

NewsBank InfoWeb

Kansas City Star, The (MO)

Kansas City Star, The (MO)

December 4, 2004

Departure draws strong reactions

Author: TANYANIKA SAMUELS

Page: A8

Index Terms:
News

Estimated printed pages: 2

Article Text:

The signs plastered across the windows of the biological sciences building at the University of Missouri-Kan City trumpeted the news:

"Goodbye Martha!"

"Martha Gone."

"Thank you President Floyd."

Under pressure from professors, Chancellor Martha Gilliland announced her resignation Friday. On campus several were saddened, including Geoff Gerling, president of the Student Government Association.

"I'm disappointed that the faculty would go to extremes that have resulted in the university losing a great leader," he said.

Others celebrated, though.

Some faculty members in the School of Biological Sciences were nearly giddy at the news. Several professors scurried about, taping handwritten and computer-generated signs to bulletin boards, windows and elevators. They joked about ordering champagne.

Professor Alfred Esser first learned of the resignation by a university e-mail.

"My first reaction was, 'Hooray,'" Esser said.

Professor Marino Martinez-Carrion, former dean of the biological sciences department, called news of her departure "delightful." He had been demoted by Gilliland in 2001.

Martinez-Carrion accused the former chancellor of having a "true contempt" for faculty members. When the School of Biological Sciences voted to express no confidence in Gilliland's leadership two years ago, "no one paid attention to us," he said. Now "justice has been done," Martinez-Carrion said.

On campus, few students seemed saddened.

"I don't think too many people are too upset about it," said Mike Cusumano, a 21-year old junior.

The news didn't come as a surprise to 20-year-old junior Donnie Cox either.

"If her peers are saying she's not right for the job, then...", he shrugged.

But not everyone was happy to see her go.

John Allen, a UMKC spokesman, characterized the mood of people in the administrative center, where Gilliland's office is located, as one of disappointment.

"They've been carrying on their normal workday, and that's important," Allen said. "The day has continued to be a day of normal routine. Students are still being taught, faculty are still doing their great work, and we must continue doing that."

Gerling, the student government president, said he had worked closely with the outgoing chancellor and for her to be very responsive to students' questions and issues.

Though Gilliland could have done a better job at including everyone in university business, faculty members went too far, Gerling said.

Already, students and faculty were looking to the future and hoping for less controversy.

Sophomore Lauren Johnson, 20, said Gilliland "seemed to have her own interests in mind."

"Hopefully, we will have someone a little better than that," she said.

To reach Tanyanika Samuels,

call (816) 234-4376 or send e-mail to tsamuels@kcstar.com.

First glance

Many UMKC faculty members expressed delight at the resignation of Chancellor Martha Gilliland.

Some students weren't surprised at the development, but one student leader said he was disappointed.

Photos (4)

Johnson; Gerling; Esser

DAVID PULLIAM/The Kansas City Star

Marino Martinez-Carrion, former dean of the School of Biological Sciences, on Friday greeted Martha Gilliland's resignation with glee.

Copyright 2004 The Kansas City Star Co.

Record Number: 1565969

Article Bookmark(OpenURL Compliant):[Kansas City Star, The \(MO\) : Departure draws strong reactions](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=106CC3DE4B3B14A1&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=106CC3DE4B3B14A1&svc_dat=InfoWeb:current&req_dat=0DD30A58A3057