MU salaries show slight decrease, despite increase in peer institutions

BY Victoria Guida

COLUMBIA — The average salary for MU ranked faculty dropped by about half a percent this year, while the average salary for the Association of American Universities went up by about 2 percent.

MU is still ranked last in terms of faculty salary compared to its peer institutions, according to a recent report from the American Association of University Professors.

"That's a concern," MU spokesman Christian Basi said. "It has been a concern for several years because we compete with many of the universities in the AAU for the best faculty members, and we are constantly looking for ways to improve our compensation."

Basi said through MU's comprehensive campaign, the university has been able to raise $1 billion for such things as creating new endowed chairs, which allows the university to offer increased salaries to faculty members or recruit better-qualified faculty members.

The slight dip in overall faculty salaries occurred during a continuing wage and hiring freeze. Basi suggested the dip could be attributed to smaller salaries for faculty who replaced those who retired. Also, he said, some employees may have moved from full-time to part-time status.

For the next year, the University of Missouri System Board of Curators is looking at offering an average 2 percent merit-based salary increase for faculty and staff.

The average salary for ranked faculty at MU this year is $81,300. The average for the AAU schools is $98,824. Among peer institutions, University of California at Los Angeles faculty has the highest average — $126,100.

Average salary for MU full professors this year is $111,100. In this category, MU ranks 34th out of 35 public members of the AAU.

MU also ranks lowest in average salary for associate professors at $73,500.

The data used by the association only includes faculty whose work is 50 percent or more focused on instruction, Ann Patton, a programmer analyst expert for MU, said.

It also does not include part-time faculty, instructors or faculty from the medical school. The data set included 1,083 professors.
Sheryl Crow to get honorary doctor from Missouri

Associated Press | Posted: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 11:33 am | No Comments Posted

A pair of well-known University of Missouri graduates and the researcher whose team in Scotland created Dolly, the cloned sheep, will receive honorary doctorates from the university next month.

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow, who grew up in the Bootheel town of Kennett, is being recognized as a celebrated musician, breast cancer survivor and champion of children and music education.

Also receiving an honorary doctorate will be Byron "Barney" Calame (kah-LAYM'), a Missouri native and holder of a bachelor's degree from the university's journalism school. He spent 40 years at the Wall Street Journal, rising from reporter to deputy managing editor.

Ian Wilmut will be honored for his work in animal cloning and genetic engineering.

Calame's wife, immunologist Kathryn Calame, and South African university administrator Brian O'Connell, will also receive honorary doctorates.
Sheryl Crow to receive honorary degree, speak at MU honors graduation

BY Jamie Tullmer

COLUMBIA — Musician and MU graduate Sheryl Crow will receive an honorary degree and speak at the Honors Commencement Ceremony in mid-May.

Since graduating from MU in 1984, Crow has achieved musical success and become a major philanthropist through her fame.

"Ms. Crow is a celebrated musician, breast cancer survivor and a champion of children and music education," said Michael O'Brien, dean of the College of Arts and Science, in a news release. "Ms. Crow is an outstanding role model for current MU students and future graduates, especially women."

While she was approved for an honorary degree three years ago, the Honorary Degrees Committee was unable to get a hold of her until last December, Bill Lamberson, chair of the committee, said.

"Sheryl was on the national campaign steering committee from 2000 to 2008 for the For All We Call Mizzou campaign," Catey Terry, director of development communications at MU, said.

The goal of the campaign, which began in 2001, was to raise $1 billion by December 2008, according to a previous Missourian report.

"It was an advisory committee of roughly 57 people who helped fund raising for the campaign," she said. "She (Crow) is a donor to MU."

"Whether an individual has donated to MU has no bearing on whether they are chosen to receive an honorary degree," Christian Basi, associate director of the MU News Bureau, said.

MU honorary degrees are only given in person at commencement ceremonies, with the exception of Lloyd Gaines, who received an honorary degree posthumously, Basi said.

"She's been Homecoming Grand Marshal (in 2003); she's been back to campus since she achieved her fame," Basi said.

Lamberson said he doesn't believe Crow will sing at the ceremony.
According to a news release, four other individuals will receive honorary degrees from MU this May:

- Ian Wilmut is best known as the leader of the research team that in 1996 produced the famous sheep "Dolly." The sheep was the first mammal cloned with genetic material from an adult cell.

- Kathryn Calame is being honored for 40 years of contributions to cancer and immunology research, including the discovery of a specific protein that increased scientists' understanding of the human immune response.

- Byron E. "Barney" Calame is receiving an honorary degree for his 39 years of service at the Wall Street Journal.

