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Nov. 3, 2016

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GROSS NEWS OF THE DAY — TO CATCH A NUCLEAR SMUGGLER, USE TOENAIL CLIPPINGS: At least that’s the suggestion from a new study out of the University of Missouri, which examined whether hair, fingernail clippings and toenail clippings could be used to better detect uranium exposure.
New University of Missouri President to earn $530K a Year.

Watch story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=80a0e28e-fb38-4ffc-a733-79d20b49cc9c

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The contract of the University of Missouri system’s new president shows he will earn $530,000 a year in base salary, along with nearly $80,000 annually in deferred compensation and housing allowances.

University of Connecticut Provost Mun Choi was introduced Wednesday as the four-campus Missouri system’s next overseer, starting in March.

Choi’s Missouri contract shows his yearly base salary is $52,000 more than that of the current interim president, Mike Middleton, and his predecessor Tim Wolfe, who resigned a year ago.

But a spokesman for the Missouri system notes that the difference in base pay between Choi and his predecessors is roughly equivalent to the amount of performance payouts included in Middleton’s and Wolfe’s contracts. That performance pay isn’t in Choi’s deal.
University of Missouri curators set new president's pay at $530,000

Incoming University of Missouri System President Mun Choi will be paid $530,000 annually, with deferred compensation and a housing allowance that will add almost $80,000 to the annual cost, according to the contract he signed Wednesday.

The base pay is an 11 percent increase over the salary paid to interim President Mike Middleton and an increase of $58,320 over what Choi received as provost of the University of Connecticut. The five-year contract also provides $50,000 per year in deferred compensation, money that will be released in two steps, the first occurring if Choi remains on the job through June 30, 2020, and the second if he still is employed two years later.

The contract also includes a $2,400-per-month housing allowance and a car. It prohibits him from taking outside employment, such as a paid seat on a corporation board, without approval of the UM Board of Curators. The university released the contract Thursday. Choi starts the job March 1.

The Presidential Search Committee that screened candidates narrowed its list to five finalists for interviews Oct. 4 and 5 in Kansas City, then recommended three names to the Board of Curators. The board decided to offer the job to Choi in an Oct. 6 closed meeting.

Choi’s “gracious and compelling personality” helped set him apart from the rest of the contenders, said Stephanie Shonekan, chair of the Department of Black Studies at MU and a faculty representative on the committee. The interviews and written material he provided showed he understands campus life for scholars, students, faculty and researchers, and his record as a department chair, dean and provost showed he had vision and knew how to implement it, she said.

“He, to me, seemed like a few others, one of a few good choices for this time in our evolution as the University of Missouri System,” Shonekan said.

Choi will take over a university shaken in the past year by campus protests that on Nov. 9 forced out Tim Wolfe, president since 2012. The Concerned Student 1950 protests began when a group of black students blocked Wolfe’s car during the Homecoming parade last year. The group issued demands for more black faculty, greater emphasis on diversity training, shared governance and a more diverse student body about a week later.
Choi’s answer when asked about the protests showed insight that helped him win the job, Shonekan said.

“I do believe that, having read the articles about Concerned Student 1950, “that they care about the university like we all do,” Choi said after being introduced Wednesday in Jefferson City.

That answer, Shonekan said, “is reflective of somebody who is willing to think, willing to be open and willing to work together in a collaborative way to take us to the next level.”

During the introduction, curators Chairwoman Pam Henrickson praised Choi for working with legislators and others in Connecticut on a $1.5 billion program of building and academic improvements and for increasing student diversity. From fall 2012 through fall 2015, the last year for which figures are available, full-time enrollment at UConn increased 7.5 percent. In the same period, the proportions of black, Asian, Hispanic and foreign students all increased.

Maurice Graham, vice chairman of the Board of Curators, said he was impressed by Choi’s dedication to higher education as a path to improving lives. Choi was 9 years old when his family came in 1973 from South Korea to the United States and might not have been as successful if his family had remained in their home country, Graham said.

His personal attributes also won over the curators, he said.

“He just seems like a good person, a caring person, but he also has a strength that I think will provide excellent leadership for the system,” Graham said.

