

**An Evolving Program in Public Policy and Science
To Honor
James A. McClure**

Idaho's former United States Senator James A. McClure has been deeply involved in the American political process and the formation of public policy. In recognition of his distinguished service to the state and the nation, the University of Idaho will develop a three-part program in his honor. Initially, it will establish a James McClure Lectureship in Public Policy and Science. At a future date the lectureship will be converted into a visiting professorship; ultimately the position will become the James McClure Chair of Public Policy and Science.

BACKGROUND

This evolving program will

- 1) recognize Senator McClure's breadth and depth of leadership during his many years in public office, in an area of profound interest to him;
- 2) build on existing strengths in the university; and
- 3) respond in a timely and significant way to matters of pressing concern to the state and nation.

GOAL

The goal of the James McClure chair will inform the earlier stages of the program. The purpose of the chair will be to assist in effecting a responsible public policy on issues pertaining, for example, to energy, natural resources, safety, health, and the environment.

To ensure that such policy is firmly rooted in a sound understanding of the relevant principles of science and advanced technology, the chairholder will work in close collaboration with other members of the university faculty. The University of Idaho is particularly strong in its scientific community. Its science and engineering departments, as well as its research centers--where faculty from a variety of disciplines collaborate in working on problems in fields such as biotechnology, materials and advanced processes, water resources, and hazardous waste remediation--provide a fund of nationally recognized expertise upon which the chairholder will draw.

PHASED-IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

While the central, long-term goal of this project is to establish the chair, the position will evolve through its three stages following the projected growth of the endowment. Initially, at an endowment level of \$100,000, income will be used to fund the James McClure Lectureship. At the level of \$250,000, income will support the James McClure Visiting Professorship. At a \$1,000,000 level, the James McClure Chair will be fully endowed. At all three levels--the lecture series, the visiting professorship, and the fully endowed chair--the focus will remain on public policy issues in science and technology.

I. JAMES MCCLURE LECTURESHIP

This public lecture series will be inaugurated when the endowment reaches the level of \$100,000. Each of the annual lectures in this series will be a university lecture, and the series will pave the way for later development efforts to establish the chair itself. The speaker, or James McClure Lecturer, will be a recognized leader in government, industry, or the larger academic community; the lecture will form a response to a science-public policy issue of pressing national and regional concern. During his or her few days on campus, the lecturer, in addition to delivering a public address, will visit selected classes and meet informally with students and faculty members to discuss relevant policy issues.

II. JAMES MCCLURE VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

The James McClure Visiting Professorship, funded when the endowment reaches the \$250,000 level, will bring distinguished visitors to campus for at least a semester. Like the lecturer, the visiting professor will be a person conversant with scientific issues of major social and economic significance, and one who fully understands policy formation, including the roles that industry, public opinion, interest groups, and litigation play in that process.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The visiting professor, as the constraints of his or her term appointment allow, will be expected to

- 1) teach within his or her specialty and otherwise provide campus leadership in that field of science and public policy,
- 2) deliver the McClure Lecture,
- 3) foster interdisciplinary teaching and research involving faculty members from across the university, as their expertise warrants, and

- 4) develop, in collaboration with other faculty members, strategies for educating all university students in the current thinking on these public policy issues.

III. JAMES MCCLURE CHAIR

At a \$1,000,000 endowment level, the chair will be fully funded. The actual term of appointment will depend on the appointee's availability, the field of inquiry, and the extent of research activity in which the chairholder will participate. The university expects, however, to appoint chairholders for an extended term of 3-5 years, and that term will be renewable. Appointments of this duration are most consistent with the expectations built into the position, especially in relation to the sustained research efforts of the appointee. The chair will have academic standing in the academic department(s) and college(s) appropriate to his or her field of expertise; the position, therefore, will remain a university position and will not be assigned permanently to any given unit within the university.

In addition to the qualities indicated for the lecturer and visiting professor, the chairholder will be a person nationally recognized as a leader in a major science-public policy field. Moreover, the chair must be an educator in the best sense, a person who recognizes his or her role in a university as one of encouraging and structuring balanced discussion or debate in his or her areas of expertise.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the chair will include those outlined for the visiting professor (above), but they will be deepened and broadened to suit the stature of this position and the extended term of the appointment. The chairholder, in addition to teaching qualified students in his or her discipline, will work closely with other faculty, both inside the discipline and outside, in relevant teaching and research projects. The chair will be expected to foster research in his or her field, but also to provide leadership in roles of research coordinator, mentor, collaborator. The chair will also lead his colleagues in seeking external funding to support research and public, educational programs in his or her field. The incumbent will thus spearhead efforts to create public forums (e.g., colloquia, workshops, or conferences) for the discussion of these science-related public policy concerns. He or she will help select and recruit for these events other experts in his or her area of specialization.

SAMPLE ISSUES

The range of issues upon which the appointees might concentrate is, of course, considerable: for a set period, the focal topic might be energy development, for example, or water resource management, air quality, hazardous waste remediation, energy and trade, or asbestos abatement. Whatever the issue, and whatever the forum, the intent is to open discussion to the range of social and economic trade-offs and

implications of any possible policy: this discussion will be informed by the most advanced scientific and technological knowledge.

THE CHAIR IN THE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

The goals of the James McClure Chair of Public Policy and Science will be best served by retaining the position at the university level. The institution will assign the position to given departments and colleges for the relevant terms of appointment. A board of deans will oversee activities associated with the position; this board will be chaired by the dean of College of Letters and Science.

CONCLUSION

The James McClure Chair, as well as the antecedent lectureship and visiting professorship, will provide a context for informed discussion and education in science-public policy issues. It will enable the university to use some of its scientific expertise more fully to benefit society in areas of pressing national and regional concern. By establishing the position to that end, the university hopes to pay fitting tribute to Senator McClure and his distinguished record of public service.