Wolfe, 53, is an MU College of Business and Rock Bridge High School graduate, spent 20 years as an executive at IBM and most recently served as president of Novell Americas, a software company in Waltham, Mass.

"Just like in college, I expect to have to pull a few all-nighters, but I'm up to this challenge," Wolfe told the gathering, which included his wife, Molly, and twin 16-year-olds, Madison and Tyler.

Steve Owens, who has served as interim system president since President Gary Forsee resigned last January, said the two months between now and Wolfe's Feb. 15 start date will give Wolfe the opportunity to better understand the position and its responsibilities and demands.

Owens said part of the reason Wolfe's start date is Feb. 15 is so that Owens can lead the UM System Board of Curators through votes on tuition and fee increases at its meeting Feb. 3 in Kansas City.

Wolfe, who was approached about the position by board Chairman Warren Erdman in early August, said Forsee was important in his deciding to interview for the president's position.

"We (he and Forsee) both concluded that we had such a great experience when we were on campus, and if we can offer more students that same experience that we had, then they potentially could have similar success," Wolfe said. "So it was really a conversation about how do we get more students to have the same opportunities we had."

In a news release from the UM System, Forsee said Wolfe understands the role of higher education and the unique role each system campus plays in the state.

After the news conference, Wolfe said he doesn't yet have particular goals for when he takes the president's position in February. Instead, he'd like his visits to the campuses and conversations with students, alumni and donors to dictate what topics he'll focus on going into his presidency.

In earlier remarks, Wolfe lauded the UM System's reach in health care, research and education to citizens across Missouri.
"The interesting thing is these amazing results achieved across the university system are even more meaningful because of the economic environment that we’re in, as well as the 10-year slide in state funding," he said.

Later, Wolfe said the university needs to work with business and political leaders to come up with an economic development agenda.

Referring to the UM System's mission, he said, "The university system needs to facilitate the discussion of what we want to look like in the future and how we’re going to get there. We need to chart our own course and not have somebody else chart that course for us."

Wolfe said the system "needs to have a vision that illuminates the critical importance of higher education in our economy, our health and our future generations. If we do our job, our vision and strategies will be so compelling that we attract the support and financial resources from the state, businesses, alumni and donors to fund our growth and pay our people competitive wages and be recognized as Missouri’s greatest asset."

**Career as business leader**

Wolfe comes to Missouri with 30 years' experience in software, technology and consulting.

Dan Hebrank, IBM senior state executive for Missouri, said that the company has had an excellent relationship with MU over the years and that the two have partnered for several academic and research programs, some of them related to the company's delivery center in Columbia.

The UM System posted several endorsements of Wolfe on its website. Ron Hovsepian, former president and CEO of Novell, said Wolfe "played a key leadership role in creating a new strategy for Novell and helped transform the corporation into a more focused and profitable leader in the software industry."

Novell's current managers are not allowed to talk about former employees, said Aimee Johnson, Novell public relations manager. But Tom Francese, executive vice president and worldwide sales manager for Novell, called Wolfe uniquely skilled and experienced and praised Novell’s U.S. East region's success under Wolfe's leadership.

In a comment also posted on the UM website, Joan Gabel, dean of the MU Trulaske College of Business, praised Wolfe's successful industry leadership and strong sense of service.
"Through his time on the board of the Trulaske College of Business and his work as an executive-in-residence in our classrooms, we have seen him leverage this combination into insightful and strategic decision-making that will directly benefit the University of Missouri System," Gabel said.

Curator Erdman said that presidents begin with an initial term of three years but that he hopes Wolfe will serve for many more. Erdman, who has overseen the search for a new president, ends his yearlong term as chairman at the end of this month; he will be succeeded by David Bradley, who has been vice chairman of the board this year.

Wolfe’s base salary will be $450,000 plus the opportunity to earn an additional $100,000 in performance bonuses, Erdman said, but the measures for what performance would merit a bonus have yet to be determined.

Wolfe said he’s worked for resource-constrained businesses for much of his 30-year career and because of that understands the balance between cutting costs for efficiency and finding new resources to drive up revenues. He sees this as a conversation essential to understanding the system’s future, and he plans to have it with Gov. Jay Nixon, legislators and anyone with a stake in the campuses.

Wolfe traveled to Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla on Tuesday afternoon and is scheduled to visit the universities of Missouri at St. Louis and Kansas City on Wednesday. Erdman said a group including himself, Wolfe, Owens, board secretary Cindy Harmon and UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead will travel together in the system’s van.

