COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri has a new chancellor for its flagship campus.

University system President Tim Wolfe plans to announce the new hire at a Thursday morning news conference in Columbia. The campus leader will replace Brady Deaton, who retired in November after nine years as chancellor.

The university hired an executive search firm to help recruit candidates for the confidential search. An 18-member advisory committee representing faculty, staff, alumni and students interviewed an unspecified number of finalists.

The announcement caps an aggressive process that began quickly after Deaton's June retirement announcement. Similar searches for college chancellors and presidents often take six months to a year.
The looming arrival also signals a short stint in charge for interim chancellor Steve Owens, the university system's top lawyer. Owens was previously the interim system president for 13 months after Gary Forsee's January 2011 resignation. He returned to his job as general counsel once Wolfe took over in February 2012 and was not a candidate for the permanent position.

Deaton remains in Columbia as executive director of a new international development research center bearing his name.

Wolfe previously said he didn't expect the university's Board of Curators, who oversee the four campuses, to actively participate in the search, and nor do university rules require their involvement. But after several closed-door meetings in recent weeks, they likely were told of his choice in advance.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • R. Bowen Loftin, the campus leader credited with steering Texas A&M athletics out of the Big 12 and into the Southeastern Conference, will be introduced today as the next University of Missouri chancellor, a university source confirmed.

Loftin, 64, announced in July he was stepping down as president at Texas A&M to take a teaching position in the engineering school.

A news conference is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the Mizzou campus.

TexAgs.com, a website that covers Texas A&M athletics, first reported Wednesday that Loftin was leaving the College Station campus for Missouri.

Loftin, known for his trademark bow tie, will succeed Brady Deaton, who retired last month after holding the position since 2004.

Loftin was named the 24th president of Texas A&M in February 2010 after serving as interim president beginning in June 2009. Before he went to the College Station campus, he spent four years as the vice president and chief executive officer of the university’s marine-oriented branch campus in Galveston. Loftin is a 1970 physics graduate of Texas A&M. He holds a master’s and a doctoral degree in physics, both from Rice University.

“We owe him an extreme debt of gratitude for his steadfast leadership and guidance, which has elevated Texas A&M into one of the best universities in this country,” Texas A&M system chancellor John Sharp said in July when Loftin announced he was stepping down. “He is absolutely at the top of his game, and we look forward to his continued service.”

Loftin was Texas A&M’s most outspoken campus leader when it departed from the Big 12 in the summer of 2011. Shortly after Texas A&M announced plans to join the SEC, Missouri followed the Aggies out of the Big 12 and into the SEC, with Deaton playing a major role in MU’s transition.
Texas A&M president to be next MU chancellor, according to reports

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 6:26 pm Comments (5)

A website dedicated to covering Texas A&M sports is reporting that Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin will be the next chancellor of the University of Missouri.

UM System officials said Wednesday that UM System President Tim Wolfe would announce the next MU chancellor on Thursday morning.

Steve Fullhart, anchor and executive producer at KBTX-TV, a CBS affiliate in Bryan/College Station, Texas, also is reporting that Loftin will be the next MU chancellor. In a tweet, Fullhart said, a “source close to A&M President Loftin confirms to me the @TexAgs report that Loftin will become chancellor at University of Missouri.”

The report in TexAgs.com says Loftin announced in July that he would retire as president and continue as a professor at Texas A&M.

Loftin was named the 24th president of Texas A&M on February 12, 2010, according to the school’s website. He had served as interim president since June 15, 2009.

Before that time, Loftin spent four years as vice president and chief executive officer of the university’s marine-oriented branch campus, Texas A&M University at Galveston, where he also was professor of maritime systems engineering, the Texas A&M website says.

The Thursday announcement of the next MU chancellor is set for 11 a.m. at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the MU campus.
Brady Deaton retired as MU chancellor on Nov. 15 after nine years on the job.

UM System General Counsel Steve Owens is serving as interim chancellor until the new chancellor takes over. Owens was interim president for the system during the search that brought Wolfe, a Columbia native, back to the city to work for the university.
Texas A&M president reportedly chosen as University of Missouri chancellor

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri on Thursday will name a new chancellor for its flagship campus.

University system President Tim Wolfe plans to announce the new hire at a news conference in Columbia. The campus leader will replace Brady Deaton, who retired in November after nine years as chancellor.

In Texas, College Station/Bryan television station KBTX reported Wednesday night that the new chancellor would be outgoing Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin.

Loftin in July announced that he would step down as A&M’s president effective Jan. 13, ending an almost four-year stint. A&M said at the time that he would be returning to the university’s faculty.

Loftin led his school’s departure from the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference in a move announced in September 2011. Missouri’s move to the SEC was announced two months later.

