As retirement nears, Deaton focused on leading new institute

Institute will be starting soon.

By Karyn Spory

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton's retirement date is fast approaching, but just because he no longer will be chancellor doesn't mean he'll be slowing down or even leaving MU.

Deaton, who has been chancellor for nine years, said he felt it was a natural time for him to step down as chancellor. "I've become very involved in public policy issues that I started out in my career working on," he said.

These include food security, and his position as chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. "I wanted to give more time to" the board, "and, frankly, that was a very important pull factor."

Deaton said he will depend on MU faculty and students, who are "vibrant with ideas," to aid him in his role as chairman of that board.

Thomas Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, said his college is ready to assist Deaton by providing "sound and innovative research in sustainable and environmentally sensitive crop and animal production to improve the quality, cost and affordability of food."

Deaton said one of the other factors that led to his decision to retire was that he knew he would have the opportunity to continue doing some work with the university on international issues.

In June, UM System President Tim Wolfe announced the creation of the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development. Deaton said the institute is still in the beginning stages, but he will begin in his new position leading the institute after the first of the year. The institute will be housed in Ellis Library, he said.
"We have only scoped out a plan of work, ... but we hope to elicit support and involvement from faculty and graduate students," Deaton said.

During the initial announcement of the institute, Wolfe said Deaton's salary would be $200,000 annually. John Fougere, spokesman for the UM System, said in an email that Deaton’s salary will be paid for by the UM System.

The UM System also appropriated $50,000 to help get the institute up and running. Fougere said thus far the institute has secured an additional $10,000 above and beyond the initial $50,000 investment, including $5,000 from the Missouri 100 and another $5,000 from Missouri alumni.

Deaton's last day will be Nov. 15, when Steve Owens will take over as interim chancellor. Mike Middleton will serve as deputy chancellor and transition executive until the next chancellor is selected. According to the UM System website, the search committee is in the process of vetting applicants and interviewing candidates.
Deaton, Wolfe discuss AAU rating with MU Faculty Council

Thursday, October 31, 2013 | 9:40 p.m. CDT; updated 6:04 a.m. CDT, Friday, November 1, 2013
BY Molly Duffy

COLUMBIA — Alice and the Mad Hatter were in attendance, but that didn’t keep the MU Faculty Council from delving into some serious topics.

Some faculty members were in full costume for the meeting on Halloween, which University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton (neither in costume) attended. Wolfe gave a presentation about MU's transition team after Deaton retires on Nov. 15, and Deaton spoke about MU's Association of American Universities rating.

Wolfe said that although he does not have many specifics about the candidates for chancellor, the search is on schedule.

"We're encouraged, and hopefully we can make that announcement before Nov. 15," Wolfe said. "If not before Nov. 15, then shortly thereafter."

UM System General Counsel Steve Owens will serve as interim chancellor, with MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton as the transition leader.

In regard to MU's trajectory amid changing leadership, Wolfe said successful chancellor candidates are those in support of MU's plan for the future. He said candidates who do not share the university's values, such as improving MU's AAU ranking, will not be chosen.

"The charge to the search committee was very, very clear," Wolfe said. "AAU is critical, and if you don't understand it as a candidate, or you don't buy into the importance of it, you shouldn't be applying for this job."

AAU is an invitation-only association of 62 leading research universities. MU joined in 1908 and is currently one of the lowest-ranked members, council members said in previous meetings.

Deaton presented a report about the four principal measures by which AAU members are evaluated. Radiology and physics curator's professor Kattesh Katti compiled the report with a committee containing members of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Deaton said. Universities are evaluated based on
federal competitive research, national academy members, faculty awards and citations of scholarly publications.

Deaton said the committee found that to strengthen MU's position in the AAU, it needs more "top flight" faculty, more infrastructure and support for those faculty, reallocation of funding and more faculty published in high-impact journals.

