

AUG 24 2012

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM Press future still unclear after MU Faculty Council meeting

By Lizzie Johnson

August 23, 2012 | 8:34 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — A visit from former MU Chancellor Richard Wallace left members of the MU Faculty Council with more questions than answers Thursday.

Wallace, now interim vice chancellor for development and alumni relations at MU, spoke about the status of the University of Missouri Press closure at the council's regularly scheduled meeting in Memorial Union South.

"I don't know where (University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe's) heart was in the beginning," Wallace said. "Right now, I believe he shares with us two things: This university must have a strong academic press. I truly believe he believes that. He is a strong believer that this press should be on (the MU) campus."

On the council's agenda was a motion to vote on a resolution opposing the closure of the press, but confusion about whether or not the closure will move forward as designed led the council to table the resolution until more information is available.

"I feel very confident we will hear more soon," Wallace said. "And although it won't please everyone, we will recognize it as progress."

At the meeting, some council members expressed confusion about whether the press will continue to be operated by the UM System and how a new press would be overseen.

"We need to go back to the original point where the decision was made and start from there, not from the mess we are in now," MU management professor Art Jago said.

Wallace suggested creating an advisory board to oversee the new press. The board would be made up of faculty representatives from all four campuses, students and staff from MU and external stakeholders, such as other publishers and authors.

Invitations to nominate advisory members from MU will be sent to council members next week.

Former press editor-in-chief Clair Wilcox said Thursday the press is still operating, although employees are being phased out. Three people will leave their positions next week, he said, followed by two more in October.

"The best way to describe it is it's in a state of transition," Wilcox said. "Business should be proceeding as usual, but it's impossible because the booksellers and other sellers have no faith that the press is going to continue to supply books."

Missourian reporter Keith Reid-Cleveland contributed to this report.

Supervising editor is Zach Murdock.

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UM Press talk continues at Faculty Council

By Caroline Bauman and Savannah Kannberg

At a Faculty Council meeting Thursday, former MU Chancellor Richard Wallace spoke with council members about the future of the University of Missouri Press as it moves to MU.

On Aug. 6, the MU Faculty Council executive committee met with MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and UM System President Tim Wolfe to address the current state of the press. Among topics discussed was the appointment of an advisory committee for the press as it transitions this year. Wallace and UM System Assistant Vice President Deborah Noble-Triplett were designated to lead the transition.

“I hoped to have invitations (to nominate members for the committee) in your hand,” Wallace said at the Faculty Council meeting. “But it’s taking more time to get things done.”

The invitations, along with more information on the current state of the press, will be made available next week, Wallace said.

The committee will be made up of Faculty Council representatives from all four UM campuses, he also said.

“We need the help of a committee and the help of this faculty,” Wallace said.

The advice gleaned from the committee will then go on to Deaton, Wolfe and Noble-Triplett. In addition, Wallace said they will act upon their advice.

“Far more than that (group) will be listening,” Wallace said.

The press was formally a part of the UM System and was not located on any of the four campuses. The current plan for the new, “reimagined” press is for it to be integrated into MU with a campus-wide model, according to a UM press release.

Wolfe had originally decided to close the press in May. At the Faculty Council meeting, Wallace was asked if he thought Wolfe had a change of heart in regard to the press.

“Right now I can only say two things: this university must have a strong academic press, and the press would be best on this campus,” Wallace said.

Faculty Council chairman Harry Tyrer said he was told at least twice at the meeting on Aug. 6 that the press is still currently operating.

But a note on the UM Press website said the press is being phased out of its current operations.

Despite this, Noble-Triplett said the UM System will keep the UM Press in place until the move occurs.

Clair Willcox, former editor-in-chief of the press, was also present at the Faculty Council meeting Thursday. Willcox, a longtime press staff member, said he was the first of the press staff to be laid off.

"Next week, three more will be eliminated," Willcox said. "It will be down to four (press staff members) by the end of October."

Faculty Council member Stephen Montgomery-Smith said he was concerned with how unfairly the UM Press employees have been treated, and he implored people to consider rehiring the staff.

