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COLUMBIA DAILY  
**TRIBUNE**

## Wolfe meets and greets on his first day as president



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University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, center, talks with Marty Oetting, left, and Erin Elliott, both of the UM System's government relations department, at a reception for Wolfe at University Hall Wednesday morning.

By JANESE SILVEY

Judging from the lack of information about him online, Tim Wolfe has enjoyed a fairly private career and life.

That ended this morning when he became the 23rd University of Missouri System president.

After a short meet-and-greet with employees, Wolfe was thrust in front of reporters from every major Columbia media outlet. He was expected to get down to business this afternoon and tomorrow,

spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said — but on Friday has agreed to squeeze in a newspaper interview.

“It's part of the job,” Wolfe said when asked about being in the limelight. “There's a lot of scrutiny on everything you say and do. ... I'm getting more and more comfortable with it. I recognize the importance of articulating on behalf of the UM System.”

Although he became official this morning, Wolfe, 53, has spent the past two months visiting the four campuses, health care system and Extension offices to get up to speed. This afternoon, he was expected to meet with his administrative staff to go over what he learned and to set priorities.

One of his first actions as president will come Monday when he presents new tuition recommendations to the Board of Curators.

The board earlier this month considered a plan that increased tuition by an average of 6.5 percent, a number determined in part by a proposed 12.5 percent cut in state funding.

Gov. Jay Nixon, though, recently softened that recommendation to an 8 percent cut, which is expected to lower the tuition increases. Wolfe is meeting with the four chancellors tomorrow to discuss funding needs, and those discussions will determine the recommendations, he said.

With more than 30 years of experience in business management, Wolfe said he is familiar with tough decisions and tradeoffs when it comes to budgeting. He vowed the university's budget would reflect the teaching, research, service and economic development missions of the campuses.

“That's what we're about,” he said. “That's why we exist.”

The public will have a chance to meet Wolfe at a reception slated for 4 to 6 p.m. Monday at Stotler Lounge on the MU campus.

Wolfe replaces Gary Forsee, who left the system in January 2011, just shy of his third anniversary.

A graduate of Rock Bridge High School and MU's Trulaske College of Business, Wolfe said he plans to stay in the role for a “very, very long” time.

“I missed Columbia,” he said. “More than I even knew.”

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## Steve Owens returns to UM legal role

By Janese Silvey

After a whirlwind year as interim president of the University of Missouri System, Steve Owens turned the reins over to Tim Wolfe this morning and returned to his position as the university's general counsel.

And yesterday, the attorney known for being cautious sounded a little more relaxed than usual.

"Rubber chicken," he said when asked what he won't miss about the gig.

The reference was to the food served at the numerous events he has attended as the top UM administrator. Owens said he has gained 16 pounds over the past year.

He has done some other things, too — quite a few, actually. Owens was at the helm when the UM Board of Curators changed a retirement system that has been used for decades. Also on his watch, the university bucked an 8 percent cut in state funding while still giving employees their first pay raises in years, and MU left the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference.

"Thank goodness we had Steve Owens during this critical time," Curator Warren Erdman said. "He should be most proud of the professional conduct of the business of the university during one of its most challenging years."

In the fall, Owens made use of his presidential title to enact an executive order that prohibits students from sharing recorded classroom lectures with outsiders. The policy is being challenged — state legislation has been filed that would undo it — but Owens considers it an example of good decision-making.

"We came up with it for the right reasons, to reiterate our commitment to academic freedom and to preserve classroom discussions," he said. "We vetted it with people affected by it, chancellors, the provosts, faculty, students. We got good feedback and made changes and got what I think was a good result."

There are some things Owens would have liked to have finalized before Wolfe stepped in, namely approval of tuition increases that curators saw earlier this month.

Board Chairman David Bradley said curators didn't miss a beat while Owens was in office. Owens was appointed to the job in January 2011 when President Gary Forsee resigned.

“We think he's been a terrific interim president,” Bradley said. “He kept us moving forward rather than at a standstill position last year, which we couldn't afford to do.”

Owens' pay will not change; his salary in both roles was \$375,000. He received a 10 percent, or \$37,500, one-time lump payment for his service as interim president.