"Faculty are the only group that can drive us up, in the end," Deaton said. "You look at your colleagues at these public universities — they're all very hungry. They're also addressing this same issue. We have moved up, modestly, in some areas, and that's very good. So we're not at the bottom in most of the four key categories that we have."

The report gave possible reasons for MU's low rating in the four categories, including agricultural research not being seen as competitive, and faculty declining awards or exclusive memberships because of their fees in an attempt to save money.

"I appreciate that, in a sense, because of the budget environment that we've been in," Deaton said. "Our faculty have forgone some enormously important steps in order to save a penny, and it ends up costing us thousands of dollars. … We should never allow a penny to rob us of bigger funds that can improve the university."

Citations of scholarly publications represent the impact scholars have on their field, Deaton said. Raja Gopaldas, an assistant professor of cardiothoracic surgery, said some faculty in the School of Medicine have criticized his focus on research because it doesn't count as billable hours and does not generate revenue for University Hospital. He said he has written 15 papers in the past three years with 307 total citations.

"I know for a fact there are people who have been on this for three years and have published zero papers," Gopaldas said.

Deaton said that issue isn't unique to the School of Medicine. In many other areas, faculty are faced with balancing research and teaching. He said effective balancing acts require good leadership on all levels.

Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts said Gopaldas' case is an example of administrators discouraging research. He said the report "has to carry weight."

"This report will be there to arm everyone," Deaton said. "It will arm faculty. It will arm administrative staff. It will arm the discussions that will continue on the campus."

The last Faculty Council meeting of the semester is Nov. 14. The UM System Board of Curators will meet Nov. 21 and 22 in St. Louis.

Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.
Faculty Council to request a part in provost search

By Crystal Duan

**Faculty Council will send an open letter to the next chancellor asking to include the council in the search for the next provost.**

The letter, signed by Council Chairman Craig Roberts, states the council’s desire to be actively involved in selecting the next provost. It was previously a resolution initially proposed by Intercampus Faculty Council Committee Chairman Dennis Miller during a meeting Oct. 3.

The council unanimously voted to send the letter during its Oct. 31 meeting.

UM System President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor Brady Deaton attended the faculty council meeting as well.

**UM System president talks funding**

Wolfe said the search for the new chancellor is currently on schedule but will remain closed until an announcement happens around Nov. 15, which is the day Deaton is set to retire.

Wolfe also said the system’s total allocated funding for the four campuses will remain at $22 million, while reallocated funding amounts to $48 million.

Wolfe said MU had made significant improvements to the funding proposal it initially submitted in July.

The plan’s strengths included the organizational structure, through which One Mizzou was being implemented. The bringing together of constituents’ input had also significantly improved, he said.

Wolfe also said he liked the university’s planned departure from previous budgets’ models. The only weakness Wolfe said he saw in the plan was a lack of granular detail.

**Chancellor gives AAU report**

Deaton gave the Association of American Universities report and mentioned having a faculty task force to address the four principle measures the AAU uses to evaluate its members.
The four subcommittees have been meeting with deans and campus groups, Deaton said. Their findings revealed a need for more infrastructure and reallocation for the university’s faculty, as well as more coverage in high impact journals.

Deaton said the university needs to be more active about communicating with AAU. An additional area of improvement he mentioned was federal competitive research, specifically MU’s strong agricultural research.

Deaton also said that all council members should meet with their departments and respective deans to restructure rapid innovation funds.
MU research program receives $1.1 million grant for minority students

Thursday, October 31, 2013 | 8:07 p.m. CDT

BY Tess Catlett

COLUMBIA — When Angela Lovett was an undergraduate, she found that she was one of the few minority students studying the sciences.

"It was a little discouraging as I was going forward (in the program)," Lovett said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, Lovett said she wanted to get more experience with scientific research before going to graduate school. She said she didn't think she was ready yet.

So when her advisor suggested she apply to MU's Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program, Lovett took advantage of the opportunity. Now in her second year of the program, Lovett is one of many students who will benefit from a renewed $1.1 million training grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The grant will pay for up to 28 post-baccalaureate minority students in the next four years to participate in the PREP program through research assistantships alongside MU faculty members. It will also cover tuition costs and professional development training designed to enhance students' competitiveness.

