Proceeding Confidently in Uncertain Times

Dr. James E. Cofer, Sr.
President
Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Education: The Great Equalizer
Students First

- How will this affect students?
- How will this improve education for students?
- How will this benefit students?
Complete the Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2011-16.

• We must envision what Missouri State University should be and needs to be in the long term for future generations of students.

• We must force ourselves to look beyond the immediate challenges to the future.
We need the best thinking possible for the long-range plan, so I hope you will become engaged in the process.

www.missouristate.edu/developingplan
Goal 2

Prepare the campus to effectively deal with the budget challenges of fiscal year 2012 and beyond.

- New budget process
- Inclusive and collegial
“In a crisis we tend to look for the wrong kind of leadership. We call for someone with answers, decision, strength, and a map of the future, in short someone who can make hard problems simple.

“Instead of looking for saviors, we should be calling for leadership that will challenge us to face problems for which there are no simple painless solutions – problems that require us to learn in new ways.”

Ronald Heifetz
Foster a positive, collegial environment for faculty and staff on all campuses.

- I believe those affected by decisions should have a voice in those decisions. That will be one of the hallmarks of my administration.
- Develop strategies for a comprehensive compensation package for faculty and staff.
Prepare the academic curriculum and academic organization throughout the System to meet the demands of the 21st century.

- Incorporation of the public affairs mission into the curriculum
- Low-completer programs
Goal 5

Assure student access and success on all campuses.

- Retention
- Who teaches and how they teach – pedagogy
- Alternative modalities
- Recruitment and admission of transfer students
- Diverse and under-represented populations
Improving the diversity of the student body and workforce at the University.
• From this point forward, neither Chancellor Bennett nor I will approve interviews for searches for faculty and executive staff that do not include qualified candidates from under-represented populations.

• But our success in recruiting and retaining a diverse student body and diverse workforce is more basic than that. It requires that we take steps to develop a “welcoming environment” on campus.
Goal 7

Inventory, prioritize and strategically fund improvements to facilities.

- Strategic investment of one-time funds
- Academic classrooms, laboratories and technology
- Facility commitments to comply with federal law, both ADA and Title IX
Meet and exceed the $125 million goal of Our Promise: The Campaign for Missouri State.

We should be able to announce the successful completion of the $125 million goal sometime in fiscal year 2012.
Continue to advance economic development and community impact through the IDEA Commons, JVIC and other collaborations.

- JVIC facilitates cutting-edge research.
- Many advancements have been made over the past 5 years:
  - $30 million in contracts and subcontracts
  - Nationally known corporate affiliates
  - 90 jobs with average wages of approximately $70,000
  - Additional $20 million in private investment
Jordan Valley Innovation Center

Brick City

Robert W. Plaster Center for Free Enterprise and Business Development (formerly Willow Brook)
"I have promises to keep, 
And miles to go before I sleep."

By **Robert Frost**
The Late Poet Laureate
*From his poem “Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening”*