

## FACT SHEET

### University of Missouri System Presidential Search Process



- In January 2016, the University of Missouri Board of Curators started the search for the next University of Missouri System president by reviewing a proposed timeline, search recruitment models, and the proposed committee structure and composition. Additionally, the university issued a request for proposals to hire an executive search firm to support the search.
- The curators completed firm interviews and finalized presidential search committee membership during the February 24, 2016, board meeting. The university announced the selected executive search firm, Isaacson Miller, and committee co-chairs, Cheryl D.S. Walker and Dr. Jim Whitaker, at the first meeting of the presidential search committee on March 14, 2016. The search committee consisted of sixteen (16) voting members, which included:
  - Nine (9) members of the board of curators,
  - The student representative to the board of curators,
  - Two (2) faculty members selected by nomination from respective constituent group,
  - One (1) staff member selected by nomination from respective constituent group,
  - One (1) student member selected by nomination from respective constituent group, and
  - Two (2) co-chairs (alumni) to represent their respective constituent group.
- Early on, university leaders and search committee members agreed that the university community's input was critical to the success of the search process. The committee held presidential search listening sessions from late February through early April.
  - These sessions included internal and external stakeholders, such as faculty, staff and student advisory groups; alumni associations; and community leaders.
  - Each of the campuses that comprise the UM System hosted a public listening session.
  - To promote public participation, the university live-streamed each session and promoted them in 34 newspapers across the state.
- The search committee compiled feedback from the listening sessions, as well as feedback shared with the Isaacson, Miller team, to develop a presidential position profile that defined the key qualifications to guide the search for the system's next president. Based on these qualifications, the university began advertising the position and recruiting candidates on May 6, 2016.
- All members of the search committee agreed on the recruitment model selected for this search. Members agreed to conduct a closed search to ensure

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confidentiality of candidates and pool stability throughout the search process. While candidates remained confidential, the process of obtaining, reviewing and selecting candidates remained open and transparent.

- The presidential search committee reviewed candidate materials and moved forward twelve (12) semi-finalists for airport interviews, which were held in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 6-7, 2016, and September 18-19, 2016. At the close of these interviews, the committee recommended five (5) candidates to move forward for finalist interviews.
- The presidential search committee held finalist interviews in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 4-5, 2016. The committee involved a number of university leaders in the finalist interviews, including the:
  - Full presidential search committee, including all members of the board of curators as well as non-curator search committee members;
  - Chancellors;
  - UM System vice presidents, the chief diversity officer and the chief of staff;
  - UM System general counsel, who also served as a past interim president; and
  - Interim president.
- At the close of the finalist interviews on October 5, 2016, the presidential search committee, led by the co-chairs, formally recommended three (3) candidates for consideration by the board of curators.
- The board of curators met and discussed final candidates in Columbia, Missouri, on Friday, October 21, 2016.
- The board of curators voted on final candidate selection October 31, 2016.
- Dr. Mun Y. Choi was named the 24<sup>th</sup> president of the University of Missouri System on Wednesday, November 2, 2016.



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## University of Missouri System Presidential Search by the Numbers

- Isaacson, Miller reached out to 228 people across the country in connection with the presidential search, including people in higher education, government/military and business.
- The committee actively considered applicants who fall into the following categories:
  - Twenty-eight (28) individuals were high-ranking academic administrators.
  - Three (3) were corporate executive officers.
  - Three (3) were attorneys.
  - Two (2) were from the government/military sector.
- The search committee actively interviewed 12 individuals, of whom five (5) were considered in finalist interviews.

## University of Missouri System Presidential Search Committee

The university wishes to extend its thanks to the Presidential Search Committee (pictured below) for its efforts and commitment toward selecting the 24th president of the University of Missouri System.



From left to right: Donald L. Cupps, C. Joe Boehm, Rakeem Golden, Maurice B Graham, James H. Whitaker, Mary E. Nelson, Cheryl D. S. Walker, Jon T. Sundvold, Stephanie Shonekan, John R. Phillips, Thomas R. Voss, Patrick Graham, Pamela Quigg Henrickson, David L. Steelman and Sheilah Clarke-Ekong. Committee member Phillip H. Snowden is absent from this photo.

## For More Information

<https://www.umsystem.edu/ps/>