



Dr. Eph Ehly will lead UMKC's Heritage Chorale to New York City's Carnegie Hall this weekend.

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"The only difference between the world of male and female athletes is the mask of identity." Find out more about why JC Davis feels this way.

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Men's basketball issues statement with double OT win. Track team attempts to climb the mountain that is the Iowa State Classic. D-I baseball at UMKC? Look hard.

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News

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Student Curator

An open letter to the student body

My name is Troy Nash, and I represent the students of the four University of Missouri campuses before the UM Board of Curators. I have held this position since Jan. 1, 1996. A third-year law student at UM-Kansas City, I will continue to act as liaison between the student body and the Board until Dec. 31, 1997.

I would like to share with you an important procedure of University management - the selection process of President of the UM System.

During a recent meeting of the Board of Curators, held in St. Louis in late January, the members of the Board interviewed six potential candidates for the position of President of the University of Missouri System. While there have been many searches for university presidents in the years past, this current search is unique because it marks the first time a Student Curator has been permitted a seat at the Presidential Succession Committee. The decision to allow the Student Curator a place in the interviews came late last summer, when the (9) members of the Board voted unanimously to include student representation to the newly created, closed-door committee.

In the past, the Student Curator position has been one of limited access to sensitive topics. Compounded by the fact that the position is of non-voting status, this new participation in high-level policy issues marks an increase in responsibility granted to the role of Student Curator. By affording a student voice, the Board has reacted to the concerns of the nearly 55,000 students within the UM System. I believe this demonstrates the Board's genuine interest in the students, as well as a willingness to maintain a fair and open process. I commend the Board for taking such bold action, particularly Curator Adam Fisher, of Sedalia, who has conducted the Presidential Succession Committee in a manner reflecting favorably upon the students, faculty, and administration within the University of Missouri System.

The selection of the next UM President is an important decision. However, it is not limited to a closed-door procedure, there is room for student input. I would greatly appreciate ideas and opinions from students

Nash Represents Campus

by Thomas Kerr
COPY EDITOR

This semester seems to be starting off in a proactive way. Student

effecting students. Concerns such as health care and the rise in tuition/decline in scholarships are being brought up during a change in Student Government leadership.

All that said, there is a powerful resource available to students in the form of the student representative to the University of Missouri Board of Curators. The present holder of this title is a third-year law student at UMKC Troy Nash. He alone maintains the position of responsible voice for over 50,000 students comprising the four UM campuses in Columbia, Rolla, St. Louis, and Kansas City.

Building on a tradition that began when State Sen. Harry Wiggins helped pass a law to allow the student body with a non-voting position on the Board, Nash can be seen today on campus

tation his position affords the student body.

At a recent Associated Students University of Missouri-KC luncheon held on Jan. 4, Nash addressed students interested in the UM System. As keynote speaker, he briefly provided a background to the role and responsibilities demanded by the Student Curator. Nash, a UMKC student, discussed how his non-vote status with the Curators is balanced through a nurtured "one-on-one diplomacy" with each member of the Board. "I am there to represent the needs and concerns of the students," he said. "Should there be comments, have (the students) address me personally and I will do my best to bring (them) up."

His primary topic of discussion was the latest Presidential Succession Committee's progress in selecting the next President of the UM System. Nash made it clear that the student seat on that committee is an "unprecedented access" that finally surpasses the wariness the Board has had in allowing a student to hold such a responsible position. "The level of maturity of students has always been a concern. I think we've finally shown them we can handle it," Nash replied.

Later Tuesday evening the U-News met with Nash again. In an informal discussion, he was more willing to address other issues of concerns that were not provided time during the short lunch-time



Student Curator Troy Nash discusses the health care petition with a UMKC student in Royall Hall last Friday.

AMIEE LORING/University News

activists and organizations are beginning to address important issues

advocating student concerns and building awareness of the represen-

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Letter

in an effort to address the Board with your concerns.

The next President will lead the University into the 21st century, this is a large obligation and students have the chance for their voices to be heard. Any comments concerning ideal qualities and/or characteristics of such a person are vital to the nature of the selection process. Please feel free to contact

me with your inputs on this topic, or any other issues you may want to discuss. My office is located in the UMKC University Center at (816) 235-5680, or e-mail me at TNASH@cctr.umkc.edu.

Together, the student body and the Board of Directors, can continue to make the University of Missouri a world class institution.

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Nash

meeting. He commented on a Letter

to the Editor (U-News Feb. 3, 1997) by Darla McFarland and Olivia Wallace representing the Campaign for Student Health Services. A meeting was planned for Friday afternoon, during a time when the ad hoc group would be staffing the petition table in Royall Hall.

He also addressed the topics of child care, tuition increases and scholarship assistance by stating he will address the board with any issues raised by students and brought before his office for action. He stressed, however, that his posi-

tion is not one of a frivolous nature. "I am here to serve the designs of students, but I cannot stand behind vague issues with no real direction. That is simply not a position the Student Curator, whether it be me or the next person to fill this seat, can take if we are going to continuously improve our reputation before the Board," he said. "The ultimate goal must be to provide the student body with a vote, we need to be strong and secure in our decisions."