Interim chancellor selected for MU

COLUMBIA, Mo. — A temporary leader has been picked for the University Missouri-Columbia.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced Monday that general counsel Steve Owens will serve as interim chancellor for the Columbia campus. The Columbia Daily Tribune (http://is.gd/o2IFZ1) reports that Owens will begin leading the school after the retirement of outgoing chancellor Brady Deaton takes effect on Nov. 15.

MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton has been picked to serve as a transition executive. Owens and Middleton aren't candidates for the chancellor position.

UM system spokesman John Fougere says the goal is to name a new chancellor soon. A search committee is in the process of vetting applicants and interviewing candidates.
Missouri names top lawyer as interim chancellor
20 hours ago

The University of Missouri is again turning to its top lawyer as a temporary campus leader.

University System President Tim Wolfe on Monday named general counsel Steve Owens as interim chancellor of the flagship campus while the search for Brady Deaton's successor continues. Owens was previously the interim system president for 13 months after Gary Forsee's January 2011 resignation. He returned to his job once Wolfe took over in February 2012.

Deaton is stepping down on Nov. 15 after nine years as chancellor but will remain in Columbia as executive director of a new international development research center bearing his name. Wolfe had previously said he hoped to have a permanent successor in place before Deaton's departure.

Wolfe also appointed Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton as transition executive to help ease the next chancellor into the job. The president said neither Owens nor Middleton is a candidate for the permanent position.

"Our search for a new chancellor at MU remains on schedule, and I am confident we will get an excellent candidate out of our process," the university president said in a written statement. "In the meantime, it is imperative that the daily operations of the university continue to run smoothly, and I am confident that Steve Owens and Mike Middleton will use their experience to provide leadership that will maintain the university's momentum during the transition period."

The university has hired an executive search firm to help recruit candidates and narrow the field to a handful of finalists who will then be interviewed by an 18-member advisory committee representing faculty, staff, alumni and students. That group is led by curator Ann Covington, a former state Supreme Court judge, and Dean Mills, dean of the Missouri School of Journalism.

The confidential search is being led by Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates of suburban Los Angeles.

Owens, 58, is a Kansas City native and 1977 graduate of the Columbia campus. He worked in private practice in Kansas City before joining the university as its general counsel in 2008. As a sports law specialist, Owens' clients included former Missouri basketball coach Norm Stewart during a 1990 investigation of the Tigers' program.
UM System turns to Steve Owens during chancellor transition

By Karyn Spory

Monday, October 28, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (1)

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe announced Monday the appointment of MU leaders for the interim period between chancellors.

Steve Owens, general counsel, will serve as interim chancellor, and MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton will serve as deputy chancellor and transition executive until a new leader is chosen. The appointments were approved by the Board of Curators on Wednesday and will become effective at the close of the day Nov. 15.

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton announced in June that he would retire effective Nov. 15.

According to the UM System website, the search committee is in the process of vetting applicants and interviewing candidates.

John Fougere, spokesman for the UM System, said the goal is to name a new chancellor soon, but even if someone is named before Deaton retires, there could be a gap between Deaton leaving and the next chancellor arriving on the MU campus.

"It is imperative that daily operations continue to run smoothly, and I am confident that Steve Owens and Mike Middleton will use their experience to provide leadership that will maintain the university's momentum during the transition period," Wolfe said in a news release.

UM Board of Curators Chairman Wayne Goode said the transition leaders allow the search committee and the president all the time needed to perform the "necessary due diligence in screening candidates."
This isn't the first time Owens has served in an interim leadership role. From January 2011 through February 2012, Owens, a 1977 graduate of MU who began working as UM System's general counsel in January 2008, served as interim president of the UM System.

Middleton, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from MU in 1968 and is a 1971 graduate of the MU School of Law, has served as deputy chancellor at MU since 1998.

Neither Owens nor Middleton is a candidate for the chancellor position. Phil Hoskins has been appointed acting general counsel for the UM System effective Nov. 15.

*This article was published in the Monday, October 28, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "UM System turns to Owens during chancellor transition."