**Ready to return to Missouri**

"Coming back home to Missouri has long been a dream for our family," Wolfe said.

"My wife, Molly, who's here today, grew up in Kansas City, and in the interest of full disclosure — she attended a university west of here ...with the initials KU," he said, prompting laughter. He promised she will adopt the the colors of the system’s universities.

Wolfe will live at Providence Point, the official home of the system president, and said his family will stay at their home in Walpole, Mass., and commute to Columbia on some weekends and during the summer.
Wolfe was born in Iowa City, Iowa, and moved to Columbia in fourth grade. In 1975, during his senior year at Rock Bridge, he won a state championship as quarterback of the football team. Rich Davies, former head coach of Rock Bridge's football team, said Wolfe even called the offense's plays.

"He was the leader — you want the quarterback to be a person like that," Davies said.

At MU, Wolfe was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

Wolfe's parents, Joseph and Judith Wolfe, are teachers: Joseph Wolfe, who retired in 2007, taught at MU in the communications department in the College of Arts and Science. He was known by his peers for his colorful socks and dry wit, and a G. Joseph Wolfe Scholar Award is given each year to graduating seniors specializing in television.

Judith Wolfe teaches at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover, Mass. When the family lived in Columbia, she taught third grade in Columbia Public Schools from 1968 to 1972, and she worked in the state's library system from 1974 to 1981.

UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton said he hopes that Wolfe will work on marketing the true value of higher education to the state's economy. Marketing is about showing how two groups interests are aligned, Morton said, and marketing the value of the system's education to students, corporations and legislators would make all four campuses stronger.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said that he hopes to focus with Wolfe on MU's research strength and that Wolfe's background in international business gives him a good footing to have those discussions.

Deaton and UMSL Chancellor Thomas George said they're happy to see a system president familiar with Missouri, its legislature and the state's needs so that Wolfe can hit the ground running.

George added that he thinks Wolfe is a quick learner and that he is happy to see the president seeking dialogue among all of the system's constituents.

Mark Mannion, Mizzou Alumni Association St. Louis Chapter president, said that only positives could develop if Wolfe fosters a discussion between alumni.

"Alumni enjoy meeting with university leadership and administrators," Mannion said. "I think we have an extensive network of alumni that we underutilize."
A 'very thorough' search

The announcement Tuesday — by any measure, a well-kept secret — concludes a yearlong confidential search that began in January when Forsee stepped down to care for his ill wife, Sherry.

"This one was very thorough, oh my goodness," Erdman said of the search. "Very thorough."

At one point the search had as many as 100 candidates, Erdman said. From there, the search was narrowed to about 40 candidates. Erdman said Wolfe had two formal interviews with the board, one with the presidential search advisory committee at Mizzou Arena last week, one via teleconference with the board and numerous phone conversations with board members.

Erdman said that curators became personally engaged in the search and that they think Wolfe embodies all of the president's qualifications identified earlier this year.

Raymond Howze, Simina Mistreanu, James Ayello and Hannah Spaar contributed to this report.
Lawmakers assess new president’s political role

By Rudi Keller

Columbia lawmakers hailed the selection of Tim Wolfe as the next University of Missouri System president as a move that will mix a worldwide perspective on education needs with a personal understanding of the challenges facing faculty.

Wolfe’s appearance as a new face in the political battles over state funding and higher education governance will not hurt him, said state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

“It makes sense to bring in people who have experience in the private sector, who know how to deal with difficult situations, raise revenue and take a strong stand on things that need to be done,” Schaefer said.

Wolfe, a former president of Novell Americas and a graduate of the MU College of Business, was named this morning as the 23rd president of the university. He is a graduate of Rock Bridge High School; his father was a communications professor at MU, and his mother is a law professor at Massachusetts School of Law.

Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, attended today’s announcement and afterward said Wolfe “has just a very agreeable style.”

For Still, Wolfe’s background as the child of faculty is as important as his adult life as a business leader.

“That is important to me, that he would understand and respect the faculty and staff of the institution,” she said. “He clearly made a point to stress that.”

The links to MU and Columbia will help Wolfe start with a reservoir of good will, said Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia.

The business experience is a plus, Kelly said, if it translates into a tenure that mirrors that of Gary Forsee, the man Wolfe is replacing. Forsee was the top executive at Sprint before being hired as president.

“I have every reason to be extremely optimistic,” Kelly said.

Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said he was happy the Board of Curators chose someone who isn’t seeing Columbia for the first time.
“It sounds like he has an interesting mix of business and academic backgrounds, which is good for understanding the university,” Webber said. “It is certainly great to have somebody who understands Columbia.”

Wolfe will learn quickly that the university will always be a “political football,” and his lack of involvement in past battles might help him, Webber said.

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Wolfe’s salary tops Forsee’s

By Janese Silvey

In addition to a base salary and performance bonus, the new University of Missouri System president will receive moving expenses, a vehicle and free housing.

The UM System will pay new president Tim Wolfe a base salary of $450,000, or $50,000 more than his predecessor, Gary Forsee made in the job. Like Forsee, Wolfe will be eligible for annual bonuses of $100,000 based on performance criteria, which have yet to be established.

Wolfe, a former president of infrastructure software provider Novell Americas, was announced as the system’s 23rd president yesterday, capping an 11-month search. He officially begins duties Feb. 15.

Wolfe lives just outside of Boston, where his wife and twin teenagers will remain. UM will pay him $45,000 to relocate to Columbia, where he’s required to live at the official university president’s home, Providence Point. According to his contract, the system will pay all operations, maintenance and utilities for that residence.

Wolfe also will receive a university vehicle, and the system will pay maintenance and operation costs. In lieu of accepting an automobile, Wolfe can elect to receive a car allowance.

The contract spans three years, at which time it can be renewed. Board Chairman Warren Erdman said he expects that to be the case.

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Timothy M. Wolfe selected as new UM System president

The MU alumnus said taking the position is a “special homecoming” for him and his family.

By Katie Yaeger

Published Dec. 13, 2011

After gathering input from citizens across the state the Board of Curators has concluded the year-long search for the 23rd UM System president with the selection of Timothy Wolfe.

Board of Curators Chairman Warren Erdman made the announcement 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Reynolds Alumni Center to a crowd of faculty, students and alumni. Wolfe will replace interim President Stephen Owens, who took the position in January after former President Gary Forsee resigned.

“We’ve worked hard this year to continue the important work of the university in a quality fashion, to do it under team leadership with integrity and intellectual honesty, and to transition the university as smoothly as possible to the next president,” Owens said.

Wolfe said he considers his appointment to the position both an honor and a privilege.

“Serving this great university and our state is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me, and I commit my full attention and energy to this endeavor,” Wolfe said. “It is obvious to me, and it will be one of our goals to make it obvious to our fellow Missourians, that the University of Missouri System is the greatest asset in this state.”


Professionally, Wolfe served as an executive for IBM for 20 years before becoming the executive vice president of global consulting company Covansys in 2000. He joined Novell in 2003 as its president of the Americas and left after its merger with Attachmate Corporation on April 27.

Erdman contacted Wolfe in early August about the position. Wolfe said he was flattered but had never previously considered following his parents, who were both involved with higher education. Wolfe’s father taught communications at MU’s College of Arts and Sciences, and his mother now teaches law at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover after earning four degrees at MU.
Wolfe said he did additional research after being approached about the position, but a conversation with Forsee most encouraged him to compete.

"Gary’s description of the opportunity to give back to your alma mater, as well as the potential to give more students the same opportunity that he and I enjoyed by attending the University of Missouri campus that set that strong and firm foundation in which we built our careers on ... that conversation with Gary really was the difference-maker in me deciding to compete as vigorously as possible to be the next president of the University of Missouri System," Wolfe said.

Erdman said he learned how much Wolfe cares for Missouri and the UM System through months of interviews and conversations.

“He is highly motivated to protect its great traditions and reputation and see it to even higher levels,” Erdman said. “He listens and respects the opinions of others (and) values their knowledge. He respects the unique role of each of our campuses and understands the nature of our strong campus system. He has passion, vision, experience and humility. He can sell to others the vital importance of our university.”

Wolfe said he plans to learn more about the UM System before beginning his three-year term by conducting extensive research, meeting with university officials and other key stakeholders and visiting campuses.

“It takes time (to learn) and I will need to take advantage of the incredible experience and knowledge that resides in our faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors, but I am up for the challenge,” Wolfe said.

Wolfe said he recognizes the importance of student input and plans to engage in many student conversations while on UM System campuses.

“I am very much looking forward to talking to students and trying to understand how we’re doing in delivering a quality education to each and every student on the campuses we serve,” Wolfe said.