Presidential Update
December 16, 2008

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. These campus updates can be found at http://www.ucmo.edu/about/president/letters.cfm.

- Aaron Podolefsky

Committee on Transfer & Articulation (COTA)

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has an established Committee on Transfer & Articulation (COTA) to review and make recommendations on transfer issues, to study and develop transfer guidelines for traditional and non-traditional credits, and to review and recommend resolutions on cases of appeal from institutions or students. Missouri Commissioner of Higher Education Robert Stein recently contacted me to ask if I would chair COTA, and I have agreed. My appointment as chair will become effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Update on Key Performance Indicators

With Board of Governors approval of the UCM Strategic Plan in late October, the Strategic Planning and Resource Council (SPRC) began development of Key Performance Indicators for the university. The council developed an initial list of proposed KPI’s and solicited feedback. Based on these inputs, a subcommittee was formed to further define the KPI’s. The subcommittee reported back with approximately 40 proposed indicators for discussion at the Dec. 4 meeting. The subcommittee has solicited feedback from the SPRC and the Faculty Senate, with comments due by mid-January. The KPI list will then be refined and forwarded to the SPRC as an agenda item in January.
**Update Regarding ESCO Effort**

UCM, in concert with its energy consultant, S& S Engineering, Inc. of Overland Park, KS, (retained to work with UCM in identifying opportunities for energy savings and green campus initiatives), developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit an Energy Services Company (ESCO) for the purpose of providing a comprehensive solution for sustainability and deferred maintenance needs for the campus. The RFP was let to four companies pre-approved by the state of Missouri to be viable ESCO partners. Following a thorough evaluation of the proposals received, it was determined that Trane U.S., Inc. offered the best response, and that the university should engage that company as its ESCO partner to undertake an Investment Grade Audit. It is anticipated the audit review will take at least three months, after which a presentation will be made to the Board of Governors seeking approval for any specific measures recommended by the university for energy savings or for reduction of the campus carbon footprint.

**Progress on UCM Student Recreation and Wellness Center Bond Issuance**

Preparation of the various bond documents and Standard & Poor’s credit assessment process for the Student Recreation and Wellness Center is currently underway and progressing very smoothly. In fact, we are currently ahead of the original schedule. Once all of the legal documents are completed and UCM receives its Standard & Poor’s credit rating, we will be able to proceed with the bond issuance for this project. Edward Jones, UCM’s bond underwriter for the project, projects that it will be able to establish the interest rates for the bonds Jan. 21, 2009.

**Commencement**

Fall 2008 commencement ceremonies were conducted Dec. 12 (one graduate ceremony) and Dec. 13 (two undergraduate ceremonies). A graduate of UCM’s criminal justice administration program, Mark S. James was awarded an honorary UCM Doctor of Laws degree in recognition of his 30-year career achievements in the criminal justice profession. Currently, he is director of the Missouri Department of Public Safety which consists of 11 state governmental units including Homeland Security, Highway Patrol, and Alcohol, Tobacco Control, among others.

More than 600 graduates participated in the ceremonies while their families and friends enjoyed the comfort of the new Multipurpose Building seating. Installation of the new seating began in early fall 2008 and was just recently completed. The entire south side bleachers were replaced and the lower section of the north side bleachers were replaced with seat back chairs. The old bleachers served their useful life of more than 30 years as the Multipurpose Building opened in 1976.

**Season’s Greetings**

As you know, UCM will close its campus beginning on Dec. 20, 2008, and resume operations on Monday, Jan. 5, 2009. Since announcing this last week, I have received many positive comments regarding the extended break. I appreciate everyone’s hard work this year and would like to wish you all a very happy and restful holiday season.