

UMKC Representatives:
Sandy Joy, Chair, Staff Council
Jakob Waterborg , Chair of the Faculty Senate
Linda Edwards, Dean of the School of Education
Matthew Treaster, Student
Alan Weber – Chair, Alumni Board of Directors

Testimony
Missouri Government Review Commission
Missouri Conservation Discovery Center, Kansas City, MO
Friday, June 24, 2005

TALKING POINTS

(Sandy Joy)

Good Afternoon. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Sandy Joy and I'm from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. In respect of your time, we will be brief in our verbal testimony and will be happy to answer any of your questions.

My colleagues and I are all from UMKC and represent various campus constituencies:

Jakob Waterborg – Chair of the Faculty Senate

Linda Edwards – Dean of the School of Education

Matthew Treaster – dually enrolled student in the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine representing the student body

Alan Weber – Chair of the Alumni Board of Directors

And I'm Chair of the Staff Council

Today, we will provide a joint testimony representing many voices at UMKC. Indeed, many of our colleagues wanted to appear before you today and several have joined us in the audience. Out of respect for the many people who have issues to share with you, we have been selected to offer concise comments.

The key points we'll cover today:

1. As part of the University of Missouri System, we proudly serve the people of Kansas City and Missouri through our primary mission of teaching, research and service.
2. We have a large and statewide responsibility as the only comprehensive public urban research university in the state.
3. We believe the current governance structure of our System provides many cost efficiencies that permit us to focus and deliver on our core mission.

As the Staff Council representative, I am here to tell you that we are proud to support the core mission of our University; UMKC successes...in our schools, in educating students and in our community...are our successes. As staff, we are privileged to work alongside our faculty, administrators and our students to help achieve these successes. The Staff Council feels strongly that the current structure of our four campus University of Missouri System makes more things possible than

any one campus could do alone. Our structure not only helps to avoid costly duplication of programs and services, but strengthens the state's ability to attract the best and the brightest staff by allowing our campuses to offer attractive benefits packages. These include substantially lower health insurance costs and secure retirement benefits.

(Alan Weber)

UMKC provides a good part of the workforce for the western region of the state and, indeed, the entire state of Missouri. In terms of our Alumni numbers:

The current student population is over 14,000 and continues to grow.

As you are probably aware, UMKC is home to the only public Dental School training 70% of the state's Dentists. Additionally, the Dental School provides over \$1 million worth of free dental treatment to the uninsured in our community, while contributing greatly to life science research.

UMKC also has the only public Pharmacy School and is proud to have trained 75% of the licensed Pharmacists in Kansas City.

We are the designated Arts campus for the University of Missouri. Our world-renowned Conservatory of Music greatly enriches our local arts community and partners in many ways with the community. Additionally, we partner with the well-respected Kansas City Repertory Theatre and maintain a thriving Theatre Department in the College of Arts & Sciences.

UMKC's Bloch School of Business and Public Administration offers nationally ranked programs training the business leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Our alumni also include many of our public servants at local, state and federal levels. In the current Missouri General Assembly, 13 are alumni of UMKC.

(Matt Treaster)

What are some of the advantages of being part of the University of Missouri?

This is personal for me and, in fact, the reason I chose UMKC's School of Medicine over other options — it was because of the opportunities an urban public research university offers me. UMKC's partnerships in the community and with four local hospitals allows me to have a diverse experience and training.

Plus, the imprimatur of the University of Missouri is important to me and to many of my fellow students. We want our degree to be from the University of Missouri, an established system with deep roots in public higher education.

As I am learning, realizing cost efficiencies are a major concern and focus of the University. The University of Missouri's unified purchasing program is one such example. By consolidating this function and managing it centrally, the University has accrued annual savings of more than \$10 million System-wide for the last three years. I appreciate efficiencies like this as it translates to lower operating costs that we students aren't asked to absorb in the form of higher tuition rates.

