

**NewsBank InfoWeb**

**Kansas City Star, The (MO)**

**Kansas City Star, The (MO)**

December 4, 2004

**Next UMKC chancellor faces list of challenges  
Balancing education, civic roles seen key**

Author: LYNN FRANEY  
JEFFERY SPIVAK

Page: A8

*Index Terms:*  
News

Estimated printed pages: 2

Article Text:

Whoever succeeds Chancellor Martha Gilliland at the University of Missouri-Kansas City will encounter a number of complicated issues.

A high priority will be working to repair the lack of trust many professors feel toward the central administration.

But equally high on the next chancellor's "to do" list will be maintaining the good will Gilliland developed among the region's movers and shakers, such as foundation and business leaders.

"One of the greatest challenges of any chief executive of an educational institution is to balance the education component with the community leadership component," said Karen Pletz, president of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. "Sometimes, for a lot of reasons, you can't bring those two pieces together."

Bill Hall, who heads the Hall Family Foundation, said choosing a person with "broad community respect" to succeed Gilliland will be critical because civic leaders are unhappy about the campus unrest that prompted Gilliland's resignation.

It will be months before UMKC gets a new chancellor, but once it does, a plate full of issues will vie for her successor's attention.

Among them:

Deciding whether to move forward with Gilliland's plan to create an Institute for Urban Education for producing high-quality, committed teachers for Kansas City's struggling urban school districts.

The institute failed to win a \$10 million grant from the Kauffman Foundation, and University of Missouri System President Elson Floyd told her to slow down the institute planning to gather more community input. Professors in the School of Education are currently studying the right structure for the institute.

Making a reality of Gilliland's promise to strengthen life sciences research at UMKC.

Gilliland wanted the university to help Kansas City reach its goal of achieving a national reputation for research in the life sciences.

UMKC just broke ground on a new Health Sciences Building on Hospital Hill, which will house the university's pharmacy and nursing schools.

But Gilliland still was working to raise enough money to furnish unfinished research space in the building.

Gilliland served on the board of the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, a collaboration of eight local universities, hospitals and research institutions.

"Martha was a good partner on the board, and she tried to align UMKC priorities with the life sciences effort said Jim Spigarelli, chief executive officer of the Midwest Research Institute, a UMKC neighbor. "I hope whoever takes over will continue that. It certainly makes sense for UMKC to play a role."

Ensuring the \$200 million fund-raising campaign UMKC publicly launched Thursday is successful.

UMKC has collected \$133 million in private gifts since the campaign's early, "silent" phase began in July 20

Henry Bloch, a businessman who serves as honorary co-chair of the "Your UMKC" campaign, said Gilliland influence helped UMKC raise that money.

"It'll be a little tougher without her. There's no doubt about that," Bloch said.

But he also noted that civic leaders and UMKC trustees were committed to the campaign.

"There's a lot of momentum going that will carry over," he said.

Copyright 2004 The Kansas City Star Co.

Record Number: 1565971

Article Bookmark(OpenURL Compliant):[Kansas City Star, The \(MO\) : Next UMKC chancellor faces list of challengesBalancing education, civic roles seen key](http://docs.newsbank.com/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info:sid/iw.newsbank.com:KCSB&rft_val_format=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:ctx&rft_dat=106CC3DE6AAC0656&svc_dat=InfoWeb:current&req_dat=0DD30A58A3057)

[http://docs.newsbank.com/openurl?ctx\\_ver=z39.88-2004&rft\\_id=info:sid/iw.newsbank.com:KCSB&rft\\_val\\_format=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:ctx&rft\\_dat=106CC3DE6AAC0656&svc\\_dat=InfoWeb:current&req\\_dat=0DD30A58A3057](http://docs.newsbank.com/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info:sid/iw.newsbank.com:KCSB&rft_val_format=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:ctx&rft_dat=106CC3DE6AAC0656&svc_dat=InfoWeb:current&req_dat=0DD30A58A3057)