Wallace said not all of the employees were fired.

Wallace also said he was confident there would be more information available soon, but it "won't please everyone."

"I am not in the position of defending or explaining," he said. "I'm here to help us move forward."

Following the meeting, Willcox said he was worried about the future of the press.

"It's a phony press and a bogus press and isn't going to stay afloat," he said.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MU names interim medical dean

COLUMBIA, Mo. • The University of Missouri medical school has named an interim dean to replace the 25-year university employee who is stepping down after a federal investigation into potential Medicare billing fraud.

Dr. Leslie Hall is a clinical medicine professor and chief medical officer at the University of Missouri Health Care system. He succeeds Dr. Robert Churchill, a former radiology department chairman who is retiring in October.

The school announced Churchill's departure in June while also revealing an investigation by the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas City involving Medicare violations by a pair of since-fired radiology professors.

An internal investigation by the school found that the two doctors falsely said they reviewed X-rays but instead relied solely on resident physicians, a violation of Medicare and hospital rules.



MU Health chief plans to retire

Published August 23, 2012 at 3:48 p.m.

University of Missouri Health Care CEO Jim Ross will retire at the end of the year, the health system announced Thursday afternoon.

Ross will be replaced by Mitch Wasden, MU Health Care's chief operating officer, effective Jan. 1. Wasden will serve as chief executive officer and chief operating officer. He joined the system in June and previously led Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La.

"Jim Ross has left a legacy of truly stellar accomplishments for us to build upon," Hal Williamson, vice chancellor of the health system, said in a news release. Ross joined MU Health Care in 2004.

Williamson's statement specifically cited the system being named as one of two top hospitals in Missouri by U.S. News and World Report and earning honors for its quality and technology. It also pointed to the creation of the Women's and Children's Hospital, the new Missouri Orthopaedic Institute and the new patient tower being added to University Hospital.

Another notable change under Ross' tenure has been a partnership with Cerner Corp. to create the Tiger Institute for Health Innovation, he said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Health Care CEO to retire; interim School of Medicine dean named

By Liz Stratman

August 23, 2012 | 7:38 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri Health System announced Thursday the retirement of James Ross, chief executive officer of MU Health Care, and the appointment of Leslie Hall as interim dean of the MU School of Medicine.

Ross joined MU Health Care in April 2004 as its CEO. He previously served 14 years as a health care administrator in Greenville, N.C., and then as president and chief operating officer of what was then known as University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

Under Ross's leadership, MU Health Care was named one of two top hospitals in Missouri by U.S. News & World Report, earned "most wired" hospital status by the publication Hospitals & Health Networks and received the Missouri Quality Award, according to the news release. In addition, he created Missouri's only women and children's hospital.

Ross's retirement is effective Dec. 31. Mitch Wasden, MU Health Care's chief operating officer, has been appointed CEO and COO, effective Jan. 1.

Hall has served as senior associate dean for clinical affairs at the School of Medicine and chief medical officer for MU Health Care since 2008, according to the news release. He joined the MU School of Medicine faculty in January 1999.

Hall also served as the associate program director for MU's internal medicine residency program for five years, earning the Paul C. J. Sun, M.D. Distinguished Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching. He was involved in planning the women and children's hospital.

Robert Churchill, dean of the School of Medicine, is set to retire Oct. 31. The retirement was announced at a June 1 news conference about allegations of billing fraud at MU Health Care, according to a previous Missourian report.

Supervising editor is Simina Mistreanu.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

San Francisco Chronicle



Spirituality May Boost Mental Health: Study

THURSDAY, Aug. 23 (HealthDay News) -- Spirituality can be uplifting for your mental health, according to a new study.

University of Missouri researchers examined the results of three surveys that asked Buddhists, Catholics, Jews, Muslims and Protestants about their personalities, levels of spirituality and physical and mental health.

Among people in all five faiths, a greater degree of spirituality was associated with better mental health -- specifically lower levels of neuroticism and greater extraversion. After considering personality variables, the researchers concluded that forgiveness was the only spiritual trait predictive of mental health.

