

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

**MU chancellor talks about salaries,
Cerner, Nebraska game**

By Carla Jimenez

October 6, 2009 | 2:19 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — David Walsh stepped to the microphone at a noon forum on Tuesday with MU Chancellor Brady Deaton and said he wants to know where his money goes.

Walsh was among a host of people who turned out at Monsanto Auditorium in the Bond Life Sciences Center to hear about changes for MU. The chancellor spoke about a research program, a medical records partnership and the Nebraska game for about half an hour before taking questions for about 45 minutes. Attendees asked about faculty and staff salaries.

Walsh, a full-time staff member in the acquisitions department at Ellis Library, said paychecks are decreasing for service staff at the university. Walsh pointed out new mandatory pension contributions and an anticipated increase in the cost of health benefits for faculty and staff.

"We're living paycheck to paycheck," Walsh said. "So money is a big issue." He said the people he represents — the staff who work "in the trenches" — get discouraged when their concerns aren't aired.

Deaton acknowledged Walsh's concerns but said salaries won't increase next year. He said it was a UM System-wide decision that he doesn't have control over. The system instituted a wage freeze in November 2008.

He also said that funds will first be directed into "problematic areas."

"We have to ensure the future direction of the university," Deaton said.

During his talk, Deaton said the university has received more money because of increasing enrollment.

But Provost Brian Foster said in an interview that \$4 million of that will go into the initial phases of Mizzou Advantage, a program aimed at trying to keep MU competitive in its strong areas, such as veterinary medicine.

The program aims to increase research activities and recognition for the university. Under Mizzou Advantage, five key areas — areas where MU has comparative advantages — would be addressed.

Deaton also brought up the Cerner Corp. partnership and the issues surrounding it. He said a small group of employees at MU Health Care would become Cerner employees, but he was quick to assure that they are "trying to retain the culture of employment" at MU. Out of 123 MU Health Care employees affected, 100 will become Cerner employees.

UM System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said in an interview the transition will begin Jan. 1. She said salaries are being negotiated.

Deaton also talked about Thursday evening's Nebraska game. Ann Patton, a programmer analyst expert for MU, aired concerns about parking on Friday morning.

Jacquelyn Jones, the vice chancellor for administrative services and one of the panelists for the meeting, addressed Patton's concern.

"There were going to be issues Friday morning as well," Jones said. "Everyone needs to be prepared to be very patient and flexible."



IT outsourcing puts MU Health at risk

Decisions by curators reason for low ranking.

By EDDIE ADELSTEIN

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

If you wonder who should get the credit for the University of Missouri's ranking by U.S. News and World Report of 102 out of 110 national colleges, look no further than the UM Board of Curators. These are political appointees who generally have little training in higher education and often bring their own agendas to their leadership position. I offer my review of two recent decisions, one dealing with MU's low national ratings and the second with outsourcing MU Health Care's information technology (IT) from local control to a Kansas City company.

The U.S. News and World Report ranking is based on fundamental issues such as size of classes, peer review, number of tenured faculty, number of part-time faculty, rate of graduation and cost.

MU's rank fell despite the facts that enrollment is up, students are generally happy and the campus has become a garden paradise. The downward trend — from 73 in 2005 to 102 in 2009 — indicates this administration has not addressed the educational component that defines a university.

The frightening solution to our ratings offered by the Board of Curators is to set goals in key areas. Each measure comes with a target and a comparison with peer averages. To make this more understandable, a stoplight color code will be assigned. UM President Gary Forsee has indicated he will hire an outside auditor to ensure all 80 measurements are reasonable. Forsee added these parameters could be used in determining the salaries of university employees. It is hard from his business perspective, where more than 4,000 employees lost jobs, not to find mechanisms that can frighten university employees.

The obvious answer to make this a better university is to increase tenured faculty, provide secure opportunities to the non-tenured faculty, limit class sizes to make more small classes and reduce the cost of tuition. The faculty and staff salaries are low, yet we have money to build giant scoreboards and tear down Brady Commons to make a more beautiful complex.

