

President's Message

DEAR MURA MEMBERS,

2024 was a year of great accomplishments for MURA. We had excellent breakfast programs. We raised a record amount of funds for the 2024 United Way campaign. We also raised funds for our Kitty Dickerson scholarship from a variety of efforts. We had good meetings with Chancellor Choi, who has supported our efforts consistently. As MURA president, I've been inspired by the energy and commitment to mission that our members show at every turn.

Last week, I received the *Mizzou Magazine* in the mail. I think the quality of this publication just keeps on improving. You can check it out at <https://showme.missouri.edu/mizzou-magazine/>. This issue includes a brief article called "Climbing Together" that provides data on the student population for the fall semester. This article is available at <https://showme.missouri.edu/2024/climbing-together/>. It also shows Missouri's rank compared to other large public institutions. Our rank is climbing. I shared this with my grandkids, who are all prospective Tigers.

I hope you'll join me in making sure MURA accomplishes even more in this new year.

Best wishes,

Jim Scott
MURA President
scottj@missouri.edu
573.268.8932



Jim Scott

MURA Wins Dream Team Award!

See page 2 for details

In This Issue

Member Survey Results...	1
United Way Award	2
Awards Committee	2
Upcoming Events	2
MURA Cash Flows.....	3
Fall Social	5
February Breakfast.....	7
March Breakfast	7
April Breakfast.....	7
United Way Campaign	8
Scholarship Committee...	9
Honorary Degrees Committee	9
Seeking Research Subjects	9
Holiday Luncheon	10
Faculty Council	12

MURA Member Survey Results, Part 2

Kenneth Dean, MURA Past President

Introduction

In late June of 2024, a survey was sent electronically to 776 members of the University of Missouri Retirees Association (MURA) who have supplied MURA with email addresses. This is the second of several reports that will be published in the newsletter. Previous surveys of members were completed in 2018 and 2021. This second report deals with questions related to the value of MURA to its members, whereas the first report in the last newsletter dealt with the value of MURA to the University and MURA members' assessments of University benefits.

Respondent Characteristics

To recap the October *MURA News*, survey respondent characteristics included the following:

- 95% University retirees
- 4% retiree spouses
- 50% MU alumni
- 34 were still part-time employees of the University
- 43% male
- 57% female
- At retirement, 48% were faculty, 48% were staff, and 4% listed "other"

Continued on page 4



Heart of Missouri United Way

MURA Receives United Way Dream Team Award

Kristofer Hagglund, Co-chair
2024 MU United Way Campaign Committee

At MURA’s December 3 breakfast, the MU United Way Campaign Committee recognized the MU Retirees Association with the Dream Team Award, which celebrates collaborative efforts within a single unit. MURA has been an active participant in MU’s United Way campaigns over the years and was particularly vital to MU reaching its 2024 goal. **Dee Montgomery, Jim Scott, and Ken Dean** accepted the award presented by the co-chairs for this year’s MU United Way campaign, **Kris Hagglund Brenda Selman**.



Kris Hagglund, Jim Scott, Dee Montgomery, and Brenda Selman with the Dream Team trophy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Speaker/Program	Location	Time
February 4	Bryan Allee, Executive Vice President & Chief Fiduciary Officer, Central Trust Company	Country Club of Missouri	8:00–9:30 a.m.
March 4	Kara Whatley, MU Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian	Country Club of Missouri	8:00–9:30 a.m.
March 11	MURA Annual Business Meeting	Country Club of Missouri	10:00 a.m.
April 1	Mike Hosokawa, EdD, MU Professor Emeritus, Family and Community Medicine	Country Club of Missouri	8:00–9:30 a.m.

MURA Awards Committee Needs Your Help



Dick and Donna Otto
Co-chairs, MURA Awards Committee

The 2025 Chancellor’s Retiree of the Year Awards will be presented by **Dr. Mun Choi** at a MURA event this spring. This recognition program, begun in 1990, focuses on the accomplishments of former UM and MU employees after their departure from University employment. These accomplishments may involve volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare services, career and professional activities or other noteworthy achievements. Accomplishments prior to their departing the University are not considered in the selection process. Two awards are given: one to a former faculty member and one to a former staff member.