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Posted in Education on Monday, October 28, 2013 2:00 pm.
UPDATE: Steve Owens to lead MU as interim chancellor

Monday, October 28, 2013 | 5:59 p.m. CDT; updated 12:03 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, October 29, 2013
BY T.J. Thomson, Emily Donaldson

COLUMBIA — Despite an accelerated search, MU won't have a new chancellor immediately after current Chancellor Brady Deaton retires Nov. 15.

Steve Owens, University of Missouri System general counsel, will serve as interim chancellor until Deaton's successor is ready to start, according to a news release issued Monday by UM System President Tim Wolfe. Owens served as interim UM System president from 2011-12.

Wolfe also named Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton as transition executive.

The appointments have been approved by the UM System Board of Curators and are effective Nov. 15. Neither Owens nor Middleton is a candidate for the permanent chancellor position.

Deaton announced June 12 that he planned to retire on Nov. 15, and an 18-member committee has been conducting a confidential search for his replacement since July. Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, a California-based search company, has been handling the chancellor search, which is closed, meaning that the details are not available to the public.

In July, the California Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan and The Ohio State University, all Association of American Universities members as is MU, were also all looking to fill their top leadership spots. MU faculty members said the UM System conducted an accelerated search to compete with these universities, according to previous Missourian reporting.

"A reason for this rapid search is to try and get an edge on these other institutions," former Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer said in July. "It's better for us to act fast than to act slowly if we're going to get a really top-notch individual."

John Fougere, spokesman for the UM System, said Monday that the search committee is still operating on schedule to name a new chancellor "over the next few weeks."

Fougere said an interim chancellor was named to help maintain MU's momentum in the transition time between administrators. Because of the nature of a nationwide search, the new
chancellor could be from anywhere in the U.S. and would need time to finish his or her affairs and move to MU, he said.

Even if the new chancellor is named before Nov. 15, Fougere said there could be a "significant time gap" between the time Deaton departs and when the new chancellor arrives.

"It is not out of the realm of possibilities that it could take a number of weeks or even a month," Fougere said.

Tyrer, who initially said he hoped the accelerated search would eliminate the need for an interim chancellor, said Monday that Owens' appointment was good news.

"It is always better to have a permanent chancellor rather than an interim, but an interim chancellor is better than none," Tyrer said.

Fougere said the team approach of combining Owens, who has served as interim president, and Middleton, who has vast experience at MU, will provide continuity on campus.

Phillip Hoskins will replace Owens as acting general counsel until Owens can reclaim his position.
University of Missouri vet school partners on cancer study

Vet school will conduct trials.

By Karyn Spory

Monday, October 28, 2013 at 2:00 pm

A Washington University researcher is partnering with the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in hopes of developing a technology that will help surgeons more easily remove cancerous tumors from patients.

Samuel Achilefu, a professor of radiology at Washington University's Optical Radiology Laboratory, said he and his team are developing cancer-detecting goggles that he hopes will help surgeons differentiate between normal tissue and cancerous tissue.

Achilefu said a former surgical fellow asked him if it was possible to have a device to allow surgeons to visualize human tissue in real time.

Achilefu said doctors are able to get wonderful static images from CT scans and MRIs that allow them to see where the cancerous tumors are located, but once in the operating room, it can be difficult to see exactly where they are.

"We needed to see where normal lights do not see," he said. Surgeons needed something "to increase our contrast."

Achilefu said the goggles feature a small monocle that will project an infrared light that illuminates a special serum or contrast agent called Biomarker LS 301. Once injected into the patient, the marker alters the appearance of cancerous tissue.

"When you open the body in the operating room, you see the bright fluorescence emanating from cancer cells, which quickly tells them where to look," Achilefu said.
He said the goggles also help with the removal of tissue because surgeons can see exactly where the cancer has infiltrated and remove it all at once.

Before the goggles can be used on humans, researchers at the MU veterinary school will test their use on dogs.

Jeffrey Bryan, an MU associate professor of oncology in veterinary medicine and surgery, said the vet school has had a long working relationship with Washington University, and MU was approached to work on this project because they often work with dogs with breast cancer.