The most important thing we do is make contact with students, thus encouraging them to complete their education. Bright, creative faculty members always challenge the present system, yet we continue to select safe team players.

University Hospital's success depends largely on the effectiveness of the people in information technology. In the past on two occasions, the billing was so flawed the hospital faced serious fiscal problems. The most recent one was in 2002, when the hospital's viability was threatened. The major issue was the inability to produce accurate and timely billings, which cost the system millions of dollars. University Hospital cannot afford another billing fiasco.

So Forsee's recent closed meeting with curators to discuss the outsourcing of the IT service to Cerner in Kansas City caused a good deal of concern. It appears he is prone to make the same top-down decisions that were unsuccessful when he directed a large communications network.

His decision is tainted by facts revealed in the Tribune that "Forsee has several business and personal ties to the company (Cerner). Forsee and Cerner CEO Neal Patterson serve together on at least two boards of trustees, and online records indicate Forsee's son-in-law, Brandon Bell, works for Cerner." These disclosures do not indicate wrongdoing but do raise the level of concern as to whom this decision would benefit.

Cerner is one of the largest software companies in the United States that deals with medical information and electronic records. We are using the Cerner system.

The medical school's administrative residency program is on probation and is undergoing critical review; a major factor is that the Cerner system is so cumbersome that resident training is compromised.

A simple Internet search turns up a plethora of complaints and reports of lawsuits regarding the effectiveness of Cerner's software and, more important, its failure to provide requested support. The pattern of receiving untested software has been a recurring problem at this institution. Three years ago, the radiology department dropped a Cerner software program because it was seriously flawed. I always admired the courage of the radiology chairman for cutting his losses. Most institutions become so financially committed to Cerner they cannot get out without admitting they made a serious administrative blunder.

At this time, billing at the hospital is much improved and patient satisfaction is up. CEO Jim Ross is given excellent support from interim medical school Dean Robert Churchill and Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs Hal Williamson. The future looks bright.

We cannot afford to gamble on outsourcing to enhance the current system. The ability to get local fixes is extremely important. We have developed a strong local IT department, and if we lose this local option, we are forever locked into a system that often does not serve our needs.

Taking away this option will be cataclysmic to the financial future of this institution.

Eddie Adelstein, an associate professor of pathology at MU, is Boone County deputy medical examiner.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

LETTER: It's time for MU to lessen its use of coal

By Kyle Matthias

October 6, 2009 | 9:51 a.m. CDT

Sept. 29 was the National Day of Action to expose the adverse effects of coal. Students of MU walked around campus, gathering photo petitions to send to the EPA to display their objection to the use of coal as a power source. I am glad to say that 210 petitions were created.

With the dedication of the MU students, it should come as no surprise that we were able to produce such a strong effort on this National Day of Action. However, MU still gets 80 percent of its energy from coal.

Any way you look at it, coal is destructive to the environment. It is an incredibly dirty and polluting source of energy. And according to the World Coal Institute, the use of coal will increase by 60 percent in the next 20 years. This means that we will be depleting the Earth's source of coal at an even more rapid pace than presently and creating a dirtier atmosphere.

It is possible to lessen our dependence on coal. We can cut down on energy needs by employing conservation and energy efficiency plans. Conservation is becoming the core of many clubs on campus and has grabbed the attention of many administrators. By bringing conservation to the forefront of concerns around campus, MU is taking the first vital step in creating a university that is not as reliant on coal.

Kyle Matthias is a student at MU.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

LETTER: Coal's price tag is not cheap

By Mallory Schillinger

October 6, 2009 | 3:32 p.m. CDT

It's great to see articles on MU students taking action about coal. Coal is the most destructive form of energy that we use on a daily basis. These students are on the right path, and I am happy they are shedding light on how urgent it is to stop the use of coal.

