

KTVO to change hands

Raycom Media puts local TV station up on the sale block

Grace Mattie
Staff Reporter

KTVO is up for grabs now that its owner, Raycom Media, decided to sell.

Raycom Media announced plans Nov. 1 to sell 12 television stations, including KTVO, while purchasing 15 other stations from Liberty Media in an effort to focus more on middle-market stations in the Southeast, according to a KTVO news release.

"Although it was a difficult decision to part with these valuable stations and the 833 exceptional people they employ, their sale to interested buyers with whom they have a better strategic fit will benefit not only Raycom and the eventual purchasers, but also the stations and their employees," said Paul McTear, Raycom President and CEO, in the news release.

Fraser Seitel, Raycom Media spokesman, said Raycom made the decision to sell in October after purchasing the 15 stations from Liberty in August. Raycom owns 37 stations in 20 states, and its

stations cover more than 10 percent of U.S. television households making it one of the nation's largest broadcasters, according to the report. It should have only 25 stations by the end of the sale.

The other 11 stations are located in states around the country, including Georgia, New Mexico and Colorado.

"Raycom thought this was a good time to sell because the stations are doing very well," Seitel said.

She said prospective buyers will go through a bidding process for the stations. He said the buyer will depend on the market and advertising revenues.

In the release, McTear said that since the Liberty deal, Raycom has received considerable interest in its properties from potential buyers. He said the 12 stations likely would be valued in excess of \$600 million.

Seitel said KTVO will not have a problem being sold.

"The performance of KTVO is very good," Seitel said. "I think the process will move pretty swiftly, but it all depends on what the buyer wants to do."

KTVO full-time employees would not comment outside of the news release.



A KTVO news van sits outside of the television station earlier this week. Courtney Robbins/Index

Seitel said the transition period should not be a hassle. He said viewers never know when changes such as this one occur.

"The buyer just has to turn the key and everything works," Seitel said.

Seitel said that although Raycom will sell KTVO with all of its employees, whether employees will keep their jobs is up to the new owner.

"It's like buying a car," Seitel said. "What you do with it

afterward is up to the owner."

Senior Keri Esmar, temporary employee at KTVO, said employees were confronted one day before the news release.

"We don't know anything right now," Esmar said.

She said employees will meet again Friday for more clarification.

During the interim period, Raycom will make no changes to the stations.

"Right now it's business

as usual," Seitel said.

As for the future of KTVO, Seitel said he thinks a transfer of owners will only benefit the station, but he applauds Raycom's service to the station.

"It will be a priority for those who take over KTVO," Seitel said. "But note that Raycom is the kind of company that really does care about what happens to its employees, and I know it was difficult for them to sell the station."

NEWS | In Brief

State officials ask Missouri universities to prepare for upcoming budget cuts

The state asked all two-year and four-year Missouri public universities to steel for possible budget cuts for the upcoming year, according to a Nov. 9 article in the Columbia (Mo.) Tribune.

According to the article, Commissioner of Higher Education Greg Fitch sent an e-mail to state institutions, requesting they consider options for a possible \$100 million in budget cuts.

University officials were asked to provide Fitch with information by Friday detailing how the universities have been affected by previous budget cuts.

Universities are to prepare contingency plans, according to the article.

The e-mail said the budget cuts will not focus solely on higher education, according to the article.

Budget cuts are imminent, Fitch said, according to the article.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate appointed senior Linda Schulte and freshmen Emily Meyer and Andy Rudolph to voting positions.
- Speaker senior Michael Pierson said the Senate will have a meeting Saturday at 12 p.m. in Pickler Memorial Library to discuss the vision document.
- Junior Justin Fager, student affairs chairman, announced the Student Conduct Forum will be Nov. 14, and the location is to be announced.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$50 on prizes for a survey gauging student concerns about the vision document.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$500 for 1,000 promotional pens.
- Senate passed a motion to spend \$170 to purchase two commemorative gavels for former Student Senate president senior Laura Keck and current president sophomore Mark Kirtland.
- Senate rejected a motion to withdraw the \$170 for the commemorative gavels from an agency account funded by alumni and faculty contributions.
- Kirtland announced Jeff Gall, associate professor of history, has formed a committee to analyze the athletic department's role in the University's mission and has requested participation from any interested senator.

DPS | Reports

- 11/08 Report of theft from Ophelia Parrish.
- 11/07 Report of theft from Dobson Hall
- 11/05 Freshman Joshua Harris was issued a Missouri Uniform and Summons and Complaint for minor in possession of intoxicating liquor.
- 11/04 Freshman Robert Heap was issued a Missouri Uniform and Summons and Complaint for possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 11/02 Report of burglary at Ryle Hall

University will upgrade Conduct Code

Michelle Fortner
for the Index

The University's Student Conduct Code soon will undergo changes as part of a scheduled revision.

David Hoffman, assistant dean of student affairs, said he is working on the revision along with the help of Student Senate. The code last was revised in 2003.

Hoffman said the code is used to regulate the behavior of students and student organizations. He said it also provides a process for resolving conduct issues.

The previous revision split the rules into two sections, one for students and one for student organizations. Certain

rules' numbers changed and others' were divided to better explain the rules. Hoffman said other changes occurred, such as updating the sexual misconduct area, adding gambling rules and editing computer misuse rules.

Hoffman said he wants the code to be more principle-based. He said that would give students a standard at which they should act but would also include a list of rules. The current code focuses on educational sanctions, rather than just punishment, and Hoffman said he would like to keep it that way.

"There are a variety of ways to write a conduct code, and many of them are written from a very legalistic stand-

point," Hoffman said. "This is a real different approach."

He said he is looking at making revisions to the appeals process. The time between revisions might also change from three years to five years.

"Those are the major things that we are looking at in the code," Hoffman said. "Some of the rules there may [need] some tweaking."

He said he is looking into hiring an outside consultant to help gather information and feedback to help make any necessary changes.

Hoffman said he will place a feedback form on the Web site, conduct.truman.edu.

Student Senate is working with Hoffman to gather feedback from students. Sopho-

more senator Brandon Large said Senate will host a forum at 6 p.m. Nov. 29 in the Ryle Hall Main Lounge.

Dave Lusk, assistant dean of student affairs, is facilitating the forum. Lusk said his office is often looked at as a place of student advocacy, and facilitating the forum fits in with that. He said he is looking forward to hearing what students have to say about the code.

Lusk said it is important that students see him as a neutral party at the forum.

"To do group facilitation well, it's important to be neutral," Lusk said. "I might ask [a] question to follow up on concerns that students might have."

Large, who also is on the Conduct Hearing Board, said he would like to see the code changed from a list of minimal standards for students to more of an honor code.

"It's based upon trust," Large said. "It's based on students being looked at as adults, not children, which I think is one of the biggest problems at this school."

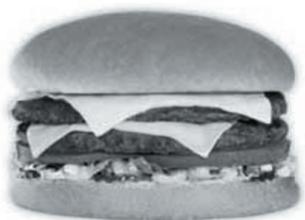
He said he does not think many teachers trust students when it comes to academic integrity, and he wants that culture to change.

"I see the Student Conduct code as a laundry list of minimal standards for students," Large said. "I think that is very inconsistent with our liberal arts culture."



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The Center for Student Involvement would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Blue Key, Cardinal Key, Faculty and Staff Volunteers, Sodexo & Student Union Staff. Without all of you, this event would not have been as successful!

The 2006 Regional College Bowl Tournament is scheduled to be held at Kansas State University February 24-26, 2006.