Nominees for this award must have ended benefit-eligible employment with the University before January 1, 2020. Recognition is for volunteer services provided to their communities, university, professional, and civic organizations following their employment with the University.

Now is the time to give thought to anyone you will be nominating for these awards. Who do you know that is making a difference for others through their volunteer activities? Who are those folks behind the scenes that make things work for the betterment of our community?

A nomination form is available online at <https://mura-missouri.com/chancellors-retiree-of-the-year-awards/>. It is not a complicated system to nominate someone for this award. Along with a completed nomination form, a letter with the following information is required:

- Details regarding their accomplishments
 - Personal and background information for the nominee
 - Your assessment of why you believe this person is deserving of the award.
- Three general letters of support are required from others who know the nominee and can attest to their character and contributions/accomplishments.

Stay tuned for additional information in a future newsletter!

MURA Actuals for FY 2024 and FY 2025

	Actual FY Thru 12/31/24	Actual FY Ended 6/30/24	Percent of Prior FY
Operating Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income			
Receipts			
Due - annual	\$ 200.00	\$ 225.00	88.89%
Dues - lifetime	1,737.50	1,762.50	98.58%
Donation to scholarship fund	25.00	35.00	71.43%
Sponsorships—Tiger Place & MU	5,000.00	9,000.00	62.50%
Educational seminars registration receipts	0.00	740.00	0.00%
Board meeting receipts	200.00		
Investment income - Vanguard	2,127.20	4,021.38	52.90%
Total Operating Receipts	9,289.70	15,783.88	58.86%
Disbursements			
Business meeting	0.00	1,143.23	0.00%
Orientation meeting, Board meeting expenses	115.88	16.79	690.17%
Educational seminars	0.00	1,436.70	0.00%
AROHE dues	0.00	120.00	0.00%
Flagship Council	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Copies, printing services	651.79	1,081.55	60.26%
Post office box rent and postage	0.00	218.00	0.00%
Software (WinHost, Jotform, Adobe)	426.39	672.27	63.43%
State of Missouri Secretary of State filing fee	20.50	10.50	195.24%
Payment to University for Kitty Dickerson Schp	25.00	35.00	71.43%
PayPal fees assessed against dues payments	43.36	41.88	103.53%
Miscellaneous	0.00	124.85	0.00%
Total Operating Disbursements	1,282.92	5,150.77	24.91%
Excess of Operating Receipts over Disbursements	8,006.78	10,633.11	75.30%
Self-Supporting Social Activities			
Holiday Luncheon			
Receipts - Members	3,025.00	2,525.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship from Central Trust	1,533.66	2,155.47	
Disbursements - PayPal	89.09	84.30	
Disbursements - Holiday Inn Exec Ctr, pianist	4,469.57	4,596.17	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Shakespeare's Fundraiser			
Receipts	107.38	325.31	
Disbursements-MU for Kitty Dickerson Schp	107.38	325.31	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Spring and Fall Events			
Receipts	925.00	890.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	47.40	45.33	
Disbursements-MU for Kitty Dickerson Schp	0.00	844.67	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	877.60	0.00	0.00%
Breakfasts			
Receipts - Members	4,095.00	9,916.00	
Receipts - Sponsorship from Central Trust	2,466.34	1,844.53	
Disbursements - PayPal	177.99	422.97	
Disbursements - CCMO, supplies	5,634.86	12,793.89	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	748.49	(1,456.33)	
Other Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfer to investment account	0.00	(1,762.50)	
Transfer from investment account			
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash During Period	9,632.87	7,414.28	
Cash Balance, Beginning of Period	12,677.91	5,263.63	
Cash Balance, End of Period	\$ 22,310.78	\$12,677.91	
Investment Assets			
Lifetime members reserve account	\$ 112,710.95	\$ 110,478.57	

Member Survey Results, continued from page 1

- 71% of respondents live in Columbia
- 9% are within 25 miles of Columbia
- 13% live more than 100 miles from Columbia

These numbers are remarkably similar to the results of MURA's 2021 survey. Of the 242 who responded as to their year of retirement, only 11 said they retired before 2000; 39 had retired since 2020; and the balance between 2000 and 2020.

