Presidential Update
August 4, 2008

H. Lawrence Cowan

I had the honor and privilege of speaking at Larry Cowan’s funeral service July 21 in Coconut Creek, Fla. As part of my remarks, I shared with Larry’s family and friends the many contributions he made to the university in his time here. I was pleased that some of Larry’s staff were able to attend the service, which meant a lot to his family. On July 28, a memorial service was held on campus in Larry’s honor. The service was well attended by many of Larry’s friends and colleagues, including Governors Richard Phillips and Weldon Brady. Larry’s passing is a terrible personal loss for many of us and for the university as well.

General Counsel Search

A search committee is in the process of being formed for a General Counsel. Once established, a search will commence. Marvin Wright will serve on an interim, part-time basis until the position is filled. Marvin was Chief Counsel for the University of Missouri until his recent retirement.

Higher Education Reauthorization Act

After five years, conferees for the Higher Education Reauthorization Act have approved the bill’s Conference Report, and the House and Senate were expected to take final floor action last week. The bill includes a number of provisions supported and advocated by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), including year-round Pell grant, a State Maintenance of Effort provision, increased investments in historically black colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving institutions, and new institutional programs including a new grant program for rural colleges. The bill also strengthens provisions to hold colleges more accountable for rising costs, improves college access by simplifying the federal financial aid application process, adds new measures to curb unethical practices in the student loan industry, increases grant aid to students with greatest need, and strengthens college pipeline programs. I lobbied in Washington, D.C. for passage of this legislation as Missouri’s representative to AASCU.
Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) “Coordinated Plan”

CBHE has been working to develop a new coordinated plan that would have widespread support across institutions, provide a framework for achieving a competitive advantage, and drive funding strategies including a re-implementation of performance funding for a small portion of new funds. CBHE took formal action to adopt a revised plan on July 30.

Friendraising and Fundraising

In my July 14 update, I advised that Larry Cowan and I had recently traveled to the west coast and Hawaii as part of the university’s initiative to expand its fundraising and friendraising efforts nationwide. As a result of the trip, we were able to lay the foundation for positive relations with alums and friends that could prove very beneficial to the university in future years. As you know, relations are a key component to successful fundraising.

Groundbreaking – Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport

UCM will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the first part of a major expansion at Max B. Swisher Skyhaven Airport. The event is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6 at the north end of the terminal building.

Department Personnel Changes

Academic Chair Appointments
Academic Enrichment – Patrick Streck (effective Aug. 1, 2008)
Career and Technology Education – Odin Jurkowski
Economics and Finance – John “Skip” Crooker
Department of Criminal Justice – Betsy Kreisel

Department Chair Retirements
History and Anthropology – John Sheets will retire effective Dec. 31, 2008

Associate Dean Appointments
Associate Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences – Steve Boone
Associate Dean, Harmon College of Business Administration – Roger Best

Reorganizations
Earth Science is combining entirely with Biology.
Instructional Technology will be combined with Career and Technology Education.

2008-2009 Academic Year

Classes for the 2008-2009 academic year begin Tuesday, Aug. 19. Events associated with the start of the new school year are:
• 8 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 – Residence Halls Open
• 9 a.m. Monday, Aug.18 (Hendrick’s Hall) – Freshmen Convocation
• 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug.19 (Hendrick’s Hall) – President’s State of the University Address
• 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, (Holden Street between South and Clark streets) – “Get the Red Out”
• Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., Sept. 3 (Elliott Union mall area) – President’s Annual Welcome Back Picnic