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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM president qualifications, 2012 budget discussed at curators' meeting

By Alex Keckeisen, Victoria Guida

March 21, 2011 | 8:59 p.m. CDT

ROLLA — Gary Forsee is not walking through the door, but the UM Board of Curators believe they can find a presidential candidate with similar qualities.

At the start of a two-day meeting Monday in Rolla, board members expressed their appreciation of Forsee's abilities during his tenure as UM System president. They said they hoped the next president would be as business-savvy, skilled at communicating with stakeholders of the university and able to have a political presence in the legislature.

Forsee stepped down temporarily in December and made his departure permanent in January.

The presidential search committee then approved a statement of qualifications to help define the search for a new president. Once the statement has full board approval, the committee will move to the recruitment stage of the process.

A candidate pool will be developed from suggestions by members of the board, recruitment by the search firm and responses to advertisements, said Jan Greenwood, president of Greenwood/Asher & Associates, the Washington, D.C.-based search firm hired to assist the search committee.

Assets the board approved as desirable include a passion for public higher education and the university's mission; leveraging university resources to advance the state's economy, education, health and culture; and working as a "tireless champion" for access, affordability and quality within the system.

To help develop a presidential qualification statement, the board held a series of seven public forums throughout the state in early March.

Betsy Rodriguez, vice president for human resources, noted that participants in the forums told the board the next president should lead with a focus on innovation and vision for a sustainable future.

"We don't want to hire a president for the year 2012, but for the year 2020," Rodriguez said.

Board Chairman Warren Erdman asked Greenwood about any "buzz" surrounding the open position. Greenwood said the university is "viewed as very open to color and women" in the job search because of the minority presidents hired in the past. Greenwood also said the system faces "nothing close to competition" from other institutions.

While the search will not be limited to Missouri, a common theme emerging is the hope that a strong candidate will be found within state borders. Both Erdman and Curator Judith Haggard pushed for a candidate from Missouri or someone who deeply understands the state.

"We've had a lot of presidents that have come here and taken a long time to get going and then left," Haggard said. "They need to understand the culture of Missouri."

The presidential search committee is scheduled to meet again May 21 for an update from Greenwood/Asher & Associates on the search. The board will also be updated regularly on a password-protected website and will receive a weekly summary of the process.

In other board action Monday, the Finance Committee addressed the preliminary system budget for fiscal 2012, reporting that a \$53.2 million funding gap remains.

Expected to affect the budget are these factors:

- Proposed state cuts that would decrease revenue by \$51.4 million.
- A 5.5 percent average increase in tuition and fees that would produce revenue of \$31.1 million, when offset by scholarship allowances.

- Additional compensation costs of \$44.1 million with the proposed 2 percent increase in merit-based salaries and benefits.

The system's operating budget is roughly \$1 billion.

Nikki Krawitz, vice president for finance and administration, said decisions must be made to pinpoint further cutbacks. At least \$8.7 million in savings has already been identified, she said, but the sizable gap remains.

The board must decide, for example, whether to continue to defer expenses for maintenance and repair.

"Our people are probably hurting worse than our facilities right now," Krawitz said.

Curator Wayne Goode said the board should target areas that produce a low number of degrees. Interim President Steve Owens replied this would have a minimal impact because many classes must be retained to serve other programs.

Erdman suggested that measures be directed to increasing revenue in addition to cutting costs.

The board is expected to approve next year's budget at its June meeting.

In other action:

- The compensation and human resources committee deferred action on revamping retirement plans for faculty and staff.
- The same committee voted to continue a transition assistance program for UM employees who lose their jobs as a result of budget cuts.

THE MANEATER

Curators, Intercampus Student Council convene in Rolla

ISC will submit three candidates for the next student curator to Gov. Jay Nixon.

By Jimmy Hibsich

Published March 22, 2011

The UM System Board of Curators, the executive board for the university's four-campus system, met in Rolla on Monday to discuss the ongoing presidential search and employee benefits.

A recap of the public forums the presidential search committee held during the past two weeks convened the meeting. Representatives from the presidential search firm, Greenwood/Asher & Associates, were present.

Qualities listed as integral in the next president include the ability to lead with a vision, an appreciation for the state of Missouri and to be a champion for public higher education issues, such as access and affordability, among others.

“Basically, they took the input from those forums and compiled them together to form a list of qualities they are looking for in the next system president,” said Andrew Meyer, who serves as the Associated Students of the University of Missouri Board chairman and was present at Monday's meeting.

These qualities will be voted on at Tuesday's meeting and will then be given to the search firm for distribution.

In addition to the presidential search, a majority of discussion focused on changes in employee benefits and the addition of several academic programs at UM — Kansas City.

Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods and former MSA President Tim Noce both were in Rolla during the weekend for an Intercampus Student Council meeting, where the selection of the next student representative to the Board of Curators was discussed. Noce was named ISC President in November.

“I want to work more on student conduct, work with ASUM on lobbying and find someone to increase institutional knowledge,” Noce said when he was elected to the position.

Meyer said ISC had interviewed candidates for the student curator position.

“Anybody that wanted to apply for the job could apply, as long as they met the qualifications,” Meyer said. “A couple of weeks ago, the Intercampus Student Council traveled to KC to interview all of the candidates, and we narrowed it down to three who we are suggesting to the governor.”

Meyer said that of the original seven or eight candidates for the job, IFC has narrowed down to three candidates who it will suggest to Gov. Jay Nixon for approval. The next student representative will be a student attending UMKC, as the position rotates among the four campuses. Woods couldn't disclose the candidates names.

“At this point, we're going to keep transitioning with all three of them until the Governor decides to appoint the person,” Meyer said. “We don't know who that is going to be at this time, because of the presidential search.”

Although student representatives to the board typically step down in June, current representative Laura Confer's involvement in the presidential search will likely cause her to serve her full term, Meyer said. Her term officially ends Jan. 1, 2012.

The board will reconvene Tuesday to take action on several items discussed Monday.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Mizzou prepares deal it believes will keep Anderson

by VAHE GREGORIAN | Posted: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:55 pm

Pending formal approval today or tomorrow by the University of Missouri Board of Curators, according to two sources familiar with the dynamics, Mizzou is on the verge of finalizing a contract extension and raise for basketball coach Mike Anderson that it believes will keep him at MU.

If approved, the new contract would add two years to the five remaining on Anderson's contract and call for a jump approaching \$2 million a year from his current base salary of about \$1.5 million.

Despite a swirl of rumors, it is unclear whether Arkansas has made an offer to Anderson, who was an assistant coach there for 17 years and is believed to be a prime possible target of the school.

That innuendo has intensified since MU's NCAA Tournament loss last Thursday, but Anderson was seen by multiple news outlets recruiting for Mizzou on Saturday and MU players have given no indication of any change afoot through their Twitter posts the last few days.

A Mizzou source said Anderson was believed to be in Columbia and likely playing pickup basketball as he usually does on Mondays at the student recreation center as indicated by a tweet from MU student Ben Picardi, who also is a stringer for The Associated Press.

It's uncertain if the impending offer, which has been in the works for weeks, will be accepted and thus end the speculation. And it's believed that Missouri would not go beyond the terms outlined and enter a bidding war should it come to that for Anderson.

If it is able to keep Anderson, the funds would need to be generated through the athletic department and athletics fundraising.

Continuing attempts to reach athletics director Mike Alden have been unsuccessful, and a request to speak with Anderson Monday received no immediate response.

MU curators are having a regularly scheduled meeting today and Tuesday in Rolla, Mo.

Some MU boosters calmed as school works on extension for Anderson

By MIKE DeARMOND

During a weekend when a portion of Missouri's basketball fan base became obsessed with the possibility coach Mike Anderson would leave Columbia for Arkansas, a cadre of MU and Anderson boosters with insider information barely broke a sweat.

One such booster told The Star on Monday that he was told by someone close to the basketball program Friday that Anderson was not going to go to Arkansas. On Saturday night, after a Tulsa TV anchor and CBSsports.com reported that Anderson appeared ready leave Missouri, the booster said: "Some phone calls were made and, (the booster was told) someone obviously got the story messed up."

While Arkansas' search for a new coach continues, MU has for several months been negotiating contract extensions for both Anderson and football coach Gary Pinkel.

Pinkel was the first to reveal those negotiations concerning his own contract. MU athletic director Mike Alden, while refusing to discuss timelines or the specifics of what might be the parameters of those negotiations, never denied the negotiations were being held.

Another booster told The Star on Monday that he was told in January that the new agreement could add three years to the existing five-year contract and raise Anderson's compensation to \$2 million a year.

A third booster said he had been told in early February about the possibility of a two-year extension for \$2 million a year.

On Monday, the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported that — pending approval by as early as Monday or today — a new contract could add two years to Anderson's existing contract and call for an increase of from \$1.5 million a year to "approaching \$2 million."

Anderson's agent, Jimmy Sexton, was painted as a villain by some fans because Anderson's name has surfaced for a third straight postseason as a possible hire by another school.

But the boosters who spoke with The Star on Monday took a more understanding approach.

“That’s what they’re paid to do.” the first booster said of agents.

By the same token, that booster said, there is anticipated to be criticism of any raised or extension for Anderson after the team slumped to a 23-11 finish after a 14-1 start.