Thursday’s announcement in Columbia will cap an aggressive process that began quickly after Deaton’s June retirement announcement. Similar searches for college chancellors and presidents often take six months to a year.

The looming arrival also signals a short stint in charge for interim Chancellor Steve Owens, the university system’s top lawyer. Owens was previously the interim system president for 13 months after Gary Forsee’s January 2011 resignation. He returned to his job as general counsel once Wolfe took over in February 2012 and was not a candidate for the permanent position.

Deaton remains in Columbia as executive director of a new international development research center bearing his name.
Wolfe previously said he didn’t expect the university’s board of curators, who oversee the four campuses, to actively participate in the search, nor do university rules require the curators’ involvement. But after several closed-door meetings in recent weeks, they likely were told of his choice in advance.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/04/4669491/university-of-missouri-to-name.html#storylink=cpy
UPDATE: R. Bowen Loftin will be MU's next chancellor, according to reports

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 | 8:39 p.m. CST; updated 12:20 a.m. CST, Thursday, December 5, 2013

BY T.J. Thomson, Tracey Goldner

COLUMBIA — R. Bowen Loftin, outgoing president of Texas A&M University, will be MU's next chancellor, the Bryan-College Station Eagle reported.

Multiple news organizations reported the decision in advance of Thursday's official announcement from University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe. The Eagle reported it based on information from two high-ranking sources close to Loftin.

Loftin, known for his trademark bow ties, will be introduced to the campus at 11 a.m. in the Great Room of Reynolds Alumni Center. The public is invited. The Missourian will have a livestream of the announcement available online for those unable to attend the event, and it will live-tweet from @CoMissourian.

Loftin, 64, has been president of Texas A&M since February 2010. He announced in July 2013 that he would step down as president of Texas A&M University in January 2014.

Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has surpassed 50,000 students, according to a July 2013 news release on the Aggie Network website. He was interim president for eight months before becoming president.

Prior to that, he served as vice president of Texas A&M University and as chief executive officer at Texas A&M at Galveston's branch.

Loftin's annual salary as president was $425,000, according to The Associated Press.

Sammi Wallace, a junior at Texas A&M, said Loftin is an "awesome guy who really takes the time to talk to students."

"I was at the Missouri game just last week actually, and he came down into the A&M section to shake people's hands and take pictures," Wallace said.

According to Loftin's 2010 curriculum vitae:
Loftin received a bachelor's degree in physics from Texas A&M in 1970. He then attended Rice University, where he earned a master's degree in physics in 1973 and a doctoral degree in physics in 1975.

Loftin has also worked as a lecturer, assistant professor, professor and researcher. His teaching areas include physics, engineering and computer science.

He has published more than 100 research articles. He has given numerous presentations and has received several grants for his work in modeling and simulation, synthetic environments for training, education and scientific/engineering/medical data visualization, intelligent systems for training and education, and human-computer interaction.

According to a 2010 interview with the Texas Aggie, Loftin grew up in Navasota, Texas, a town southeast of College Station, Texas, and made his way through college on scholarships and a part-time job.

Tom Adair, a professor who taught Loftin as an undergraduate and later encouraged him through graduate school, told the Texas Aggie that Loftin was a hard-working and dedicated student.

Loftin is married to Karin Christiane Loftin. The couple have two adult children and three grandchildren.

He told Texas Aggie that he owned well over 100 bow ties and started wearing them more than 35 years ago when the University of Houston's physics department required its instructors to start wearing ties.

Loftin succeeds former Chancellor Brady Deaton, who retired on Nov. 15. He will lead the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development.

A search committee led by Dean Mills, dean of the School of Journalism, and Ann Covington, a curator for the UM System, has conducted a confidential search. Two public forums were held in the summer to get input on qualities people wanted in a new chancellor, and then the process was closed to the public.

The 18-member committee worked for about four months with Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, a California-based company, to conduct the closed national search. The UM System paid the company $114,886 for its services, UM spokesman John Fougere said Wednesday.

In addition to the search firm, the UM System also paid $5,400 to Nebraska-based Talent Plus assessment agency. The company screened candidates' interpersonal skills so that the search committee could have a more holistic view of not only experience but personality, as well.

When Wolfe was hired in 2011, he underwent the same screening. He said that it was "insightful" and that it "prevents us from hiring someone that's great on paper and great in interviews but not so great when she or he hits the street running."