Choi, who comes from an engineering background, has continued his research while provost in Connecticut. His most recent project studies the combustion of fuel droplets in space, experiments conducted by NASA on the International Space Station. He will not be able to continue that work, he said Wednesday.

Choi, 52, is married with three children. His family established a company, Choi Brothers, that makes martial arts uniforms. It now is run by three of his sisters, Choi said.

Choi will receive the first installment on his deferred compensation in three years if he remains on the job. If he is the right choice, Shonekan said, Choi will have put his imprint on the university by that time.

That means “that there’s a clear vision, that there’s a sense among all stakeholders, faculty, staff, students and administration across the four campuses that they are valued, that they are listened to and that we are all headed in the right direction,” she said.
Choi to get $530,000 as UM System president

RUTH SERVEN, 20 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — New University of Missouri System President Mun Choi will receive a substantial raise when he takes office, according to a contract provided by the UM System.

Choi's annual base salary will be $530,000, and he'll also receive benefits, a car and a house in Columbia. If Choi and his family choose not to live in the system-owned Providence Point house, he can receive a housing allowance of $2,400 a month.

On Wednesday, UM spokesman John Fougere said the family plans to buy a house in Columbia when the school year ends and Choi's wife, Suzanne Choi, and their youngest, high school-age child, Cosette, move to town.

Choi's appointment was announced Wednesday morning in Jefferson City.

Although the sum is higher than previous system presidents' salaries, the overall amount is about equal to the performance funding included in previous presidents' contracts:

- Former system president Tim Wolfe made $459,000 per year in base salary and had the possibility of incentive pay. He resigned Nov. 9 after race-related protests.

- Interim president Mike Middleton earns $40,000 per month and can receive up to $25,000 in compensation payments, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The new president's salary is much lower than that of Missouri football coach Barry Odom. He makes an annual base salary of $450,000 and has a guaranteed non-salary compensation of $1.9 million per year for media appearances, public relations and stewardship, according to previous Missourian reporting.
If the UM System Board of Curators votes to fire Choi, he won't receive any deferred or incentivized compensation.

Currently, Choi makes $409,958 in base salary as provost of the University of Connecticut, according to a state database of public employees in Connecticut.

He will begin work on March 1.

Choi's contract released for UM System President


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The UM System has released Dr. Mun Choi's contract for the position of President. Choi is currently the provost at the University of Connecticut.

Choi has agreed to a five year contract with a $530,000 yearly salary. Choi will also receive deferred compensation for longevity and a housing allowance of $2,400 a month.

Choi will also have the option to obtain a vehicle from the university or to receive a vehicle allowance if he chooses to forego the vehicle offered to him from the university.
Faculty council considers civil rights office changes


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Faculty Council will consider changes to the school's Title IX and civil rights policies.

The group went over the report from its Ad Hoc Committee on Civil Rights and Title IX Thursday afternoon at Memorial Union. The group will make any final changes, including a vote on its recommendations, at a later meeting.

The office, led by Assistant Vice Chancellor Ellen Eardley, expanded in December 2015 to include discrimination complaints based on categories like age, nationality or compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Eardley took over the Title IX office in April of that year, handling the school's sexual discrimination complaints, which it still manages today.

The report includes revisions to how the school's Title IX office holds hearings and clearly defining important terms. Tina Bloom, chair of the ad hoc committee, mentioned the school had no "compulsory process" in its Title IX hearings, meaning it can't legally compel someone to take part in the hearings. The Title IX office held 24 such hearings in the 2014-2015 school year, designed to hear facts of a complaint brought to it, and decide if punishment is necessary. The proposal includes adding language to the rules to include someone's non-participation in the hearing would be a "refusal to cooperate," and subject to "student conduct action."

Eardley said she was glad the Faculty Council took an interest in reviewing the policies around her office. The addition of all civil rights complaints has meant 13 more categories of discrimination to document, but also meant her office could direct students, staff and faculty affected by these problems to proper resources on campus, like mental health counseling.