“Obviously this was a tough year,” the booster said. “But they still have been to the NCAA Tournament three straight years.”

Even if a new contract has been agreed to between the MU athletic department and Anderson and were to be approved in closed session by the Board of Curators, it probably would not be announced in Rolla, where the curators are meeting. It has been Missouri’s practice to control such announcements, often with Alden meeting in Columbia with reporters to discuss the agreement.



Missouri close to finalizing extension for Anderson, source says

By Steve Walentik

Monday, March 21, 2011

Missouri officials believe they are close to finalizing a contract extension with men's basketball Coach Mike Anderson that would keep him in Columbia for the foreseeable future.

A source said the two sides have been working out the terms of an extension for weeks and that a proposal is awaiting approval from the UM Board of Curators, who were to discuss it during their scheduled meeting in Rolla, which began Monday morning and will conclude Tuesday.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported Monday afternoon that the contract would increase his annual compensation from \$1.55 million to nearly \$2 million and add two more years to the five remaining on the contract Anderson signed after leading the Tigers to the Elite Eight in 2009.

Anderson would still need to sign the new contract, but the source said he believed that would happen and the coach would remain in Columbia in the face of rampant speculation — and a report late Saturday on CBSSports.com — that he was close to agreeing in principle to become the next head coach at Arkansas.

Missouri has compiled a record of 111-57 since Anderson, who spent 17 years in Fayetteville, Ark., as an assistant coach, took over the program in 2006 and has reached the past three NCAA Tournaments.

Next year's Tigers are expected to have virtually their entire roster intact from a team that went 23-11 in the just completed season but dropped five of its last six games, including a 78-63 defeat at the hands of Cincinnati last Thursday in its opening game of the NCAA Tournament in Washington, D.C.

Anderson would also have three scholarships he could use to bolster his rotation. He is hoping to add the services of Scott County Central standout Otto Porter, a 6-foot-9 forward ranked No. 42 in the ESPNU 100, and he is still chasing St. Louis native Ben McLemore, another top-50 recruit scheduled to decide between Missouri and Kansas when he announces his college destination on April 3.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU police investigating indecent exposure reports

By Kathryn Landis

March 21, 2011 | 4:43 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU police are investigating two reports of indecent exposure that were reported over the weekend.

On Friday, at about 2:44 a.m., a man was seen masturbating by two women passing near the east side of Stankowski Field, MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said.

On Sunday, at 4:40 p.m., another man was reported masturbating in his car. Three women saw him as they passed by the intersection of Hitt and Paquin streets.

In both incidents, the man did not seek out the attention of the women, Weimer said.

Police acknowledged there were similarities between the two incidents, but as of Monday evening they did not know if the same man was responsible for both, Weimer said.

Intense effort on to save tropical bird

Published: March. 21, 2011 at 8:52 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., March 21 (UPI) -- U.S. researchers say desperate measures are needed to save one of the world's most endangered birds, a tropical kingfisher living on one Pacific island.

A University of Missouri researcher says fewer than 125 Tuamotu Kingfishers -- with bright blue feathers, a dusty orange head and a bright green back -- live on the tiny south Pacific island and warns that without serious intervention they will soon no longer exist, a UM release reported Monday.

"If we lose these birds, we lose 50,000 years of uniqueness and evolution," Dylan Kesler, UM professor in fisheries and wildlife, said. "Because it has lived in isolation for a very long time, it's unlike any other bird. There is no other bird like this on the planet."

Kesler said he is trying to prevent the birds' extinction by working with farmers and residents on the island inhabited by the kingfishers.

The birds create nests by hollowing out dead trees, and Kesler wants to convince farmers not to cut down all their dead coconut trees but rather leave some standing for the kingfisher's nests. Cats and rats, introduced to the island by humans, hunt the Tuamotu Kingfisher, and Kesler is urging farmers to wrap metal bands around the trees to prevent the predators from climbing into the nests.

He is also working with farmers who use fire to clear land, helping them develop burn methods that will kill brush but leave the island's lizards -- the kingfishers' main food -- alive.

"Unfortunately, even with all our work to date, the population is still crashing," Kesler said. "At this rate, these birds will be gone within our lifetime."

The Seattle Times



Preparing yourself to age in place

Stay at home or go to community care when you age?

By Jane Glenn Haas

The Orange County Register

Everybody says the best deal is to "age in place," to never leave the confines of home for some sort of community care.

But the problems of "in place" can be horrific, starting with health care and crossing into social isolation.

At the same time, 76 million aging baby boomers will get older, and options for housing plus care are costly and require seniors to move from residential living to assisted living to nursing homes.

One study, just completed, is said to prove the financial benefit as well as the social and personal benefits to aging in place.