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# New UM System President Tim Wolfe takes office

By [Zach Murdock](#)

February 15, 2012 | 12:49 p.m. CST

**COLUMBIA — Before a day full of meetings, the University of Missouri System held a reception Wednesday morning to welcome its new president, Tim Wolfe.**

"It's the first day of what I hope to be a very long and last role of my career," Wolfe said after the reception in University Hall.

Former interim President Steve Owens, who returned to his position as system general counsel Wednesday, said he thinks Wolfe will prove to be a capable president. Wolfe has spent nearly every day since the beginning of the year in Columbia or on UM campuses, Owens said.

Wolfe said that since being named to the president position in December, everyone he's talked to during his campus visits has been passionate about, and interested in, higher education. Wolfe also said that he's had the chance to meet with Gov. Jay Nixon and that they have had constructive conversations about the challenges facing the state and the battle to bring jobs to Missouri.

Living at Providence Point — the residence near the Missouri athletic complexes reserved for the UM System president — hasn't been too shabby either, he said. Wolfe spent much of his life in Columbia, graduated from Rock Bridge High School and MU and moved into the residence shortly after being named president in December.

"It's great — the views are spectacular," he said. "It has become a great coming-home event."

His wife, Molly Wolfe, and the couple's 16-year-old twins, Madison and Tyler, are visiting Columbia this weekend, the new president said. Wolfe — who smoothly greeted the eight or so reporters personally at a short press conference after the reception — said the media attention comes with the territory.

"There's a lot of scrutiny in everything you do, and that's part of the job."



MU students bring letters into Capitol

## Panel discusses education funds.

By Rudi Keller

JEFFERSON CITY — Small changes were all that were available yesterday to a House committee that got a first look at the budget for public schools and higher education.

Hours after University of Missouri student leaders delivered thousands of letters to Gov. Jay Nixon and lawmakers urging more money for higher education, the House Appropriations-Education Committee approved a bill that reflects Nixon's original cut of 12.5 percent.

The committee was not permitted to debate how to spend \$40 million from the national mortgage settlement that Nixon has recommended be given to higher education. The extra cash will restore a little more than one-third of the cut. That money will be debated in the House Budget Committee.

The 6,000 letters delivered yesterday are part of an effort to exert pressure on Nixon to find even more than the \$40 million for higher education, said Steven Dickherber, chief of staff for the Missouri Students Association.

"The \$40 million thing is just a smoke screen to the whole issue," Dickherber said. "It is a one-year fix, and we won't get \$40 million every year."

Asked if Nixon had done all he could for higher education, Dickherber said: "I am not qualified to say whether he has tried hard enough or not."

The \$40 million was off limits to the committee, and so was another source of good news. "We have gotten a bit of money that we can't access in committee," Rep. Mike Lair, R-Chillicothe and committee chairman, announced.

It was \$1 million from the state lottery, and he asked for committee approval of a letter proposing it be divvied up among teacher professional development, early grade literacy, vocational rehabilitation and MORENet.

The only substantive change was in how several small scholarship programs totaling just more than \$1 million are listed.

The money was moved from individual line items into a lump sum appropriation, giving the department the ability to use excess funds from one program in another.

The committee sent the two spending bills it handles on to the House Budget Committee. At a previous meeting, Lair had admonished the members to keep partisanship outside the committee. There was little debate yesterday.

“This process runs smooth when everyone cooperates,” Lair said.

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The Tribune's View

## Bus trips

### Checking out examples

By Henry J. Waters III

City Hall has arranged three trips to nearby college towns to see how they handle public bus service.

The first will visit Ames, Iowa, where a combination of student fees and city subsidies underwrites expansive service, including free rides for Iowa State students.

The 17-member Columbia task force includes representatives of various parties with dogs in the race: city officials, students, public transit supporters and the disabled. At the moment, their dogs are off in at least two directions.

The issue seems to boil down to this: Can a way be found to secure student and/or university funding help, or will the city have to scale back service, primarily to student groups? In Ames, Iowa State students are assessed \$62.60 per semester and are allowed free rides by showing student ID cards. A board of trustees including students oversees the system.

Columbia task force trips also are planned to Lawrence, Kan., and Champaign, Ill., where similar student subsidy programs exist.

