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Candidates for MU system president will interview in KC this week

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

Candidates for president of the University of Missouri System will be in Kansas City this week interviewing with members of the school's search committee.

Board of Curators Chairman Warren Erdman, who also is chairman of the search committee, said the pool has been reduced from "well over 100" to about 40.

He would not say how many of those will visit Kansas City on Thursday and Friday, nor the number participating in a second group of interviews next week in St. Louis.

"What I can tell you is that the pool is very diverse," said Erdman, of Kansas City. "There are female candidates, male candidates and minority candidates. We have candidates from Missouri and candidates from outside the state. We have candidates from academia and non-traditional candidates."

Those having interviews already have had some phone conversations with search members, Erdman said.

As to whether all of the more than three dozen candidates will get an interview, Erdman said: "I certainly hope not."

After interviews, committee members hope to come to some consensus on a group of finalists to be evaluated by a 20-member advisory panel of faculty, students, staff, administrators, alums and members of the community.

Erdman said new applicants are still coming in. That's one reason the university has not set a deadline, he said.

"I don't want to be pinned down to a specific time frame that a candidate we are really excited about may not be able to meet," Erdman said.

He added that names won't be disclosed at any time before a final decision is made and an offer accepted.

“Candidates have told us they will not be considered if there is disclosure because most of them are in existing positions,” Erdman said.

The search for a new president began after Gary Forsee stepped down in January to care for his wife, who has cancer.

In the interim, presidential duties are being handled by Stephen J. Owens, previously the system’s general council under Forsee, a former Sprint chief executive officer.

The search, budgeted at \$234,500, is being led by Greenwood/Asher & Associates of Miramar Beach, Fla.



UM deal worth millions for curator's company

By Janese Silvey

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, August 16, 2011

The University of Missouri System has entered into a state contract with a company founded by a member of UM's Board of Curators.

David Steward reported his company has sold routers, switches and other networking products totaling roughly \$2.55 million to the university since April 7, the day after the Senate confirmed his appointment to the Board of Curators.

Curators are allowed to have business dealings with the university as long as the contracts are competitively bid if they exceed \$10,000. They are required to disclose those dealings on conflict-of-interest forms turned in to the system by Aug. 15 each year.

Steward founded St. Louis-based World Wide Technologies in 1990. The company has a contract with the state for computer products, services and networking products that runs from March 2010 through March 2013. UM opted to join into that contract before Steward was on the board, said Steve Mack, director of procurement services.

UM shifted its contract for Cisco networking services and products from AT&T to WWT this year after an in-depth cost analysis, Mack said. Although it's difficult to predict how much will be spent on replacements and upgrades of networking equipment, WWT's pricing was 19 percent better than AT&T's, he said.

"We started the analysis" of the Cisco contract "well before the announcement that David was going to become part of the Board of Curators," Mack said. "For the most part, we came to the conclusion that we would move to the WWT contract with the state well before he came on the board."

In regard to the \$2.55 million, Mack said it's not unusual to spend that kind of money replacing switches, routers and networking equipment.

Steward was traveling today and was not available for comment by the Tribune's deadline.

Only one other curator reported a business relationship with the university this past year. David Bradley, chief executive officer of News-Press & Gazette Co. in St. Joseph, disclosed his company printed an Alumni Week publication for UM-Kansas City this year for \$3,004. The

contract was awarded through a sealed-bid process, Bradley said. This is the first year UMKC contracted with Bradley's company, and Bradley said he was made aware of the project only after it had been awarded.

The conflict-of-interest forms are required under a 4-year-old ethics policy the board adopted on the heels of controversy surrounding a contract between the publishing company of a former curator, Don Walsworth, and the MU Athletic Department.

The reports, turned in to the board's secretary, are in addition to financial disclosure forms required by the Missouri Ethics Commission that detail curators' business ventures, real estate holdings and stock investments worth more than \$10,000. Steward reported earlier this year having more than 120 stocks exceeding that amount.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

NCAA to question Mizzou coach Haith

BY VAHE GREGORIAN • vgregorian@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8199 | Posted:
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The NCAA will speak with Mizzou men's basketball coach Frank Haith after a former University of Miami booster alleged Haith had expressed his gratitude for a \$10,000 payment the booster made to a Miami recruit when Haith was coaching the Hurricanes in 2007.

The allegation was made in an exhaustive investigation by the Yahoo! Sports website of the booster's relationship with the program. That report was released Tuesday.