Responses Related to MURA Objectives

Q3. MURA has the following objectives:

1. To advocate for the interests/benefits of retirees
2. To serve as a retiree spokesperson/channel of communication with MU/UM and others
3. To contribute to the University family
4. To provide educational and social activities for retirees

Rate the importance of these objectives to you as a member.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not So Important	Unimportant	Total
Obj 1	94.70% 250	4.92% 13	0.38% 1	0.00% 0	264
Obj 2	83.77% 222	14.34% 38	1.89% 5	0.00% 0	265
Obj 3	47.51% 124	41.00% 107	10.73% 28	0.77% 2	261
Obj 4	45.21% 118	37.55% 98	14.56% 38	2.68% 7	261

As shown in the above table, members appear to value most highly MURA's roles in advocating for the interests of retirees and in communicating on behalf of retirees with the University. The MURA objectives of contributing to the University family and providing social and educational activities are seen as somewhat or very important by a lesser percentage of members.

Responses Related to MURA Activities

Q4. Indicate the value you place on the following MURA programs and activities:

1. Monthly breakfasts
2. Annual spring business meeting
3. Fall and spring socials
4. Holiday luncheon
5. UM System town halls for retirees

	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not So Valuable	Not at all Valuable	Total
1	45.75% 113	31.58% 78	14.17% 35	8.50% 21	247
2	39.02% 96	40.24% 99	17.07% 42	3.66% 9	246
3	20.99% 51	50.21% 122	21.40% 52	7.41% 18	243
4	25.62% 62	43.80% 106	22.73% 55	7.85% 19	242
5	55.56% 140	34.13% 86	8.73% 22	1.59% 4	252

This question sought to measure the value members place on some of MURA's major activities, except for the fifth activity, which is primarily a function of UM, albeit with some MURA input. As can be seen, the UM town halls, in which primarily health, drug, dental and vision coverage and costs are discussed, rank the highest, with 89.69% of members rating them somewhat or very valuable. However over 70% of members also rated the other four activities as somewhat or very valuable.

Q5. In which MURA activities did you participate since January 1, 2022? Check all that apply.

	%	No.
Breakfast series in person	50.60%	126
Breakfast series via Zoom	9.24%	23
2022 spring business meeting in person	23.29%	58
2022 spring business meeting via Zoom	8.03%	20
2023 spring business meeting in person	21.69%	54
2023 spring business meeting via Zoom	8.43%	21
2024 spring business meeting in person	17.27%	43
2024 spring business meeting via Zoom	6.83%	17
2022 holiday luncheon in person	22.89%	57
2023 holiday luncheon in person	26.10%	65
UM System town hall webinars for retirees	42.97%	107
Did not participate in any of these programs	25.70%	64

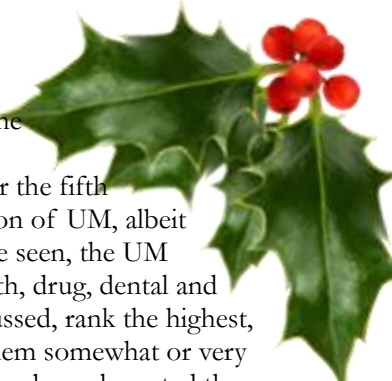
This question sought to determine which programs respondents actually attended during the past two years. As might be expected, almost 60% of respondents had attended one or more breakfast meetings in person or via Zoom. Interestingly over 25% had not attended any programs but still took the time to respond to the survey.

Q6. If you participated in MURA breakfast programs, how satisfied are you with the breakfast programs you attended?

Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
78.00% 117	13.33% 20	6.67% 10	2.00% 3	0.00% 0

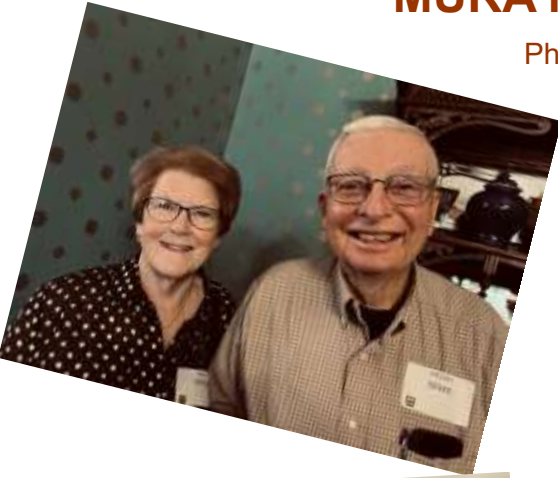
Over 91% of the 150 members who had attended a breakfast meeting in the past two years were somewhat or very satisfied with the programming.