It is always said that coal is still around because it is cheap; however, it is not when you take in all the aspects — especially the health of our community. One in six women has mercury levels too high to bear healthy children. Babies born with too much mercury in their blood are at risk for physical and mental disabilities. Isn't our next generation's health too high of a price to pay for energy?

Renewables cannot wait until the future; the time is now. MU should be a leader on this issue because this is a burden our generation must take on. Renewable energy is what we need for a clean and sustainable future, and I urge the MU administration to take proactive steps to make clean energy on campus a reality.

Mallory Schillinger is an MU student who lives in Columbia.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

New teleconferencing system to get workout with McCaskill forum

By Ben Wieder

October 6, 2009 | 12:31 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Sen. Claire McCaskill will participate in a multicampus virtual roundtable on student financial aid on Oct. 23 using a new telepresence system in the University of Missouri System, UM System President Gary Forsee said Tuesday morning.

McCaskill will meet with Forsee and financial aid directors and enrollment managers on all four UM System campuses, system spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said. It will be the first high-profile use of the telepresence system since it was formally introduced on Sept. 28. The system, a network that connects the four campuses internally and to other facilities across the world, is meant to foster collaboration.

It's also available for use by anyone on campus for free.

Hollingshead was unable to confirm whether the discussion will be open to the public. Maria Speiser, McCaskill's press secretary, was unable to confirm the event is occurring. But Forsee deemed the event important enough to include in a keynote address at the Internet2 member meeting in San Antonio.

In remarks carried over the Internet, Forsee spoke about the importance of using networking technology to foster collaboration among researchers and connect UM services, including health care, to constituents across the state, particularly in rural areas.

The UM telepresence system, manufactured by Cisco Systems Inc., is a high-definition video teleconferencing network, which Forsee described in his address as a "key asset." He estimated that it has already saved the UM System a half-million dollars in travel costs.

Telecommunications offers the opportunity to establish new revenue streams, Forsee said, and enhance collaborations with the business world. AT&T Inc. and Cisco, previously described by MU as "strategic advanced technology partners," provided equipment, technical support and networking for the telepresence system. Executives from both companies joined Forsee via teleconference for the unveiling.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

What you need to know for MU-Nebraska parking

By Michelle Hagopian

October 7, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — When the Missouri Tigers face off against Nebraska's Cornhuskers on Thursday, it will be the first midweek game hosted by MU in 17 years. Tens of thousands are expected to flood Memorial Stadium for the 8 p.m. game, which will be nationally televised on ESPN.

The influx of people means that thousands of students and employees will be displaced from their parking spaces in lots and garages surrounding the stadium by 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tiger Scholarship Fund donor parking and public parking lots will open at 4:30 p.m.

Chad Moller, MU athletics department spokesman, said the game is expected to sell out, reaching the stadium's 71,004 official capacity. Officials are emphasizing the importance of fan cooperation, as the MU campus will experience dense traffic and crowds throughout the evening.

Here's what fans, the MU community and Columbia residents need to know:

- The university will not cancel classes or close campus for this game. However, some teachers are canceling class or dismissing early.
- Jim Joy, director of MU Parking and Transportation Services, said more than 7,000 MU students and 800 employees may expect to relocate their cars by 4 p.m. from parking lots and garages around Memorial Stadium on Thursday.
- Students who park in lots such as Hearnes Center are required to move their cars to any lot, garage or metered parking space north of Rollins Street.
- Parking lots will open to the public at 4:30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. kickoff.

