

An Open Letter to the Chancellor of the University of Missouri:

In the administrative structure of the University of Missouri (MU), the Provost is the executive officer for academic affairs, with authority over central campus activities, that include standards of academic performance, curricula, professional standing of faculty, and faculty committee structure. According to the Collected Rules and Regulations of MU (Chapter 300.010.F.1), the faculty have essential decision-making authority in these matters. As such, effective and successful administration of the University's educational mission relies on mutual respect and cooperation between the Provost and faculty.

The Provost has announced that he will retire from the position on January 1, 2014, and the President of University of Missouri System stated that the MU Chancellor will be responsible for the search for a new Provost. However, the MU Faculty Council for University Policy strongly encourages the Chancellor to consult and collaborate with the faculty in this search. The collaboration should include defining the qualities desired in a new Provost, establishing the search procedures, identifying candidates for the position, reviewing the candidates' qualifications and visions for the University, and selecting the individual who will serve as the Provost. The Faculty Council believes that an active and respected faculty voice during the search process will set a precedent for a collaborative relationship between the new Provost and faculty.

We look forward to working positively with the Chancellor in the search for a new Provost and thank you for facilitating collaboration.

Signed, Craig Roberts, Chair of the University of Missouri Faculty Council

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