More analysis will be provided in the next issue of the newsletter to see if there are differences between men and women or between faculty and staff in their responses. Please know that we greatly appreciate those of you who took the time to respond and that these responses guide the MURA Board and Program and Communication committees in our work.



MURA Members Enjoy the Fall Social

Photos by Suzette Heiman, MURA Secretary



From left: Jan and Mel Brees; David Leuthold and Ellen Atkins; David Baker and Chad Higgins



From above: David Baker and Robin Walker; Gary and Carol Smith; Donna and Danny Johanning



From above left: Julia Chang and Rainer Glaser; Cecile and Clyde Bentley; Sandy and Jim Ollar; James and Rachael Preston



From left: Jim Pogue and Audrey Speiler; Barbara and Paul Corson



From above: (seated) Julia Chang and Rainer Glaser, (standing) Stephen and Joan Mudrick; Rich Anderson and Leslie Palmer



From far left: Sandy Sites and Nancy Johnson; Jack and Linda Wells; Memoree Bradley and Loretta Sanders; Keith and Jane Boles; Wayne and Jo Behymer



From left: Greg Suhller and Doris Littrell; Jane Scott and Ken Dean; Kathy Sharp, Herb Tillema and Sherri Helms

Left: Marilyn Coleman, Larry Ganong and Mun Choi. Above: Mark Stewart

February Breakfast Preparing for Expiration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

Mary Leuci, Chair
MURA Program & Education Committee



At our breakfast on February 4, Bryan Allee, Executive Vice President & Chief Fiduciary Officer with Central Trust Company, will provide information on what we need to know to prepare for the sunset of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. With the election behind us, significant tax changes loom on the horizon. Many provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) are set to expire on December 31, 2025, unless Congress takes action. This should be an insightful look at the potential impact of these upcoming tax code changes. Mr. Allee will explore how the TCJA's expiration could affect individuals and families, and he will review legislative proposals that may emerge to replace or modify current provisions. Bryan will also share actionable tax planning strategies to help us prepare for these changes and safeguard our financial futures.

Registration will open in January, so mark your calendar and watch for an email update when registration opens.



March Breakfast What's New in the MU Libraries

Mary Leuci, Chair
MURA Program & Education Committee

The MURA breakfast program on March 4 will feature Kara Whatley, MU's new Vice Provost for Libraries and University Librarian. Ms. Whatley will provide an overview of what is new in the libraries and how retirees access the MU libraries whether or not you have an MU email address.



Prior to joining MU in 2024, Ms. Whatley was the university librarian at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and served as the chief executive of the Caltech Library system. Her previous roles include positions of increasing leadership at Texas Tech University Libraries and New York University Libraries. Throughout her career, she has shown a consistent strategic focus on catalyzing information discovery, preservation and sharing to support the university mission.

MURA News | January 2025

Ms. Whatley is a member of the Association of College Research Libraries (ACRL) and is currently serving as the ACRL Division Councilor and the ACRL representative to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' (IFLA's) Science and Technologies section. She also serves as a member of the Elsevier North American Library Advisory Board, the EBSCO North American Deans and Directors Library Advisory Board, and the Springer Nature Library Advisory Board.



April Breakfast The Internment Experience

Mary Leuci, Chair
MURA Program & Education Committee

At MURA's breakfast on April 1, Mike Hosokawa, EdD, MU Professor Emeritus, Family and Community Medicine, will speak about his experience as a Japanese American forced into an internment camp as a child during World War II. On February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 forced 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry off the West Coast into 10 camps surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. Most of the 120,000 were American citizens by birth. There were no criminal charges filed; there were no trials. Constitutional rights were suspended based on race. Dr. Hosokawa will describe this experience through the eyes of a child.



Dr. Hosokawa joined the MU School of Medicine in 1974. Recognized for his work in medical education, he played a key role in initiating innovations that have made MU a pioneer in curricular reform. One of these innovations, problem-based learning, was implemented in 1993 and has become a hallmark of success at MU. Hosokawa co-founded MU's rural track initiative during the 1990s.