Bryan said dogs are a great way to evaluate technology destined for people, and breast cancer in dogs develops and appears the same as within humans.

"Dogs who keep their ovaries for much of their lifetime and go through normal ovarian cycles develop breast cancer at a similar rate as what people do," he said. "It's a mixture of benign tumors and malignant tumors."

Bryan said like in surgery with humans, it is important to remove all of the cancerous tissue the first time.

"The goggles will outline the borders of the tumor so that we can more specifically find those margins and extract the tumor with more confidence at the time of surgery that we're getting the tumor out than having to wait until the patient is awake and we get our pathology results back," said Tony Mann, MU professor of veterinary medicine and surgery.

Mann said the clinical trials will begin in six months. The technology could later be used while operating on women with breast cancer.

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Posted in Education on Monday, October 28, 2013 2:00 pm.
WHAT OTHERS SAY: All MSU faculty members to get equal benefits

MU MENTION PAGE 2

Monday, October 28, 2013 | 3:34 p.m. CDT
BY Springfield News-Leader

SPRINGFIELD — Two headlines caught our attention last week.

“School OKs domestic partnership benefits” and “Growth in enrollment will lead to faculty hires.”

The stories ran side by side, both about Missouri State University.

We can’t help but believe there is a positive correlation, and we applaud the university for being proactive about attracting quality students and faculty. Part of the way that is done is by providing excellent benefits to all its employees, including those who are not or cannot get married.

By expanding its benefits package to include domestic partners, the university is recognizing that all of its employees deserve to be treated equally, regardless of their legal marriage status. That includes same-sex couples who are prohibited from marrying in Missouri and straight couples who chose not to become legally married but have a domestic relationship.

It was little more than a decade ago that the university’s Board of Governors refused to even consider a nondiscrimination policy that would have added “sexual orientation” to a list that already included “race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, disability or veteran status.”

A lot has changed since then. The university got a new name and new leadership. In 2006, MSU added sexual orientation to its policy.
And gay marriage became a cause celebre, leading Missouri to change its constitution to define marriage as only between one man and one woman. That effectively prohibited any same-sex couples from legally marrying in the state. But it also led several other states to sanction the marital unions, and the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that same-sex couples must receive the same federal rights and privileges as straight couples.

And those legal changes are likely to also apply to unmarried heterosexual couples.

What has this got to do with MSU? The university must compete with other schools and companies in other states that offer attractive benefits packages that do not discriminate based on a person’s sexual orientation or lifestyle choices.

As MSU President Clif Smart said to News-Leader reporter Steve Pokin, “If we want to compete for students and staff we need to do this. ... It is really a business decision.”

It was a smart business decision. The board understood that when members voted unanimously to change the benefits policy.

“To successfully compete in 2013 and beyond, Missouri State needs to have the same kinds of opportunities for its employees as many Fortune 500 companies and other businesses, as well as the University of Missouri, other institutions in Springfield and Missouri, and peer institutions,” Board Chair Orvin Kimbrough said in a written statement.

The cost is minimal — projected at about $83,000 to serve an estimated 1 percent of the total faculty and staff, based on the response at the University of Missouri, which began offering the benefits in June.

It was a smart recruitment decision if the school hopes to reach its enrollment goal of 24,000 next year. Students are attracted to schools that provide diversity and inclusion. The fears and prejudices that drove decisions in 2001 are not embraced by young people entering universities in 2013.

Those students want the best faculty, a wide range of opportunities, an open and inclusive culture and a conviction that everyone on campus deserves to be treated with the same dignity and consideration.

MSU has grown while the national college enrollment trend is down. We believe that it is smart decisions like this that have driven those enrollment numbers.

That enrollment growth — 760 students in the fall — means the university will be recruiting as many as 12 new faculty members. This vote will make it easier to find the best qualified people to fill those slots, further attracting more students to the schools campuses.

It was also the right decision.
It is important that decisions made by the university’s board be based on good business and educational sense, but it is just as important that those decisions simply be the right thing to do.

This one was.