The new chancellor will be MU's 22nd top executive. Before chancellors, MU had presidents; the change came in 1963, when the system was formed. It includes MU, the universities of Kansas City and St. Louis, and Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla.
Meet MU's next chancellor: R. Bowen Loftin

BY ELISE SCHMELZER

COLUMBIA — Here are some things you might want to know about R. Bowen Loftin, who will be MU's next chancellor, according to reports by the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

According to his curriculum vitae published in August 2010:

**LAST JOB:** President of Texas A&M since February 2010

**EDUCATION:** 1975 doctorate degree in physics from Rice University in Houston, Texas; 1973 master's in physics from Rice University; 1970 bachelor's degree in physics from Texas A&M

**PREVIOUS JOBS:** Vice president and professor at Texas A&M and chief executive officer of Texas A&M University at Galveston from 2005 to 2010, professor at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, from 2000 to 2005

**WIFE:** Dr. Karin Christiane Loftin, an associate biosafety officer at Texas A&M, according to the university's Office of the President website

**CHILDREN:** Two adult children, Elisabeth and Benjamin, and three grandchildren

**TWITTER:** @aggieprez

**FACEBOOK:** R. Bowen Loftin
MU athletics spending rises while academic falls below median

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 | 9:23 p.m. CST

Data released Wednesday by USA Today and the Knight Commission on intercollegiate athletics revealed MU spending on athletes, especially football players, has increased since 2005. In 2011, the spending per football player had more than doubled, while the spending per student had increased only 3 percent. | EVAN TOWNSEND

BY LINDSEY DAVISON

COLUMBIA — In 2011, MU spent an average of $12,595 in academic funds per student while the university's athletics department spent an average of $119,702 per student athlete, a database released Wednesday by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics shows.
It is among many comparisons made possible by the database, which combines information provided by USA Today's database for college sports finances and the Delta Cost Project on NCAA Division I universities. The new database includes:

- Academic spending per full-time equivalent (FTE) student
- Athletic spending per athlete
- Athletic spending without scholarship expenses per athlete
- Institutional funding for athletics per athlete

Academic spending per student includes direct and indirect costs related to educating students, such as instruction, departmental research and academic support. It excludes other university activities such as sponsored research and auxiliary services.

Athletic spending per student athlete includes total athletic operating costs, including scholarships. The Missourian does not have further information on what constitutes MU’s total athletic operating costs at this time.

The MU athletics department is self-supporting and operates from the revenue it generates, similar to a private business. Sources of revenue include ticket sales, TV revenue and donations. The database shows that institutional funding for athletics per athlete decreased by 10 percent between 2005 and 2011, from $5,575 to $5,003.

Other findings from the database, drawn from 2005-2011 numbers, include:

- MU increased academic spending per student by 3 percent, while the athletics department increased its spending per student athlete by 30 percent.
- Average academic spending per student at MU went from $1,156 more than the Football Bowl Subdivision median in 2005 to $1,141 less than the median in 2011. The median academic spending per student in the subdivision increased by 24 percent from 2005 to 2011.
- MU’s athletics department spent $30,933 more per student athlete than the Football Bowl Subdivision median in 2005, and $22,754 more than the median in 2011. The median spending per student athlete for a Football Bowl Subdivision university's sports program increased by 58 percent from 2005 to 2011.
All data for MU are drawn from years that the university was in the Big 12 Conference. The university announced on Nov. 6, 2011, that it would join the Southeastern Conference. Both conferences are part of the Football Bowl Subdivision, which is the subdivision of Division I athletics for universities that have a minimum of 16 varsity teams, including football. They must also play at least 60 percent of their regular-season football games against other FBS institutions and meet home football attendance requirements.
Students suspected in armed robbery

By Catherine Martin

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (4)

Two college students were arrested Monday after one was accused of robbing and threatening a 20-year-old woman with a machete-like weapon in November during what police called a drug deal gone wrong.

At 10:30 p.m. Monday officers were dispatched to the 2300 block of Grindstone Parkway, Officer Latisha Stroer said. A 20-year old woman reported a black man was exiting her apartment through the front door, with her computer, as she was coming home, Stroer said.

Police located the suspect vehicle, which was occupied by Uchechukwu Onwuzuruoha, 20, who gave officers his consent to search his vehicle, Stroer said, and the officers located the victim's computer inside.

Police later found text messages between the victim and Onwuzuruoha dating back to Nov. 23, and the victim told police her computer was taken on Nov. 21 at about 11 p.m.

The victim had arranged a drug deal, and a black man and white man came to her apartment, Stroer said. When the drug deal went wrong, the black man left and came back with a "machete type object," Stroer said. He then left the apartment with the victim's computer, she said.

Afterward, the victim and Onwuzuruoha exchanged texts arranging for the victim to buy back her computer, Stroer said. She said police don't know why the victim waited several days to report the crime.

Onwuzuruoha was arrested on suspicion of armed criminal action and first-degree robbery. Onwuzuruoha listed his address as the Delta Upsilon fraternity house. The University of Missouri's online directory lists him as a junior.