"We want students to not only get in, but to succeed," said Chris Hardin, co-director of the grant and chairman of the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology.

Most students participate in the program for one year but a few stay with the program an additional year, Hardin said. He said students from campuses with fewer opportunities for undergraduate research may need an extra year to achieve their fullest potential.

Lovett said PREP is there for students who need an extra push to get to the next level.

"Having someone there to guide you is great," Lovett said. "Having a one-on-one experience with an advisor that you may not have gotten before is helpful."
Participating scholars are expected to take graduate courses, engage with graduate students, participate in weekly journal clubs and lab meetings and attend scientific conferences and seminars.

Lovett said the program allowed her to explore all areas of science and pick one best suited to her interests — she came in to the program considering a career in cardiovascular science as well as microbiology.

"The program helped me decide where I wanted to go," Lovett said.

Another expectation of the program is for students to be involved in all phases of the faculty-mentored research project. Students are able to explore different labs and pick the one they are most comfortable with before embarking on their project.

"Labs are like families," Hardin said. "Each one is a little different in how it operates. The family that's comfortable to me may not be comfortable for you."

The students are encouraged to take ownership of the project and attend national conferences to explain and defend their work to other researchers, Hardin said.

He reflected on his first conference and acknowledged the value of introducing his work to other people, including those who influenced his work and whose research he read.

Students participating in the program also present their work to other scholars in weekly discussions.

"It's a give and take," Hardin said. "(The program) gives students confidence."

Hardin said he's had a longstanding interest in increasing diversity among students in the biomedical sciences.

He's passionate about "having those in the field be more like the general population," and said he sees PREP as a clear cut way to make this happen.

Twenty two of the 28 scholars who have completed the program at MU since it started in 2003 have been accepted into competitive doctoral programs in a biomedical field, one into medical school and two into masters programs, according to a news release.

"It's a good feeling knowing that there's going to be more people like me doing things I love," Lovett said.

Lovett said she looks forward to taking on a mentor role for other minority students as she finishes up the program and begins her doctoral study in microbiology.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Petition for student voting rights ready

An initiative petition seeking to gain voting rights for student representatives on the University of Missouri Board of Curators and other state college boards is ready to circulate, Secretary of State Jason Kander's office announced Wednesday.

The announcement means the process of checking the legal form of the petition and writing the ballot question is completed. Supporters will need to gather about 100,000 signatures by May 4 to put the proposal on the November 2014 ballot.

The question, if it appears on the ballot, will be: "Shall Missouri law be amended to require the governing boards of state universities and colleges to include a nonpartisan student member who may vote on tuition, fees and other board issues? State and local governmental entities expect no costs or savings to result from this proposal."

Students won non-voting representation on college governing boards in the 1980s.
Haunted observatory event helps kids discover astronomy

By Karyn Spory

When children exited the elevator on the fifth floor of the Physics Building on the University of Missouri campus, they were transported to Hogwarts Astronomy Tower for Wednesday night's first Haunted Observatory event.

Sean Baldridge, a graduate student in physics, stood before the children dressed as Hogwarts Professor Severus Snape from the "Harry Potter" franchise, and he presented them with their task. He gave each child a checklist of what to find during the scavenger hunt. "We tell them the idea is the observatory is haunted by dead astronomers; they have to go find the dead astronomer and ask them what they're famous for," Baldridge said.

Baldridge said the dead astronomer then would ask the kids to go find objects that relate to their discoveries or accomplishments. "For example, with Galileo, they would find a telescope, and for every successful one they complete, they get candy," he said.

The children had a list of seven figures, from Urania, the muse of astronomy, to Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. Baldridge said in addition to being fun for the kids, the event was designed to help them learn about astronomy.

Jason Briggs, a junior physics major, portrayed Tycho Brahe.