"Adults want to remain healthy and independent during their senior years, but traditional long-term care often diminishes seniors' independence and quality of life," says Marilyn Rantz, a professor at the University of Missouri's Sinclair School of Nursing. "Aging in place enables most older adults to remain in the same environment and receive supportive health services as needed. With this type of care, most people wouldn't need to relocate to nursing homes."

Q: There is nothing new to the senior preference to stay at home rather than move to a facility. What did your study discover?

A: At Tiger Place, adjacent to the University of Missouri (which has 54 apartments), we have discovered that we can save Medicare and Medicaid dollars with nurse care coordination. We do early illness detection and coordinate with other health care providers.

Our service package increases as more care is needed and then decreases as the patient's needs decrease.

We have successfully uncoupled the housing cost from the care cost. Putting the two together — in an assisted living home, for example — is part of the high-cost component.

Q: Seems as if this is pretty simplistic and bound to work well. What's new?

A: Intuitively, we all knew this would work. The cost of care should go up and down. But we had to prove that.

Q: So people rent the apartment separate from the care they receive?

A: Yes, and about a third of them are using long-term care insurance to pay the cost of care. As we look ahead to a larger aging population, we can expect to see more of that type of insurance used.

Q: You are advocating apartment-style living, community meals. Is that similar to residential care?

A: Usage depends upon the person and their social network.

Cohousing makes a whole lot of sense with a wellness component. It's got to have a really strong independent focus. One that maintains good health and encourages functionality.

I think we all want to go to bed one night and just not wake up. We want to think we can be active until "the end" and then face a very rapid decline in health. Well, that is pretty much what we are seeing.

Aging In Place is a four-year project used at Tiger Place, an independent living community of 54 apartments that helps senior residents stay healthy and active and avoid hospitalization and relocation. Residents receive care services in their apartments. (University) researchers use sensors, computers and communication systems to discreetly monitor residents' health.

The results were published in a recent issue of Nursing Outlook.

Q: People who age in place often depend on family. Are they still around?

A: We involve the family in the care process and delivery. Nothing changes. Except independence. That's the key. (For more information, see agingmo.com).

THE MANEATER

'One Mizzou' set to begin April 7

Events will include signing a "One Mizzou" banner.

By Jimmy Hibsich

Published March 22, 2011

The "One Mizzou" campaign meant to celebrate diversity at MU is nearly ready for its launch date, Missouri Students Association President Eric Woods said.

"Did I think that it would ever become this big?" Woods said. "No, I didn't at all. I'm really proud of where it's gone."

The campaign is set to begin April 7 outside of the Student Center. At the event students who sign the One Mizzou banner will receive T-shirts and free food, courtesy of Campus Dining Services.

Woods said Chancellor Brady Deaton has agreed to speak and that he is completely behind the cause.

"There's going to be a lot of administrators there, so we're hoping to get a good student showing as well," Woods said.

Not only administrators, but also faculty members are backing the cause.

Graduate Professional Council President Kristofferson Culmer attended an informal meeting of some faculty at The Hiedelberg on March 15, where he said they discussed how they could get involved with the One Mizzou initiative.

"Basically what the meeting was about was to explore creating a grassroots faculty diversity initiative to coincide with what the student leaders are doing on the student side," Culmer said. "A number of faculty are interested in taking part in this initiative to highlight the diverse nature of Mizzou."

In the meeting, organized by Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington, the faculty seemed already in tune with what the students are planning.

"Without any prompting of the information that students talked about, the faculty were pretty much on the same page," Culmer said.

Since Culmer attended both the task force meetings and the faculty meeting, he said he is excited to see both of these groups work together for One Mizzou.

“Definitely in the future, I think the students and faculty will collaborate on this initiative,” Culmer said. “This must be a university wide effort, so it is important that everyone is involved. We don’t know exactly how yet since this is just getting off the ground, but we are looking to make this a strong initiative.”

At last week’s MSA meeting, discussion included whether to use the projected \$25,000 to \$55,000 carryover from the College Readership Program Fee to fund the campaign. Monday, the Department of Student Life decided to completely fund One Mizzou, rather than utilizing this carryover.

“To avoid setting a bad precedent for using projected carryover, it was decided that this was the best course of action,” Woods said. “Carryover from the fees will be used to reimburse Student Life at the end of the fiscal year.”

These funds would be used to purchase materials for the month, including a banner to hang in the Student Center and a calendar of events. He said the task force has been pulling together events for the calendar and encourages any student group to submit ideas to be included.

“We really just want anybody who feels like they have an event that has to do with community or unity on campus,” Woods said. “We want people to come forward and suggest events. We’d be happy to advertise those events.”