The four campuses also provide excellent collaborative research opportunities for our students and faculty. Missouri -- and in fact the nation -- benefit from these natural connections. You have only to look at the life sciences and the important bi-state collaborative research programs, such as the work with Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) and the Stowers Institute.

Another example includes the collaboration of the libraries of the four campuses, which allows for significant savings in purchasing and sharing electronic journals. The UM System funds the statewide MORENET, which provides

integrated support for all libraries. As you can imagine, this is central to the research of our faculty and students.

At UMKC, we take very seriously our commitment to removing barriers of access to higher education for those we serve...most especially those students of color and first generation college students. Our current structure ensures our ability to work harder to find ways to meet the needs of these important populations.

(Linda Edwards)

As a public university, and especially sitting here as the Dean of the School of Education, we also have an obligation to our local community through our urban focus. We are accountable to serve all of the constituencies within the greater metropolitan area. This mission and focus is critical to serving our community and to meeting our core mission of serving the entire state. We must teach and train the educated citizenry and the professional workforce we all rely on each and every day.

As we stated earlier, UMKC is the only comprehensive public research university located in an urban environment in the state. As a result, the focus of much of our research, teaching, and service is dedicated to urban issues.

It is indeed our responsibility to partner with Kansas City -- and this is what we do each and every day. The closest to my heart is the Institute for Urban Education, or IUE, which is a partnership with our urban K – 12 schools. The IUE's mission is to produce teachers who are highly skilled and prepared to teach in an urban setting helping us bridge the achievement gap that greatly concerns us all. Thanks to the great dedication of the College of Arts & Sciences and the School of Education faculty, and to the joy of our students, I'm happy to announce that the Institute will be launched this Fall. We are committed to developing and growing this important example of community engagement.

I wish I could share with you all of the ways in which we do partner with the community. Each of our 14 Schools have multiple examples, ranging from the Tax Clinic at the Law School, to the 1,400 participants in the Students in the City, to the nursing and pharmacy outreach programs, to the Criminology and Criminal Justice degree programs working in partnership with Kansas City and Jackson County, and the Conservatory partnership with St. Vincent's Daycare.

While our overall governance remains at a statewide level, each campus within the system enjoys substantial autonomy. Each campus has a local accountability to serve its region. the needs of the community are constantly changing and, although we cannot be all things to all people, we continue to adapt

and focus academic offerings and outreach activities to best meet these shifting needs.

(Jakob Waterborg)

Many people are not aware that the Board of Curators exercises only broad direction over the individual missions of the four campuses and our local resources. For example, UMKC keeps all of its own tuition dollars and we choose how best to use these resources to enhance academic programs in order to meet our local, regional and professional educational needs.

Additionally, private gifts given to UMKC are invested directly into the campus to meet the academic priorities set by UMKC in conversation with the donor.

This is a critical point because such local autonomy is needed as we work to best serve both Kansas Citians and to meet the broader needs of the state. Our current structure provides this needed autonomy.

The administrative savings from centrally overseeing the endowments of the four campuses within the University of Missouri represent a huge savings. Moreover, by investing these endowment funds collectively has proven to be a sound strategy that yields high returns. Over the last 10 years, for instance, the

University's main endowment had an annualized return of 10.8%, exceeding its benchmark by 1.2%. This responsible management of funds is critical to us and to the philanthropic community.

Many cost efficiencies, which we know are the primary focus of your Commission, are already offered through the University of Missouri by avoiding costly duplication of programs and efficiencies of scale in administrative functions and in health and retirement plans.

At UMKC, we take seriously our responsibility to use prudently public tax dollars and privately donated funds. We continue to look for ways in which we can better leverage our resources and we continue to seek ways that we can streamline our operations without compromising the quality of teaching, research and delivery of services.

As mentioned earlier, the most important advantage of being a part of our University System may be our ability to continue to offer our citizens a wide variety of academic programs at an affordable cost.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

We will be happy to answer any of your questions.