"In response to a recent news article, I can confirm that the NCAA has asked to speak with me regarding the time I spent at the University of Miami," Haith said in a statement Tuesday night.

"I am more than happy to cooperate with the national office on this issue and look forward to a quick resolution. The NCAA has instructed me not to comment further at this time in order to protect the integrity of their review, so I appreciate your understanding in this matter."

But Haith did add, "The reports questioning my personal interactions with Mr. Shapiro are not an accurate portrayal of my character."

The booster, Nevin Shapiro, in jail for his role in a \$930 million Ponzi scheme, told Yahoo of providing thousands of impermissible benefits to Miami athletes from 2002 through 2010.

In the article, Shapiro accuses Jake Morton, then a Haith assistant, of being the conduit for funds given to secure recruit DeQuan Jones and said Haith had later acknowledged the transaction in a one-on-one meeting.

Mizzou in the statement said it "will cooperate fully (with the NCAA) throughout this process."



Miami booster accuses Haith of NCAA violation

MU coach said to have acknowledged payoff to recruit in 2007.

By Steve Walentik

Published August 16, 2011 at 7:58 p.m., Updated August 16, 2011 at 6:59 p.m.

A former Miami booster alleged that Missouri basketball Coach Frank Haith acknowledged a \$10,000 payoff to secure a commitment from a recruit while coaching the Hurricanes in 2007.

A lengthy Yahoo! Sports investigation into Nevin Shapiro's activities over nine years as a Miami booster uncovered numerous alleged NCAA violations involving the Hurricanes football and basketball players and coaches.

Shapiro alleged that he paid \$10,000 to help secure the commitment of DeQuan Jones. Shapiro said the transaction was set up by assistant coach Jake Morton, who acted as the conduit for the funds. He also said the transaction was later acknowledged by Haith, who expressed gratitude to Shapiro for his role in Jones' recruitment during a meal in the summer of 2008, according to the Yahoo! report.

Shapiro, 42, is serving a 20-year sentence in federal prison for his role in a \$930 million Ponzi scheme.

Haith appears in two photographs with Shapiro that accompany the story. Shapiro told Yahoo! that in August 2008 Haith accompanied him and another man to the Solid Gold strip club, where Shapiro's credit card was charged \$3,765, and Prime 112 steakhouse. Shapiro's cell-phone records indicated 85 calls or texts between Haith and Shapiro between 2005 and March 2010.

Shapiro told Yahoo! that Morton returned the \$10,000 to his bodyguard in June 2010 after Shapiro was incarcerated. Shapiro said the money was returned after he left angry messages with Morton and Haith, complaining that they had stopped taking his calls after he went to jail and mentioning the \$10,000 he paid Jones.

In a MU news release, Haith acknowledged that the NCAA has asked to speak to him about his time at Miami but denied that the accuracy of the allegations.

“In response to a recent news article, I can confirm that the NCAA has asked to speak with me regarding the time I spent at the University of Miami,” he said in a statement released by Missouri Tuesday evening. “I am more than happy to cooperate with the national office on this issue and look forward to a quick resolution. The NCAA has instructed me not to comment further at this time in order to protect the integrity of their review, so I appreciate your understanding in this matter.

“The reports questioning my personal interactions with Mr. Shapiro are not an accurate portrayal of my character and per the above I am unable to comment further.”

Missouri also released a statement in response to the Yahoo! story.

“We are aware of today’s Yahoo! Sports story and the University of Missouri acknowledges that the NCAA has requested to speak with Coach Haith regarding his time at the University of Miami,” the statement read. “As a member of the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference, the University of Missouri will cooperate fully throughout this process. Per the NCAA’s request and guiding bylaws, we are unable to comment further in order to protect the integrity of their review.”

The former Miami assistant Morton, now at Western Kentucky, didn’t return a call seeking comment from Yahoo!.

MU's Haith denies 'acknowledging' payment to Miami recruit

Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith denies an allegation that he "acknowledged" a \$10,000 payment made to then-University of Miami recruit DeQuan Jones while Haith was the coach of that school's basketball program.

That allegation was but a single reference to wide-ranging NCAA violations detailed in a story by Yahoo Sports on Tuesday in which Nevin Shapiro — a former Miami booster now serving a 20-year federal prison sentence for his part in a \$930 million Ponzi scheme — said he provided impermissible benefits to at least 72 athletes during 2002-10 and implicated three football coaches and three basketball coaches, including Haith.