"The kids seem to really be enjoying it. Unfortunately, the weather has kind of limited what we can do with astronomy, but showing them the history and presenting it in kind of an entertaining way is engaging," he said.

Because of last night's rains, the telescope in Laws Observatory was closed.

Purple and orange lights cast a spooky glow as 6-year-old Connor Hughes tugged on the cobweb-covered hand of the zombie form of Sir William Herschel. "He discovered Uranus," said Connor, who was on the hunt for the planet so he could collect his candy.
"It's a really cool idea to get kids interested in astronomy and the stars and the history behind the stars," Connor's dad, Chris Hughes, said.

Linus Johnson, 7, said his favorite part of the event had been "looking at the start constellation thing. ... I found the Big Dipper," he said.

He said his favorite astronomer was "Gravity Man, you know, with the apple," referring to Sir Isaac Newton.
Former Massachusetts senator discusses views on D.C., GOP

Republican Party needs many types, Brown says.

By Rudi Keller

Fidelity to every plank of the party platform should not be the litmus test for Republicans, former U.S. Sen. Scott Brown of Massachusetts told a gathering sponsored by College Republicans on Wednesday night on the University of Missouri campus.

To survive as a party, he said, the GOP needs tea party conservatives, moderates and liberals to provide ideas. Platforms deserve due respect as the views of the groups that adopt them, but they are not necessarily the views of all Republicans, he said.

"Why do we have to shove it down our throats and demonize and vilify people who don't agree on everything in it?" he said.

Brown was responding to a question from Sarah Walsh, vice chairwoman of the Boone County Republican Central Committee and state committeewoman from the 19th District. She asked him whether straying from the platform could mean "we lose our identity as a party."

After Brown finished, Walsh said she wanted her candidates to be true to what the party decides is important. "To me, it is a little confusing if candidates are identifying with a party but say you don't subscribe to what is in the platform."

Brown, 54, scored a surprising win in a January 2010 special election to replace the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, a Democrat who had represented Massachusetts for 47 years before his death. Brown lost a bid for a full term in November.

Since then, Brown has taken a position with the law firm Nixon Peabody, signed on as a contract commentator for Fox News and traveled as a paid speaker. He is not ruling out a return to politics but has not announced as a candidate for any office.

The recent government shutdown was typical brinksmanship that he felt powerless to stop while in office, Brown said in an interview. "People are tired of the division and rancor and the inability to get
things done," he said. "It was like 'Groundhog Day': been there, done that, do nothing and then do the blame game."

The stock market and other economic indicators behaved as if it was normal, he said. "Being in Japan during all of this, it was embarrassing."

About 40 people, mostly students, attended the gathering. In his talk, Brown told a story about his parents' failed marriages, a life-changing encounter with a judge at age 12 after an arrest for shoplifting and his mother's struggles to support her family with welfare and low-paying jobs.

"That was there as a safety net so we could make it to the next level," he said.

Brown was repaid by conservatives when he supported food stamps and utility assistance for the poor by being called a RINO, or Republican in Name Only, he said.

Brown made light of his appearance in Missouri when his hometown Boston Red Sox were warming up to face the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 6 of the World Series. And he criticized President Barack Obama for tying up Boston traffic to promote the Affordable Care Act on the day of the game and for likening the federal program to the Massachusetts health overhaul initiated under then-Gov. Mitt Romney.

The federal health care law needs to be fixed, and Obama needs to admit it, Brown said. Taxpayers don't want to subsidize insurance coverage for families with incomes approaching $100,000, and the law is too intrusive, he said. "We don't need the federal government telling us what to do with our health care."

This article was published in the Thursday, October 31, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Ex-senator discusses views on D.C., GOP: Republican Party needs many types, Brown says."
The families of victims and survivors of the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech call campus safety measures instituted at colleges and universities nationwide a "living legacy" that won't be diminished by a court decision involving two who were killed.