The study recently appeared in the *Journal of Religion and Health*.

Spirituality may help people's mental health by reducing their self-centeredness and developing their sense of belonging to a larger whole, said study co-author Dan Cohen, an assistant teaching professor of religious studies.

"In many ways, the results of our study support the idea that spirituality functions as a personality trait," Cohen said in a university news release. "With increased spirituality, people reduce their sense of self and feel a greater sense of oneness and connectedness with the rest of the universe. What was interesting was that frequency of participation in religious activities or the perceived degree of congregational support was not found to be significant in the relationships between personality, spirituality, religion and health."

"Our prior research shows that the mental health of people recovering from different medical conditions, such as cancer, stroke, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury, appears to be related significantly to positive spiritual beliefs and especially congregational support and spiritual interventions," Cohen said. "Spiritual beliefs may be a coping device to help individuals deal emotionally with stress."

The relationship between spirituality and health could prove helpful in health care, the researchers suggested. For example, treatments and rehabilitation programs could be tailored to accommodate a person's spiritual beliefs. Although the study found an association between spirituality and mental health, it did not prove a cause-and-effect relationship.



Civility talk at MU stirs debate

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, August 23, 2012

A new University of Missouri campaign calling for civility on campus is simply a common-sense conversation about respect, proponents say.

A few skeptics, though, worry "civility" is a loaded word that might be used to silence detractors. Show-Me Respect, an effort that officially kicks off in October, is the culmination of observations and a campus climate survey that revealed some students and employees experience harassment and disrespect, said Noel English, director of MU's Equity Office. Although that's not unique — dozens of other universities also have launched civility campaigns — "we don't want that happening," she said.

The civility campaign aims to address a range of problems, such as bullying, racial incidents and unruly classrooms, said Clyde Bentley, an associate journalism professor on the campaign's committee. But he acknowledged that Show-Me Respect aims to encourage professors to mind their manners, too.

Nicole Monnier, an associate teaching professor of Russian and a member of MU's Faculty Council, is OK with that. Students are often told to be respectful of other opinions in class, and she thinks faculty should be open to adhering to the same standards.

"I think there should be a discussion of civility on this campus," she said.

But professors who have had run-ins with administrators wonder whether the conversation might lead to practices that affect faculty. Last year, professors in the College of Engineering accused

Greg Engel, an associate professor, of being disrespectful and unsuccessfully tried to strip his tenure through a faculty irresponsibility charge.

"The possibility of a civility doctrine is a real concern," Engel said. "I'm not saying people shouldn't be civil. I'm saying it's dangerous to have a committee discuss this and write a report that administrators could take and say, 'Now we have a civility doctrine we can enforce when angry people speak out against administration.' "

Bentley and English said the committee has no plan to turn civility conversations into rules. Doing so, Bentley said, would defeat the purpose of a bottom-up effort to promote respect.

Galen Suppes, a chemical engineering professor, said his concern would be that civility would be superficial.

"If there becomes a major emphasis on this, I could readily see administrators who are doing absolutely horrible things behind the scenes using this term against people they want to find something against," he said, adding that he's more interested in people being "real."

English said she would be interested in hearing faculty concerns. John Budd, a professor in the College of Education, suggested a forum where professors could get a better grasp of how the committee is defining civility.

"If it simply means courtesy, then OK, that's one thing," Budd said. "If it means accepting everybody's opinion as potential fact, that's another thing."

The Show-Me Respect website provides a list of traits associated with incivility — including rude behavior, giving someone a dirty look or speaking in a condescending tone. Interpretations can vary: Suppes said he was recently at a faculty meeting where a colleague yelled at him for not being civil. And Engel's department chair last year left him off department-wide emails, which Monnier said could constitute an academic "silent treatment" — also a no-no on the list of uncivil behaviors.

Bentley said the concept should be simple.

"Can't we just make an effort to be civil people?" he asked. "I think it's sad people are so suspicious they can't allow for an effort to be better citizens."