"The reports questioning my personal interactions with Mr. Shapiro are not an accurate portrayal of my character," Haith said in a statement released through the University of Missouri shortly before 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"The NCAA has instructed me not to comment further at this time in order to protect the integrity of their review."

But that allegation — and undoubtedly pictures of Haith and Shapiro published with the story — has made a splash at Missouri, which in April hired Haith to replace Arkansas-bound Mike Anderson in spite of the fact that Haith compiled a meager 43-69 record in Atlantic Coast Conference games while at Miami, going just 10-22 in his final two seasons.

MU athletic director Mike Alden did not return a telephone call placed by The Star on Tuesday. But the school statement said:

"The University of Missouri acknowledges that the NCAA has requested to speak with Coach Haith regarding his time at the University of Miami. As a member of the NCAA and the Big 12 Conference, the University of Missouri will cooperate fully throughout this process. Per the NCAA's request and guiding bylaws, we are unable to comment further ... "

Haith said he would be "more than happy to cooperate" with the NCAA and that he looks "forward to a quick resolution."

Shapiro told Yahoo Sports he paid \$10,000 to help secure the commitment of Jones, who is now a senior at Miami, with that transaction "set up by assistant coach Jake Morton in 2007."

Shapiro alleged Morton “acted as the conduit for the funds,” and that knowledge of the payment “was later acknowledged by head coach Frank Haith in a one-on-one conversation.”

Citing 100 hours of interviews with Shapiro over an 11-month investigation and the audit of thousands of pages of financial, business and cellphone records, the Yahoo Sports investigation paints a troubling picture of sports at Miami. The report says Shapiro said benefits he provided to athletes at Miami “included but were not limited to cash, prostitutes, entertainment in his multimillion-dollar homes and yacht, paid trips to high-end restaurants and nightclubs, jewelry, bounties for on-field play (including bounties for injuring opposing players), travel and, on one occasion, an abortion” for a woman impregnated by a player.

The story included a picture of Haith and Miami president Donna Shalala standing with Shapiro at what Yahoo reported was a Miami basketball fundraiser at which Shapiro gave \$50,000 to the basketball program in 2008.

Another picture accompanying the story shows Shapiro with Haith and Morton at Philippe Chow, a Miami restaurant.

The article further references deposed testimony in the Ponzi case from Chicago real estate investor Sherwin Jarol regarding strip-club visits that included Miami coaches and players.

According to the Yahoo story, “Jarol describes a pair of August 2008 visits to Solid Gold nightclub with Shapiro. He says ‘the coach of the Miami basketball’ team (Frank Haith) attended one trip.”

Also mentioned in the Yahoo investigation are current Kansas State football players Arthur and Bryce Brown of Wichita.

Arthur Brown, a linebacker, played two seasons at Miami before transferring to K-State. Bryce, a running back and the overall top player in the 2009 high school class, committed to Miami but eventually signed with Tennessee before transferring to K-State.

Shapiro told Yahoo that he provided dinner and a strip-club visit to Arthur Brown and lunch and hotel rooms for Brown, his brother, parents and family adviser Brian Butler in March 2008.

When contacted Tuesday night, Butler told The Star he and the Brown family did not realize Shapiro was a Miami booster.

“We asked him are you an agent or a street agent or a booster, and he told us no, that he was not,” Butler said.

“In our case, he did invite us to lunch and we did go to lunch, and he did reserve some rooms for us, for myself and Mr. Brown senior. Those things, I can say that he did.”

Butler added: “He just said he was a guy who loved Miami.”

The allegations against Miami are just the latest in what has been a string of NCAA investigations involving some of college football's most high-profile and successful programs. In the last 18 months, the football teams at Southern California, Ohio State, Auburn, Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia Tech and LSU all have either been investigated or sanctioned by the NCAA.

The series of scandals has led to calls for major reforms in the way the NCAA regulates and polices big-time college athletics. Commissioners of the major conferences, including Mike Slive from the SEC and Jim Delany from the Big Ten, have called for major changes and increased penalties for rule-breakers.

Last week, NCAA President Mark Emmert led a group of university presidents in laying out an outline for changes, including raising academic standards, streamlining the rulebook and changing the parameters of athletic scholarships.

The Star's Kellis Robinett and The Associated Press contributed to this report.