In 2009, after stepping down as the School of Medicine's Associate Dean for Curriculum, Dr. Hosokawa re-joined the Department of Family and Community Medicine to continue his role as Director of Faculty Development. In 2017, the dean of the School of

Continued on page 8

mura-missouri.com 7

April Breakfast, continued from page 7

Medicine appointed him senior associate dean for education and faculty development. He retained this role until his retirement in 2023.

Outside of leadership in medical education, Dr. Hosokawa's life centers around his two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys cooking, and he is a watercolorist. A former Division 1 swimming coach, he swims at the masters level.



*A great partnership
for our MURA breakfasts
and holiday social*

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MURA Members Impact Mid-Missourians

Dee Montgomery, MURA Representative, MU Heart of Missouri United Way Campaign Committee

The generosity of MU retirees continues to help the Heart of Missouri United Way (HMUW) respond to those in need in Columbia and the surrounding area. A huge thank you goes to retirees who pledged a record amount this year—\$218,498 as of December 16. Donations will still be accepted until January 31, 2025, either online at <https://www.uwheartmo.org/mu/>, or by sending a check to 105 E. Ash St., #300, Columbia, MO 65203. Gifts from investments or from Individual Retirement Accounts can be made to Heart of Missouri United Way. If you have questions concerning investment or IRA gifts, contact Amy Harvey at aharvey@uwheartmo.org.

No other nonprofit organization has the breadth and reach of the HMUW with its focus on promoting the education, health, and financial stability of Mid-Missourians. Over 22% of individuals in our area are served by the Heart of Missouri United Way. Both short- and long-term data clearly show the effectiveness of the programs it supports. In 2024, the HMUW awarded 37 grants to 25 local nonprofits. Data from these agencies showed impressive and lasting gains for participants. Data related to financial stability and health, for example, show 77% of employment-related-program participants maintained or obtained better employment, and 83% maintained or gained stable housing. Recent education data also indicate noteworthy effectiveness: 90% of those served

and assessed by HMUW-funded programs entered school ready to succeed, and 89% of these participants graduated from high school on time. Again this year, HMUW's Read Across Columbia provided over 2,800 books to first and second graders at the five Columbia schools with the lowest reading proficiency scores and highest rates of free and reduced lunch. Since spring 2021, United Way has provided more than 16,000 books to first and second graders. Funding for much of Read Across Columbia has been provided through a sponsorship from MU Health Care.

I am so proud to be a member of a University community that so generously supports those in need through record-breaking 2024 contributions to the HMUW. Indeed, our University is stronger when our community is stronger. Thank you for your continuing support and amazing generosity.



TJ helps with book distribution to first and second graders at a 2024 United Way Read Across Columbia book giveaway event at Benton STEM Elementary School.

Calls for MURA Member Help

Scholarship Committee Call for Volunteers

Ted Tarkow, Chair
Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Committee

Volunteers are needed to help our University Store colleagues at the start of the spring semester. All proceeds for hours worked are credited to the MURA Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Fund. We're aiming to have volunteers in 2-hour shifts between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, January 20–23. Yes, we know that Monday, January 20, is Martin Luther King Day, but the University Store expects a lot of traffic that day. Please contact Ted Tarkow (tarkowt@missouri.edu or 573-239-4396) with your interest and availability.

Call for Nominations: MU Honorary Degrees

Donna Otto, MURA Representative
MU Honorary Degrees Committee

The MU Honorary Degrees Committee invites all members of the MU community to nominate persons for honorary degrees. This is the highest form of recognition offered by the University. Individuals selected must be persons of “exceptional distinction” who have provided “meritorious and outstanding service to the University, the State of Missouri, the United States, or to humanity at large.” A list of previous awardees is available at <https://commencement.missouri.edu/honorary-degrees/past-recipients/>. Nominees may be alumni, but that is not required. The Committee seeks a diverse candidate pool. One-page nominations are due January 31, 2025, for priority consideration. However, nominations are accepted at any time. Information and instructions for the nomination process may be found at <https://commencement.missouri.edu/honorary-degrees/nominations/>.

