

**NewsBank InfoWeb**

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

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

December 4, 2004

**In face of unrest, UMKC's Gilliland says she'll resign  
Floyd intends to come to KC as temporary leader**

Author: LYNN FRANEY  
JEFFERY SPIVAK

Page: A1

*Index Terms:*  
News

Estimated printed pages: 4

Article Text:

In the end, growing faculty anger trumped the strong support of civic leaders for Martha Gilliland, who said Friday she would resign as the University of Missouri-Kansas City's chancellor.

Gilliland, who will leave her job Jan. 1, had been under increasing pressure from professors, who faulted her for focusing too much on UMKC's image and not enough on its academic reputation.

She will continue working at UMKC as a tenured professor in the School of Computing and Engineering.

Gilliland was out of town Friday and could not be reached for comment.

In a news release, Gilliland said resigning was in the best interests of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of UMKC.

"Recent events have placed me in the spotlight, and it is best for UMKC's future to move forward without such distraction," she said. "Together we have achieved great things, and I am confident the university will maintain the same momentum into the future."

University of Missouri system President Elson Floyd said he intended to spend much of his time in Kansas City in January and February, essentially acting as UMKC's top leader until he chooses an interim chancellor.

"UMKC has achieved great momentum toward its goal of becoming a great urban research university," Floyd said in a statement thanking Gilliland for her service. "I will work closely with students, faculty, administrative staff and the Kansas City community in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition of leadership."

Curators said they were finalizing a severance package for Gilliland, who was making \$255,000 a year.

In her 4 1/2 years at UMKC, Gilliland impressed many community leaders with her vision of building a "great university in a great city."

But she lost the confidence of many professors, who accused her of unfairly cutting them out of decision-making. Six faculty groups recently said that they lacked confidence in her as their leader.

The decision by Gilliland, 60, to step aside after two weeks of campus tension pleased professors who had worked for her ouster.

"There will be some people who are not happy, but the vast majority of the faculty really are relieved," said Gary Ebersole, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, where the faculty had voted 96 to 29 to say they lacked confidence in Gilliland's leadership.

"We are looking forward to a return to normalcy - hopefully a period of recovery from an abusive relationship."

He said whoever became the new chancellor must "come in with no agenda for radical change."

Civic leaders outside UMKC had applauded Gilliland's energy and her stated aim to make the university less an ivory tower and more of a player in Kansas City.

They said Friday they were disappointed that Gilliland would no longer be the university's representative on community boards and at civic events.

"Martha's resignation or termination, however you want to term it, was a very unfortunate thing for Kansas City," said Hugh Zimmer, a UMKC trustee and downtown real estate executive.

"I think there has been a demonstration of a lack of credible leadership by the University of Missouri system and I think Kansas City will suffer as a result. ... From the calls I have received today, there is universal disn throughout the community."

On her watch, civic leaders embraced Gilliland's efforts to strengthen UMKC's ties to the community, such as implementing a concept that had predated her: a Center for the City that expands the university's numerous relationships with community groups, such as faculty research efforts at nonprofit organizations.

UMKC collaborated well with hospitals and other local universities to boost research related to life sciences : medicine, civic leaders said.

The university also emerged as a top recipient of grants from local philanthropic foundations to help with those efforts. Philanthropic support increased from \$1 million in 1998 to \$6.1 million in 2002, the latest year for which data were available, according to the Foundation Center in Washington.

"There's no doubt, during Martha's tenure, the respect for UMKC increased," said Bill Hall, president of the Hall Family Foundation, one of Kansas City's philanthropic leaders.

After Gilliland recently came under fire from her faculty, the UMKC Trustees - a private group of civic and business leaders who raise money for the university and advise the chancellor - met Wednesday and passed : resolution supporting Gilliland.

Terry Dunn, chief executive of J.E. Dunn Construction who is serving as co-chairman of a \$200-million fund-raising campaign that UMKC kicked off Thursday, added that UMKC has had tremendous role with th community.

"It was moving in the right direction," Dunn said. "Now we're going to have to do a reassessment of that relationship going forward."

Others credited Gilliland with repairing ties with the university's neighbors. When Gilliland arrived on camp in 2000, UMKC was reeling from bad publicity over a 1998 attempt to tear down about 50 homes south of campus. The university adopted a master plan that focused on using space it already had and not expanding

But as she rectified UMKC's external relationships, her relationship with the faculty began to deteriorate.

Initially, she said she would work with professors and deans to develop a vision for the campus. She did not tell them she had worked out a deal with a friend, California consultant Gordon Starr, to hire him to "transform" the campus.

Transformation involved daylong workshops in which deans, staff members and professors were to, in the words of Starr, dream big for their university, learn to believe in themselves and change the campus culture one in which "human potential" was unleashed.

Some deans and professors chafed under the transformation effort, which cost UMKC hundreds of thousands of donated dollars and ate up time that they thought might have been better spent counseling students, writing papers or researching scientific questions.

Some professors also disapproved of Gilliland's efforts to circumvent such elected groups as the Faculty Senate.

"Her heart was in the right place. I don't think most people would disagree with that," but the problem lay in how she tried to implement her ideas, said Ed Hood, a longtime UMKC law professor.

Hood had urged professors to vote "yes" on resolutions saying they lacked confidence in her leadership.

But he expressed no joy Friday.

"I have mixed feelings, because she did a lot for the university," Hood said. "The difficulty was, her approach was inconsistent with effective dialogue. I have some positive feelings for her, but the difficult thing was her inability to develop the kind of interpersonal relationships with faculty which would have moved the university forward."

To reach Lynn Franey, call (816) 234-4927 or send e-mail to lfraney@kcstar.com.

Coming up

UMKC's next chancellor will have to repair relationships with faculty and maintain support from civic leaders while continuing the university's \$200 million fund drive and efforts to strengthen life sciences research.

Story, A-8

Photo

Gilliland

Copyright 2004 The Kansas City Star Co.  
Record Number: 1565979

Article Bookmark(OpenURL Compliant):[Kansas City Star, The \(MO\) : In face of unrest, UMKC's Gilliland says she'll resignFloyd intends to come to KC as temporary leader](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)