University of Missouri students seem to understand the need for sharing costs, but several have objected to what they see as an abrupt city overture, sort of a "take it or leave it" attitude. The MU administration has not ruled out the idea but has not gone into ecstasy either. The task force visits will smooth the rough edges, but establishing a new student fee in the \$60 to \$80 range will take some doing.

In the end, student subsidies will have to increase. Under the current arrangement, students fail to provide enough revenue to underwrite costs of bus service serving the campus. Owners of off-campus private apartment complexes might be willing to help as well.

It's important for the community as well as students to devise a good public transit system serving everyone. Obviously, MU students are a primary ridership base, and they will have to pay a fair share. Compared with other similar systems, the student subsidy in Ames is on the low side. Making the student fee as low as possible should be our goal.

## **BPA's Obesity And Diabetes Link Strengthened By New Study**

### **MU MENTION PAGE 2**

The modern lifestyle of super-sized french fries and couch potatoes often takes the blame for the rising rates of obesity and diabetes in the U.S. -- perhaps rightly so. But growing evidence suggests another factor in the dual epidemics: modern chemicals.

Exposure to even minuscule amounts of synthesized substances -- used in everything from pesticides to water bottles -- can scramble hormone signals, scientists say. This interference can trick fat cells into taking in more fat or mislead the pancreas into secreting excess insulin, a hormone that regulates the breakdown of fat and carbohydrates.

Among the most ubiquitous and scrutinized of these so-called endocrine disruptors is bisphenol A, better known as BPA. The chemical is a common ingredient in plastics and food-can linings.

"When you eat something with BPA, it's like telling your organs that you are eating more than you are really eating," says Angel Nadal, a BPA expert at the Miguel Hernandez University in Spain.

Nadal's latest research, published last week in *PLoS ONE*, finds that the chemical triggers the release of almost double the insulin actually needed to break down food. High insulin levels can desensitize the body to the hormone over time, which in some people may then lead to weight gain and Type 2 diabetes.

To achieve this feat, BPA fools a receptor into thinking it is the natural hormone estrogen, an insulin regulator. Nadal's team found that even the tiniest amounts of BPA -- a quarter of a billionth of a gram -- did the trick. The effect disappeared when the researchers stripped the specific receptors from the study mice, evidence that they had in fact pinpointed BPA's chemical mechanism, which had previously eluded scientists.

In laboratory tests of human cells, the response was even more pronounced.

"That pretty much nails it," Bruce Blumberg of the University of California, Irvine, who was not involved in the new study, told The Huffington Post. He notes that despite the prior associations made between BPA and metabolic problems, including obesity and diabetes, doubt had lingered

because of a lack of understanding about how the phenomenon occurred. Long-term studies of children -- tracking BPA exposures and health outcomes -- remain ongoing around the world.

An estimated 90 percent of people in developed countries have BPA circulating in their blood at levels often higher than the threshold for causing hormone disruption used in Nadal's study. This high incidence is due not only to exposures from leeching food packages but also BPA-infused cash register receipts, dental sealants and toilet paper.

**"People are seeing effects of BPA down to 1000-fold below [Nadal's threshold]," adds Frederick vom Saal, another expert in endocrine disruptors at the University of Missouri-Columbia. "It takes so little of this chemical to cause harm."**

The chemical industry disagrees. "BPA is one of the most thoroughly tested chemicals used today and has a safety track record of 50 years," says Kathryn Murray St. John, a spokesperson for the American Chemistry Council, a lobbying group for the plastics industry. She highlights recent regulatory rulings in favor of the safety of BPA.

Vom Saal, who also wasn't involved in the Spanish study, explains why the "standard estimates of safety" may be invalid. Minute amounts of the chemical may be even more potent than larger quantities, he says, which can flood the receptors and essentially turn them off, stopping the flow of insulin. In other words, the dose does not make the poison -- at least not in the ordinary sense. Yet the traditional dose-response assumption remains the basis for most regulatory tests that have deemed the chemical safe.

The consequences of the continued widespread use of BPA could be most dire for pregnant women and developing fetuses, who appear to be particularly sensitive.

"The fetus is not only exposed to BPA but also to higher levels of insulin from the mother, making the environment for the fetus even more disruptive," says Nadal. "This is a very delicate period."