- Brian O’Connell has been the rector and vice chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, which has emerged as one of the best educational institutes in Africa, since 2001.

"The committee only recommends candidates to the Faculty Council, and they are approved by the Faculty Council, the nominations then go to the Chancellor for presentation to the Board of Curators for their approval," Lamberson said in an e-mail.

The Honors Commencement Ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. May 14, on Francis Quadrangle.
Sheryl Crow among MU honorary grads

University of Missouri graduate Sheryl Crow will receive an honorary doctorate on campus next month. She’s one of five MU is honoring this spring with honorary degrees, one of the highest honors the university bestows.

Crow, a native of Kennett, is a Grammy-winning musician and breast cancer survivor who opened the Sheryl Crow Imaging Center in Los Angeles last year. Crow will speak at the honors commencement at 8:30 a.m. May 14 on Francis Quadrangle. Also receiving an honorary degree at that time will be Ian Wilmut, who headed the research team that cloned the first animal, a sheep named Dolly, in 1996.

Three individuals, including a husband-and-wife team, will receive honorary degrees at the graduate school commencement at 8 p.m. May 13 at the Hearnes Center. Brian O’Connell is vice chancellor of the University of the Western Cape and is credited with improving the African school. He also established an exchange program between UWC and MU. Kathryn Calame, an MU alumna, is being recognized for her contributions to cancer research. She discovered a specific protein that helped scientists better understand human immune response. Her husband, Bryon Calame, is also an MU graduate and worked for nearly 40 years at The Wall Street Journal.
Next MU campaign to aim above $1 billion

Fundraising push plan is under way.

By Janese Silvey

The University of Missouri is gearing up for another major fundraising campaign, and this time, administrators want to exceed $1 billion.

The fundraising effort is in the planning stages, and Chancellor Brady Deaton declined to say when the campaign will be unveiled publicly. It likely will begin with a silent phase to allow administrators to reach out to potential big donors first, he said.

That could start as early as this month: Deaton indicated he would be talking to the Jefferson Club about the campaign in the coming weeks. The club — made up of those who contribute at least $25,000 to MU — is scheduled to have its annual meeting April 30 in Columbia.

Talk of another major campaign comes three years after MU finished the eight-year For All We Call Mizzou campaign that raised $1 billion. Most of those funds were designated for specific purposes, such as buildings or scholarships, but some unrestricted contributions are being used to create three new endowed chairs. During a general faculty meeting yesterday, Deaton announced he’s setting aside money from the Chancellor’s Fund for Excellence to create those new professor positions.

The next fundraising campaign will focus on boosting MU’s national and international prominence, Deaton said, but he acknowledged fiscal realities also force administrators to look to private donors to cushion cuts in state funding.

Although private donations typically cannot plug operating budget holes because they’re one-time funds, they can help.

For instance, donations used for scholarships help students deal with tuition increases. Tim Rooney, MU budget director, said during the faculty meeting.

“Endowed financial aid is important because it essentially makes tuition increases irrelevant,” he said.

MU’s tuition and fees are going up an average of 5.8 percent this coming school year, the first rate increase in three years. Even with flat tuition, though, increases in enrollment helped the university offset cuts in state funding over the past several years, Rooney said.
“Tuition revenue growth has really saved us,” he said.

Enrollment has been on the rise for years, and the trend is expected to continue.

This fall, administrators expect 6,093 freshmen, six more students than last year but still a record-breaking class. Undergraduate enrollment is expected to increase by about 1,000, from 24,464 this year to 25,463 in the fall. Graduate enrollment is expected to increase from 5,820 to 5,916.

Even with a tuition increase, MU is facing a $20 million shortfall, which takes into account a 2 percent increase in the salary pool and money for building maintenance and repairs that have been put off for years. That number is based on an expected 7 percent cut in state funding to higher education, as recommended by Gov. Jay Nixon, although lawmakers in recent weeks have considered a smaller cut.

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com.
University of Missouri aiming for $1 billion fundraising campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS | Posted: Thursday, April 21, 2011 7:19 am

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Administrators at the University of Missouri are preparing for a major new fundraising campaign with hopes of bringing in more than $1 billion.

Details will be announced sometime later, but Chancellor Brady Deaton told faculty members this week the drive will focus on raising the university's national and international profile.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports the campaign will probably begin quietly as administrators reach out to potential big donors.

The university's last major fundraising campaign was an eight-year drive dubbed "For All We Call Mizzou." That effort ended three years ago and brought in $1 billion, most of it designated for specific purposes including scholarships and buildings.