

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

The Faculty Council of the University of Missouri (MU) welcomes you to Columbia and hopes to partner with your office to surmount the challenges facing our university.

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.

In the administrative structure of the MU, the Provost is the executive officer for academic affairs, with authority over central campus activities, including 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 also have essential decision-making authority in these matters. Effective and successful administration of the University's educational mission relies on mutual respect and cooperation between the Provost and faculty.

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. 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 you in the search for a new Provost.

Signed, Craig Roberts, on behalf of the University of Missouri Faculty Council

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