The VTV Family Outreach Foundation said the changes sparked by the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history remain strong despite a Virginia Supreme Court ruling Thursday that tossed a jury's wrongful death finding against the state stemming from two students' deaths during the rampage.

Justices concluded that Tech administrators did not have a duty to warn students that a gunman remained at large after he had killed two people in a dormitory and that they had no way to anticipate he would go on to kill 30 more and himself.

The court ruled in the case of two students whose families argued that they might have survived the rampage if the administrators alerted the campus earlier to the gunman's initial shootings at a dormitory. Instead, Erin Nicole Peterson, Julia Kathleen Pryde and 28 other people were killed nearly three hours later in Norris Hall, a classroom building.

But the justices agreed with the state _ that there was no way to anticipate the deadly intentions of student Seung-Hui Cho.

"Thus, as a matter of law, the commonwealth did not have a duty to protect students against third party criminal acts," the court wrote.

Since the shootings, U.S. campuses have instituted warning systems across different platforms _ cellphone alerts, warning sirens _ and have been proactive in working to prevent a repeat of what happened in Blacksburg, Va. Advocates and family members of victims said the ruling won't change that.

"Improvements to how colleges and universities across the country, post April 16, 2007, handle threat assessment and emergency response spurred by the tragedy have fundamentally improved campus safety," the VTV Family Outreach Foundation said in a statement. "This is their living legacy."

The foundation and its 32 National Campus Safety Initiative _ named for the number of victims at Tech _ works to promote efforts to make college campuses safer.

"The April 16, 2007, tragedy forever changed campus safety," said S. Daniel Carter, director of the initiative. "This court ruling does nothing to diminish that."
In Thursday's ruling, the justices reversed the jury's findings and issued a final ruling, meaning there is no avenue for appeal.

The state attorney general's office said the court "found what we have said all along to be true."

Spokesman Brian Gottstein wrote in an email: "The commonwealth and its officials at Virginia Tech were not negligent on April 16, 2007. Cho was the lone person responsible for this tragedy."

The case was the lone pending legal action stemming from the massacre, Gottstein said.

The appeal attorney representing the parents of Peterson, 18, and Pryde, 23, said justices applied a stricter standard than the trial judge. The public perception of the university's actions could be a different matter, attorney L. Steven Emmert said.

"Now in the court of public opinion, the university may suffer _ that's quite possible, but that's not the court's to deal with," he said. "Courts will decide legal rights."

The trial in the case was held in March 2012 in Montgomery County, near the Tech campus. Jurors found that the state should have issued more timely campus warnings after Cho shot two in the dormitory. The jury awarded the families $4 million each. The trial judge later reduced the award to $100,000 each, the state cap on damages.

The trial focused on the time between the dorm shootings, shortly after 7 a.m., and the killings at Norris Hall, shortly before 10 a.m. A campus-wide email at 9:50 a.m. warned of a gunman on campus and advised students to remain inside. By then, Cho had chained the Norris Hall doors and killed the victims.

The Petersons and the Prydes are the only families of Tech victims who did not join in an $11 million settlement. Their attorneys have shielded the families from the media, but they have said they were intent on holding university officials accountable for their actions on April 16, 2007.

The state argued that law enforcement officials believed the first shootings were targeted, the result of a domestic dispute, and they concluded the larger campus was not at risk. The justices concluded that university officials acted properly.

The state was the only defendant at trial. In a statement, Tech President Charles Steger, who has announced his retirement, extended his gratitude to state attorneys who argued the appeal. Virginia Tech's statement said the ruling "can never reverse the loss of lives nor the pain experienced by so many families and friends of victims of one person."

Andrew Goddard, whose son Colin was wounded at Tech, said he found the ruling upsetting, and he wondered whether universities would see an opening to relax safety measures.

"I think it certainly takes the pressure off universities," he wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "I would hope that all future freshman orientations clearly spell out that, despite all the policy changes and advanced notification systems, the university actually has no `duty' to use them. Let's see how parents react to that."