"So that they feel safe, that they can stay in school and that they can stay employed and engaged in our community," Eardley told ABC 17 News.
The revisions from the ad hoc committee include expanding on the definition of dating violence. It specifies that "emotional, verbal, physical or sexual violence," and threatening self-harm or hurting others qualifies as dating or intimate partner violence.

49 of the 332 reports Eardley's office received in the 2014-2015 school year included such violence. While the Title IX Office put out a report in September 2015 on what people were reporting, she said the 2015-2016 version was delayed due to the office's expansion into civil rights complaints. Eardley said she expects the report to come out by the end of the calendar year.

"We'll just have 13 forms of discrimination to report out about, and to describe the types of incidents that we're seeing on our campus, so that people have a sense of the information that we're collecting and what we're doing with that and how we're responding as a community."

Eardley was also pleased that the office was able to connect 162 of the 328 people who reported with resources on campus.

University of Missouri Medical School Dean Discusses Changes

The dean of the University of Missouri's medical school says a recent change in leadership was motivated by a sense of urgency prompted by the school's accreditation report.

The Columbia Missourian reports that dean Patrice Delafontaine spoke to medical students Wednesday about the changes, including the resignation of Rachel Brown in October as the medical school's associate dean for student programs and professional development. She remains a professor in the psychiatry department.
That came on the heels of a June report, which highlighted problems with student mistreatment and diversity. The school was given two years to improve in those areas to keep its full accreditation.

Delafontaine said at the meeting that he believed the risk of losing accreditation was very low, but the issue of mistreatment is unacceptable.

**MISSOURIAN**

**GEORGE KENNEDY: Hunger is not a faraway problem; it's right here in Boone County**

GEORGE KENNEDY, 14 hrs ago

If you will give me your attention for the next few minutes, I will offer you the opportunity to do something that will make you feel good and that’s guaranteed not to anger even those who will vote next week for the wrong candidates.

Here it is: Feed a hungry kid.

Yesterday at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, we volunteers filled Buddy Packs. We do that a lot, because the Food Bank gives away more than 7,000 of them every week during the school year to pupils in more than 150 schools scattered across 27 of the 32 counties we serve.

The trouble is that we’re falling far short of meeting the need.

Nick Kristof wrote in Sunday’s New York Times about a 13-year-old boy in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who told him that when his mother has no food in the house, “I just go hungry.”
We have boys like that in Boone County. In fact, throughout our service area, which stretches from the Lake of the Ozarks to the Iowa and Illinois borders, more than half the 111,000 school children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

The Buddy Packs are intended to provide simple, nourishing meals to get those kids through the weekends. Every pack we filled Thursday contained two cans of pasta (one with meat sauce, one with tomato sauce), two helpings of applesauce, two servings of cereal, a packet of dried milk and a tiny sweet treat.

That’s not a feast, but it sure beats hunger — at least for the 13 percent of those needy youngsters we’re now able to serve.

Here at the School of Journalism, students, faculty and staff are engaged for the next two weeks in a friendly competition with the School of Health Professions to see which group can collect the most donated food and cash for the Food Bank.

You don’t have to get in that contest to get in the game. For instance, it’s not too late to make a pledge in the Score Against Hunger campaign the Food Bank is conducting for a 22nd year in partnership with MU Athletics.

Every dollar you give will buy 15 pounds of food. For $180, you can sponsor a Buddy Pack for a child through the whole school year.

And, by the way, hunger and malnutrition aren’t restricted to children. In addition to the schools and our food pantries, the Food Bank gives away about 1,800 senior boxes every month, and a new program provides VIP Veteran Packs to armed forces veterans in need. It adds up to more than 30 million pounds of food given away this year.

We may not be able to end world hunger, and world peace is probably beyond our reach, but what we can do – and I suggest what we should do – is help feed our hungry neighbors, especially the children.
If you want to learn more about America’s hunger crisis or what the Food Bank is doing to combat it, you can visit the website ShareFoodBringHope.org.

Even better, you can drop a check in the mail to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, 2101 Vandiver Drive, Columbia 65202. (My personal favorite is the Ballard Buddy Pack Fund, named in honor of longtime volunteers Marion and Shirley Ballard.)

Now how could you turn down an opportunity like this?