

IFC Meeting
March 4, 2024
Columbia, MO

Conversation with Choi

Admissions up at all four campuses: UMKC 3%, S&T 31%, UMSL 3%, MU 6%

Summary of decisions by Board of Curators:

Finance committee approved 5 year budgets for all campuses (roughly 2% increase).

UM maintained S&P as well as Moody's credit ratings.

MU Healthcare still has net income, but it is lower than pre-pandemic level due to increased costs of personnel and supplies.

An architect will be hired for UMKC's new health sciences building.

The Center for Energy Innovation will be moving some of its facilities.

We will be creating a Meat Science Lab at MU.

An architect will be hired for the expansion of the Murr (nuclear) facility at MU
UMSL and UMKC strategic plans approved.

S&T strategic plan will be reviewed in April.

MU strategic plan will be reviewed in June (in Springfield).

PhD programs and BA in Architecture approved for UMKC.

Test-optional experiment for MU extended; roughly 30% of students applying are test-optional.

The new Athletics Committee went straight to executive session, so nothing to Report.

DEI—Florida decision to fire all personnel associated with University DEI initiatives is a shock, as is the decision in Indiana (Senate Bill 202) to allow students to complain about faculty limiting the range of positions that can be taken inside a classroom. Since Texas is likely to pass something similar, we can expect to see ongoing effort in Missouri's capitol to follow suit.

General discussion about shared governance. Yes, Choi has read the report generated by IFC task force. We focused on what "quality" means with regard to leadership. Choi reinforced the idea of customer service and responsiveness among executive administrators. This has been the goal and the outcome of efforts to improve efficiency and accountability in IT. We need to extend the effort into Finance, HR, and ORS.

Dusty Schnieders (Legislative Liaison)

The House will mark up the budget this week. The Governor proposed a 3% increase to Higher Ed budget.

ARPA funds are being successfully used for existing projects. If there is surplus it will likely go to highway improvements (70). All funds must be spent by 2026.

Bills to watch out for:

National Guard. It is looking for full tuition waivers including fees, rather than the current tuition assistance, but universities would have to absorb additional costs. They also want benefits to transfer to spouses. System is trying to encourage Federal assistance to bridge the gap in funding rather than universities.

Core 60 (“Transfer Bill”). This bill addresses gaps left by MOTR 42 regarding inconsistencies across institutions regarding major requirements. We have to push for interoperability of courses that fulfill major requirements. This would entail a uniform transfer guide so all students know whether courses taken at two-year institutions transfer towards their chosen major.

Degree Bill (“Stay in Your Lane”). This one is not going away. It is currently out of committee, but the vote will likely be tight. Even if it is rejected, it could still show up as an amendment to other bills. Mo State and SEMO both support and continue to work on the narrative to show it will not cost to create professional and PhD programs (though we know this is not the case).

Performance funding model. This has been filed. The goal now is how to design the model.

Medicaid. Cody Smith (Jasper County) sponsoring a bill that would eliminate Federal Reimbursement Allowance for Medicaid. This would be devastating for a state that actually led the way in expanding Medicaid.

Marsha Fischer, HR

(plus members of her team as well as consultants from Aon consulting firm that helps design network plans)

UMsystem healthcare is self-funded. University covers 80% of costs, employee covers 20%. The goal is to always maintain this balance.

Custom Network Plans. This entails an institution or facility large enough to provide comprehensive care options. System negotiated with this facility to connect campus employees to a small group of providers at a discounted rate.

MU has a custom plan with its own hospital.

UMSL has a custom plan with Mercy

Tiered PPO. This is a broader, dispersed network that gives a smaller group of employees different price points depending on UHC's metric of quality in the region. Tier 1 will have a lower co-pay, etc. UMKC and S&T are on a Tiered PPO network. This is why UMKC employees pay considerably more than counterparts. However, the purchase of St. Luke's by BJC might present a custom network option in the future.

- UMKC-related information
 - UM has had multiple conversation with a variety of vendors over the years to create a narrow network for UMKC faculty and staff
 - No consolidation of healthcare to offer a network of providers exists right now
 - Has to be able to provide managed care
 - Has to be an incentive present to make program work
 - No hospitals have offered custom network plan
 - Smaller population of employees, no incentive for providers to consolidated to offer a narrow network
 - Threshold for population: 5,000-10,000
 - BJC, who just purchased St. Luke's in KC, may eventually seek out a contract with specific universities
- Continue evaluation for solution

Healthy Savings Plans. These are available as alternatives to all employees. It is a higher deductible, but a lower contribution. Most pay less overall and direct contributions to health savings accounts (which can accumulate over time) can offer lower tax burdens.