Presidential Update  
April 13, 2009

Exciting things happen each day on the University of Central Missouri campus. These periodic updates share important news, recognitions, and progress reports regarding ongoing and new initiatives. Updates can be found at http://www.ucmo.edu/about/president/letters.cfm.

- Aaron Podolefsky

Energy Performance Contract

On March 30, UCM’s Board of Governors authorized the university to enter into an energy performance contract with Trane Corporation. The contract, also referred to as ESCO, will address priorities related to the management of energy and its consumption on campus; promote the university’s efforts to enhance sustainability as it moves towards becoming a more green campus; and address the backlog of deferred maintenance that currently exists at UCM.

The backlog of maintenance needs covers some 1.8 million square feet of university academic and administrative building space. Extensive energy efficiency measures made possible through the agreement will include efforts such as the installation of new energy efficient HVAC systems, new hot water distribution systems; installation of more energy-efficient lighting; replacing heating and cooling controls; new roofs and windows on some buildings; efforts to improve indoor air quality in classrooms; improved air handling systems; and reduction of noise in certain areas. These improvements will be made over an 18-month period, and UCM will have 15 years to pay for them through annual guaranteed energy savings, annual reallocation of UCM’s maintenance and repair budget, and an annual reduction in facilities operation and maintenance activity. The total cost for the energy performance contract is $36.1 million. We will basically reduce our carbon footprint and enhance our energy efficiency by using dollars that would be going to annual maintenance, repair and energy costs anyway.

A special ceremony is planned Friday, May 1 on campus to announce specific details of this effort. More information will be sent to you on through campus email as plans are finalized.

Airport Development Project Receives Stimulus Funding

We’ve learned that the university will receive $2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act toward our Swisher Skyhaven Airport development initiatives. The funding is made possible through the efforts of the Missouri Department of Transportation. This new
federal appropriation will help pay for ground leveling and concrete work on 43,000 square feet of airport property. A new apron will be built, accommodating up to 50 university- and privately-owned aircraft, and the university will move forward with concrete work north of the existing terminal building. This space will serve as the future site for construction of six 10-bay T-hangars. An access road connecting to the existing east-west access road will be constructed leading to the hangars and future terminal area. The hangars and the new terminal will be built when funds become available.

The university is grateful for the support it has received from MODOT as well as its federal and state legislative officials. Over the past two years, the university has received nearly $5 million in state and federal funds toward airport improvement projects.

**HJR 32 – Capital Bonding for Higher Education**

Representative Chris Kelly’s House Joint Resolution 32 came before the House Special Standing Committee on Infrastructure & Transportation Funding March 31. Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the General Assembly to issue up to $700 million in bonds to provide funding for higher education capital projects. The resolution creates the “Fifth State Building and Interest Fund” for the payment of the bonds and to secure interest earned.

Specific construction initiatives are not contained within the resolution. However, Representative Kelly has worked with the Missouri Department of Higher Education to compile a projects list containing each institution’s top capital priority as well as the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative construction projects that are currently suspended. Included in the listing for UCM is $55 million for construction of a new science and math facility.

Representatives from many of the universities were present for the hearing, and Ann Pearce, chief of staff in my office, testified in support on UCM’s behalf. The resolution was voted due pass out of committee and has been referred to Rules. There seems to be quite a bit of support among legislators for this initiative and we are hoping it will go to a vote of Missouri citizens.

**Legislation to Amend Access Missouri Funding Levels**

Hearings were held in both the Senate and House last week with regard to bills proposing equalization of Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program funding among private and public institutions (SB390/HB792). Ann Pearce represented the Board of Governors as well as UCM’s Student Government Association in support of the bills. Phil Shreves, UCM director of Student Financial Assistance, also testified in support at the Senate hearing. This first round of hearings was to allow testimony from proponents of the bills. The committees will also get to hear from the bills’ opponents.

**Higher Education M&R Funding Initiative**

There is support in both the House and Senate to appropriate funds from the federal economic stimulus program for higher education maintenance and repair. This would be a tremendous boost to our efforts to create the best possible working and learning environments.
Morrow-Garrison/Student Recreation and Wellness Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

As a reminder, the groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation/construction of Morrow-Garrison/Student Recreation and Wellness Center is scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, April 23, on the South Quadrangle.

Byler Distinguished Faculty Award

The 2009 recipient of the Byler Distinguished Faculty Award is Eric Honour, associate professor of music. He will receive special recognition during spring commencement ceremonies. Congratulations!

Professional Staff Honors Rutt

I also want to congratulate Beth Rutt, director of campus activities. She was honored today by the Professional Staff Council as recipient of the John Paul Mees Award for Outstanding Professional Staff.

Regional Recognition for Warrensburg Area Partners in Prevention

Many of you are aware that UCM is a partner of Warrensburg Area Partners in Prevention (WAPIP). WAPIP received regional recognition for promoting the responsible sale, service and consumption of alcohol and was presented the Tempe Humphrey Memorial Award during the “Meeting of the Minds: Networking for Success in Prevention” conference in Kansas City April 2-4. The Tempe Humphrey Memorial Award was created three years ago in honor of a former operations specialist for the Missouri Division of Highway Safety who was killed while riding as a passenger on a motorcycle.

WAPIP has provided input and support for efforts, including a new city ordinance designed to prevent underage drinking in local establishments that sell alcohol, and stronger compliance measures.

UCM Human Capital Academy Receives 2008 Partnership Award

UCM’s Human Capital Academy through the School of Graduate and Extended Studies, was awarded the 2008 Partnership Award at the Full Employment Council's Annual JOBS meeting in Kansas City on March 18. The Human Capital Academy matches the human capital needs of expanding employers (demand) with the available source of displaced workers (supply). The program is an innovative and effective answer to re-skilling and re-employing recently displaced workers. Since the academy's inception, over 300 students have completed the program and most graduates have been guaranteed employment with companies such as Pinkerton Security, NCO Financial, Convergys and Time Warner. More information on the program can be viewed at: http://www.feckc.org/Whats_New.htm

UCM Summit Center Recognition

UCM's Summit Center was recognized as one of the top three non-profit/charitable businesses by the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber recognizes five separate award categories that best represent business in motion – non-profit/charitable, entrepreneur, small, medium, and large.
Over 100 businesses were nominated for the awards and 37 businesses were selected to present at the business showcase. During the March meeting, UCM's Summit Center, along with Saint Luke's East - Lee's Summit and Truman Medical Center - Lakewood, were recognized as the Top three award winners in the nonprofit/charitable division. The awards task force will conduct a site visit of the top three winners sometime between now and the end of April to determine the recipient of the Business of the Year Award presented in May.

**Who’s Who at UCM and Charno Awards Reception**

Each year, UCM presents Charno Awards to the senior man and woman who are considered to be the outstanding students of the university’s graduating class. These awards will be announced during a special reception 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 in the Charno Room of the Elliott Union. The recipients also will receive special recognition during the spring commencement ceremonies. Students receiving membership into Who’s Who at UCM will be recognized at the reception, as well. Students named to Who’s Who are selected from the pool of students nominated for the Charno Award.

**Spring Commencement**

With the spring comes the celebration of student achievement. UCM’s spring commencement is scheduled for Friday, May 8, with the Graduate Commencement ceremony, followed by undergraduate ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9. I hope that many of you will plan to come out and join in the celebration.