Previous studies have suggested that the environmental chemicals in the womb can preprogram weight gain later in life. BPA, for example, may tell a growing fetus to develop more fat cells.

Nadal adds that BPA is just one of a larger cocktail of at least 20 endocrine disruptors commonly used in everyday items, including phthalates, nicotine, dioxin, arsenic and tributyltin. Further, obesity and diabetes aren't the only risks posed by the chemicals. Studies also hint at links with cancer, infertility, heart disease and cognitive problems.

Overall, half of the developed world is now overweight and one in six is obese -- about double the numbers of 30 years ago. Approximately 250 million people suffer from diabetes worldwide.

Sure, our lifestyle has changed over the decades in parallel with the increased use of BPA. Yet scientists have noticed the same fattening trend in newborns, lab rodents, pets and wildlife that live in close proximity to humans. Have babies or mice really changed how much they eat or

exercise? Experts highlight this as further evidence that more than just caloric intake is driving the current epidemics of obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

"The scary thing is, this is occurring in children. Thirty years ago, we called Type 2 diabetes 'adult-onset,'" vom Saal says. That's not the case anymore.



## **Derrick Washington pleads guilty to domestic assault**

Former Missouri running back Derrick Washington was sentenced yesterday to 90 days in prison after pleading guilty to third-degree domestic assault.

The sentence will run concurrently with his previous sentence for felony deviate sexual assault.

That conviction resulted in a recommendation of serving 120 days in prison, followed by possible probation for the remainder of his five-year sentence.

Washington entered a written plea and did not appear at yesterday's hearing in Boone County Circuit Court.

The domestic and sexual assault allegations led to Washington's dismissal from the University of Missouri football team in 2010.

In the domestic assault case, he was accused of grabbing his ex-girlfriend by the throat and forcing her onto her bed. The woman said Washington choked her for about 10 seconds, then pinned her arms and hit her multiple times in the face, giving her a bloody nose, swollen lips and a bruised forehead.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Ritenour High School teacher to be on Jeopardy!

BY DEB PETERSON • dpeterson@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8276 | Posted: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:15 pm | (8) Comments

UPDATE: Ritenour High School German teacher, Patrick Quinn, has emerged as today's winner on "Jeopardy," with \$20,001 in his war chest.

Quinn, 34, of Chesterfield, answered the final Jeopardy question: "This third-smallest state in area is home to the USA's third-oldest college," with the correct answer, "What is Connecticut?"

Quinn is a semi-finalist and now moves on to the finals in the "Jeopardy Teachers Tournament," which will air tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. locally on KSDK (Channel 5).

IN JEOPARDY: The reason Ritenour High School German teacher Patrick Quinn has been walking around with a book under his arm the past 10 weeks is because he's boning up for his competition next week on the quiz show "Jeopardy."

Quinn, 34, of Chesterfield, is one of 15 players selected to compete in the "Jeopardy Teachers Tournament," which will air Feb. 15 through 28 on KSDK (Channel 5) and film next week in Culver City, Calif.

Quinn said yesterday that he feels sort of guilty about being selected because "I could be taking the place of somebody who has this on his or her bucket list and I just applied on a lark."

Despite the whimsical nature of his application, Quinn acknowledges he wouldn't mind coming out on top, which would give him the \$100,000 grand prize and guaranteed spot in the "Tournament of Champions."

**Quinn is originally from St. Joseph, Mo. He met his wife, Elizabeth Wiggins, who grew up in Town & Country, when they were students at the University of Missouri Columbia. Wiggins is a researcher at Monsanto. Quinn has both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in German from Mizzou.**

He said he doesn't consider himself a trivia expert -- and doesn't spend time competing at trivia nights -- but added: "I seem to have the ability to retain a lot of useless information."

Since getting the call in November that he had made the final cut, Quinn said he has taken the opportunity to read some books and study some topics that he had always wanted to delve into.

"It's been a great sort of nudge for me to go and read all the Shakespeare I should have read 20 years ago," he noted. "They always seem to have a lot of questions about Shakespeare in there."

The "Jeopardy Teachers Tournament" was introduced for the first time last year and the show's producers say it is intended to put the country's brightest K-12 educators in the national spotlight.