- Students, faculty and staff with permits may park in Tiger Scholarship Fund donor lots and parking garages until noon on Thursday. Those who choose to leave a lot or garage after 12 p.m. will not be allowed re-entry.
- MU Police Department encourages students, faculty and staff with permits to return to their original parking spaces before 8 a.m. Friday to prevent morning traffic.
- MU Parking and Transportation Services is encouraging workplaces downtown and on campus to send employees home by 3 p.m. Thursday to avoid traffic congestion.
- Expect traffic delays in the late afternoon and evening, especially from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. and 7:15 to 8 p.m.
- The Maryland Avenue parking garage and Parking Structure No. 7 near University Hospital will not be open to the public for parking as it typically is for Saturday home games. These garages will be restricted to student and employee parking only, Joy said.
- Because of these garage restrictions, there will be about 2,000 fewer game-day parking spaces than normal.
- The five on-campus garages open to the public free of charge are Conley Avenue, Hitt Street, Turner Avenue, University Avenue and Virginia Avenue.
- Reactor Field (Lot R) is reserved for media and employees only and will not be available to the public.
- RVs and buses are allowed to park in certain areas. Go to MizzouGameday.com for more information.
- Tiger Scholarship Fund donors shouldn't arrive earlier than 4:30 p.m. to park in donor lots. Those arriving early will have to circle around and wait for the lots to open.
- MU Police Department towed nearly 100 cars in donor lots in the first two home games of the year. MU Police Chief Jack Watring said that towing and ticketing

are always possible, but that the department will be lenient in handling parking in this case.

- The city of Columbia will offer alternative bus and shuttle routes, but expect pedestrian and construction delays as you would for a Saturday game. The complete route schedule can be found on the city's [Web site](#).
- Tailgating lots will open at 4:30 p.m. instead of five hours prior to game time like usual.
- According to [MizzouGameday.com](#), the following roads are restricted to permit holders only starting at 5 p.m. Thursday and will remain closed after the game until determined by law enforcement: Monk Drive, Mick Deaver Drive, Mick Deaver Extension, Research Drive and Champions Drive.
- Missouri Department of Transportation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol prohibit parking on the shoulder of either side of Providence Road, from Stadium Boulevard south to Reactor Field. Cones are placed on the prohibited areas to facilitate pedestrian walkways to the stadium on Providence.
- MU Police Department will have about 100 people working under its jurisdiction Thursday, which includes parking lot, garage and traffic enforcement, as well as campus and stadium safety.
- The police department will monitor tailgating more closely after the minor incidents on Providence Road that occurred before the MU-Furman game. Watring said police discourage placing tailgating tents near the gutter of the road because it creates a dangerous situation on a busy road.
- Watring said everyone on campus should be tolerant of others as this is a large event and will take time to organize.
- Those who leave near or at the end of the game should expect to wait in traffic at least 20 to 30 minutes after it ends for fans to clear the stadium and cross major intersections. Watring said it took nearly two hours to clear all traffic after MU's game against Bowling Green. Keep in mind that the Nebraska game is projected to sell out.

- Watring said fans should refer to MizzouGameday.com for complete information and what to expect for pre- and post-game traffic flow, and to call the MU Police Department at 882-7201 in case of game-day difficulties.
- Columbia Parks and Recreation deliberately did not schedule softball games this Thursday because of the game.

Sources:

mizzougameday.com

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/PublicWorks/Transportation/footballshuttle.php>

Chad Moller, MU Athletics spokesman

Jim Joy, MU Parking and Transportation Services director

Jack Watring, MUPD police chief

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Heavy rain possible during Missouri-Nebraska game Thursday

By Bethany Jones

October 7, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — If you attend the MU-Nebraska game, bring your poncho, because there's a 90 percent chance of rain, and it could be heavy at times.

"Thursday, there is a 90 percent chance of rain, and during the game it will probably rain about a half-inch to an inch," National Weather Service Meteorologist Jim Kramper said.

Umbrellas are prohibited from Memorial Stadium, but rain ponchos and boots are allowed.

"Umbrellas are not allowed because of safety and visibility. Not many stadiums allow them," Athletics Department spokesman Chad Moller said.

Kramper explained that a front will become stationary across Missouri and Illinois and an area of low pressure will move from Oklahoma to southwest Missouri on Thursday and Thursday night. Rain will probably be heaviest before 7 p.m., Kramper said.

"There will most likely be a total of one to three inches for Thursday," Kramper said.