Breast Cancer Survivors Needed

Announcement Sponsored by the Department of Occupational Therapy

Has cancer-related cognitive impairment impacted your daily life? The Department of Occupational Therapy is evaluating the effectiveness of a new intervention on cognition, activity performance, and quality of life in breast cancer survivors.

Eligible participants are women between 20-75 years old who completed active treatment for breast cancer between six months and three years ago. Participation involves two, 2-hour assessment sessions, two MRI scans, and 10 intervention sessions. Sessions occur on the MU campus or by phone depending on group assignment. Participants who complete the entire 12-week study will be paid \$200. For more information, contact the study team at booneae@umsystem.edu or 573-882-7023.

Seeking Healthy Women Ages 40-70

Announcement Sponsored by the Department of Food, Nutrition and Exercise Science

We're seeking participants for a study on blood flow and oxygen in women experiencing menopause. Join us for one 60-minute in-person screening and three 5-hour research visits at Gwynn Hall. Participants receive body composition and blood panel results, plus up to \$250 for their time. To learn more and see if you qualify, visit www.mustudies.com or contact limberglab@missouri.edu to complete a short questionnaire.

Research Participants Wanted Who Are Sick with COVID-19 or the Flu

Announcement Sponsored by the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology

Do you have the flu or COVID-19 that is confirmed as positive by at-home test or at a clinic within the last five days, English speaking, and 18 years or older? Dr. Xiu-Feng (Henry) Wan and his team are examining how flu or COVID-19 influences our body's immune responses against the virus and how the virus spreads. Participants can follow this link—https://redcap.link/ilied_vaxstudy—to learn more about the study. We will ask you to provide a blood sample and nasal swab within five days of illness, and then blood samples at the University Hospital after seven days and one, three and six months. Participants receive a \$20 e-gift card per visit for up to \$100 total compensation. For information, contact flustudy@umsystem.edu.



Happy Faces at the Holiday Luncheon



Photos by Suzette Heiman, MURA Secretary



From left: Janie Harmon; Donna Johanning, Memoree Bradley, and Cindy Cover; Gary Zwonitzer, Marilyn Coleman, and Larry Ganong; Jan and Phill Harrison



From above: Charlotte Dean, Becky Morton, and Kim Dude-Lammy; Jim and Jane Scott; Janet Meyer, Donna Johanning, and Becky Morton. From right: Wren Roark and Donna Turner.



From far left: Cecile Bentley and Margie Sable; Donna and Dick Otto; (seated) Caroline Davis, (standing) Lanelle Basket, Brenda Jensen, and Chris Grider



From far left: Paul and Barbara Corson, Ken Hutchinson, Betsy Garrett, and Dale Brigham; Judy Nolke and Linda Lorenz



From above: Sandra Henderson and Jane Biers; Mike Misfeldt and Ken Dean; Doris Littrell and Tom Henderson



From right: Chris Grider, Lanell Basket, and Shirley Farrah; Loretta Sanders and Sherri Helms

From far left: Mariann and Jim Holstein; Megan Crocker, DJ Dollar, and John Bailey; Kee Groshong and Brian Sanders



From far left above: Brenda Jenson and Shirley Farrah; Ted Tarkow and MaryAnne McCollum; Jo and Wayne Behymer



From left: Ina Linville and Leslie Palmer; luncheon raffle items



Faculty Council News

Frank Schmidt
MURA Representative to Faculty Council

Faculty Council met on December 5 with President/Chancellor Mun Choi as guest. President Choi shared news about MU's health and budget, including the following:

- In contrast to nationwide declines, MU's first-year enrollment increased this year. The goal is 6,200-6,500 first-year enrollment in 2025.
- MU's 6-year graduation rate is projected to be better than 81%.
- The current budget includes a \$2- million transfer to Intercollegiate Athletics. Several Council members expressed misgivings about this amount. Dr. Choi made two points in response. First, settlement of the House vs NCAA lawsuit will increase MU's liability considerably over the current amount. Second, MU's acceptance rate of admitted prospective students (those sending in deposits) has increased by nearly 50%. That may be due in part to the success of MU athletics.
- A floor for adjunct instructors' pay has been set at \$500 per semester credit hour. Almost all MU departments currently meet this rate.

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MU Retirees Association

University of Missouri
PO Box 1831
Columbia, MO 65205-1831

