

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**AAUP CONCERNED WITH WALSWORTH REAPPOINTMENT**

**Columbia, Missouri, U.S., January 30, 2009**

To serve on the Board of Curators is to act as an advocate for the best interests of the University of Missouri. Current speculation that Curator Walsworth may be reappointed to a second term on the Board of Curators calls for a response from the MU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Under the Chairmanship of Curator Walsworth the medical care of the University of Missouri Sports program, specifically the lucrative Tiger football team, was signed over to a private orthopedic group after the university in recent years spent large sums of money to bring in the best and brightest faculty to improve MU sports medicine.

We will not take up the issue of the degree to which Curator Walsworth was involved with this contract. This was a widely publicized event with differing accounts from the parties involved. There is no question that as Chair of the MU Curators Mr. Walsworth accepted this contract. He did not rethink it even after MU faculty-physicians voiced public concern about the arrangements and were willing to do the work of caring for the Tiger football team, and pay over \$600,000 a year of their own money for the privilege of doing so. Since the contract was signed a top surgeon has resigned, UM faculty-surgeons have been demoralized, and the reputation of the university has been damaged.

We recognize that Curator Walsworth has been generous to the University of Missouri. To reappoint him for a second term, however, is to reward his decision to accept a contract that presumes that the medical care of MU athletes is better provided by an outside group than through MU faculty-physicians. The University of Missouri deserves better.

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