Another man, Holden Houston, 19, was arrested Tuesday on a first-degree robbery charge. Houston is listed as a sophomore at MU. Bonds for both men are yet to be set.
Almost 50 years after a quiet story about a stoic Mizzou professor was published, it has been proclaimed the Waterstones book of the year in Britain.

No less a fan than Tom Hanks had endorsed the novel "Stoner" by John Williams, who earned his doctorate at the University of Missouri in 1954. Williams then went to the University of Denver to teach and write. He died in Arkansas in 1994.

The University of Arkansas Press has republished "Stoner" before (the original 1965 printing was only 2,000 copies). But after NYRB Classics picked it up in 2006, and a translation in French hit Europe, the book became a best-seller overseas.

In 2010, Tom Hanks told Time: "It's simply a novel about a guy who goes to college and becomes a teacher. But it's one of the most fascinating things that you've ever come across."

Reuters reported Tuesday:

"Waterstones stores across Britain nominated the novel as their Book of the Year for the British retail book chain's annual award.

"Other contenders on a shortlist of six included Booker prize-winning Julian Barnes's 'Levels of Life' and graphic novel 'The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil' by Stephen Collins."

"Other works by Williams include 'Augustus,' which won the National Book Award for fiction in the United States in 1973, and 'Butcher's Crossing.'"

"The Texan, who was born in 1922, served in World War Two before going on to found the writing program at the University of Denver."

Williams' "Butcher's Crossing," a violent story of buffalo hunters who meet in a Kansas town, was recently published in Holland. Of it, the New York Times said: "Harsh and relentless yet muted in tone, Butcher's Crossing paved the way for Cormac McCarthy. It was perhaps the first and best revisionist western."
MU senior's ideas chosen to help lessen the risks of college drinking

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 | 4:29 p.m. CST

BY MADISON ALCEDO

COLUMBIA — **MU senior Kate Egan has won a competition held in honor of Emily Ferguson, an MU sophomore who died last year in a car crash when she was traveling the wrong way on Interstate 70 after a night of drinking.**

Egan's idea is to build an iPhone or smartphone app that will "provide operational support for organizations who provide sober walks and rides and to alert circles of friends when an individual is need of assistance," according to the 4Emily Facebook page.

Roy Ferguson, Emily's father, created the competition asking for ideas for a social media campaign that would curb drinking among college-aged students, according to the 4Emily organization website.

Part of Egan's idea is to create an app that will provide students links to taxi services.

"I feel like the reason that half of students don’t take a sober ride is because they don’t have the cash on them, or they don’t have a credit card to be able to use to get the ride home," Egan said. "They don’t want to worry about paying for it right then and there."

Egan said her idea also included the capability for students to enter emergency contacts on the app that friends or others could access if they needed more help than just a ride home, she said.

"If I had my friend’s phone, I could access those contacts just by clicking on the app," Egan said. "I could call one of those numbers knowing that the person put it in there for me to call, like their dad or their mom, if they were in need of some kind of help."

Roy Ferguson said Egan's idea was "at the essence" of what he wants to try to do with moving forward with the campaign and creation of the app. He plans to build on her idea.
"Basically it’s not trying to tackle the problem of underage drinking or binge drinking head on — that’s a big problem that frankly is out of my scope,” Ferguson said. "It’s trying to mitigate a problem that exists that’s going to continue to exist by helping a person who needs a ride or walk home, or if he or she needs a friend to intervene on their behalf."

Egan said she received a phone call a few days before Thanksgiving from Ferguson saying she had won the competition. It was announced Nov. 30 on the Facebook page.

"Originally I was just trying to do something good for the memory of my daughter," Ferguson said. "I wanted to come up with an idea because I think my daughter was a typical Mizzou student in many ways. I think the kind of risk she was exposed to and that young adults are being exposed to is something that I could have some sort of positive impact on."

Egan said she first heard about the competition at a speech Ferguson gave Oct. 29 at MU. She said Ferguson showed a photo slideshow of his daughter and explained what he thought went wrong with the night she died. At the end, he told the crowd of students about the competition in her honor.

Egan said she didn't know Emily Ferguson personally, but they did attend the same sorority social the night she died.

**Ferguson's speech was during MU's Wellness Resource Center's Alcohol Responsibility Month, said Kim Dude, the Wellness Resource Center director who has been in contact and working with Ferguson since April 2012.**

"He has found an avenue to take his tragedy and have something positive come from it," Dude said. "We will do whatever we can to assist in implementing his program."

Ferguson said he and the judges of the competition have had more ideas to incorporate into Egan's idea.

He said he also wants to collaborate with organizations like MU's Stripes program to come up with further specifications for the app. After the specifications are outlined, Ferguson said he will then mock up a prototype of the app to get some feedback and then build and launch the app.

The reward for winning the competition is $2,500. Egan said she wants to put it into savings for graduate school.