

OXFORD

Trustees give MU president raise

The Miami University Board of Trustees voted Friday, during a regularly scheduled meeting, to give President David Hodge a 2.5 percent salary increase, making his annual pay \$419,439 in 2015.

The pay raise is in line with the 2.5 percent increase that other university employees receive, Sharon J. Mitchell, the Miami University Board Chair, said.

Hodge was also given a 20 percent bonus from his 2014 salary for his performance. That money will be put into a retirement account, trustees said.

"The board is absolutely delighted with the performance of President David Hodge," Mitchell said. "We could not be more pleased with the success of Miami University under his leadership."

Hodge's wife, Valerie Hodge, will also receive \$29,802 in 2015 for her work as an ambassador for the university, the board approved Friday.

AMANDA SEITZ

Readers sound off on Miami and its regionals

Facebook comments

Miami University leaders are considering renaming the regional campuses and handing out new diplomas in an attempt to distance the college's main campus in Oxford from campuses located in Hamilton, Middletown and West Chester Twp.

A committee of faculty and staff from the regional campuses says "brand confusion" between the campuses is hindering the regional campuses academically and financially.

Here's what Journal-News Facebook readers had to say about this:

"My bachelors of science in nursing was only offered at the regional campuses. Having a Miami degree was always something I was proud of. Maybe not so much anymore." — **Jenny Adams**

"Many of the same professors teach the same classes at both Oxford and the regional campuses so I'm not sure why it's an issue." — **Amber Dyson-Buriff**

"Miami, Oxford enrollment requirements such as ACT and SAT scores are higher than at the regional campuses. There is an elitist attitude of "us" against "them" ... Enrollment is up at the regional campuses because the locals don't want to have to live on campus for the required two years, which adds up to a lot of money. Lately there have been a lot of articles stating how Miami, Oxford is wooing international students. They get a lot of aid for doing so from various programs. In my opinion, Miami, Oxford does not want to be associated with the local campuses to keep the image to warrant the always increasing tuition." — **Joyce Ann Butler Nichols**

"Sounds elitist, discriminatory, and not wanting to be one university. Too bad. Miami just dropped a notch for me. Lost sight of the purpose of an education, have we? End the we vs them appearance. Reinforce one college atmosphere." — **Cindee Weber**

"This is a horrible idea! Many of the same professors that teach at Oxford teach at the regional campuses. My son is working just as hard as the students at Oxford and deserves the Miami Univer-

sity diploma!" — **Traci Chamberlain Spencer**

"Maybe we should distance some state funding from the Oxford campus since they want to become a private school." — **Terry Leak**

"I graduated from Miami and had classes at 3 different campuses. They always think Oxford was the best but I learned more from the branch campuses than I did at any classes I took in Oxford and at that time it was cheaper as well. This is one reason I chose not to pursue my masters with Miami as the Oxford campus was too snooty and expensive for what you learn and have to put up with." — **Karen Kinney-Mathy**

"I realize it has been 40 years since I graduated from Miami University with my Bachelors in Elementary education but most of my classes were from Miami Hamilton Campus, I only attended Oxford Campus in the Summer terms. Almost all of my education classes at Hamilton were taught by the department head professors from Oxford." — **Margaret Himes**

Speak up

Re: "Miami seeks distance self from regional campuses": Brand confusion has absolutely nothing to do with being an alumni from my 1987 alma mater MU Red Hawks. Let's not segregate. Let's keep designations of our college brands at all the regional campuses.

How can a "civilized" nation that has legally and painfully killed thousands of unborn children every year since 1973 be so outraged by the recent case of some overpaid football player (Adrian Peterson)?

The suspension of NFL players for physical abuse has absolutely nothing to do with protecting women and, especially children. The flip-flop decision was solely made after major contributors backed away from teams and had nothing to do with what is right and wrong. This is, yet, just another example of how our society pays lip service to the children of this country.

Gov. Kasich is a modern-day Robin Hood with a twist. He takes from the poor and gives to the rich. He has shamed our schools, especially the poorest, but at the same time he magically hurt some of the better communities. He is a charlatan; a snake charmer.

With the latest heading of an American, surely President Obama has got to realize the peasants are really starting to get restless with him and his administration.

Letter to the editor

AG must defency his incumbency

Attorney General Mike DeWine's refusal to debate his opponent, David Pepper, is just plain wrong. As voters, we deserve to hear directly from all our candidates as to their positions on critical issues of the day. It is astounding that the incumbent, a former prosecutor and U.S. Senator, would shy away from a chance to debate any challenger, let alone one he has previously dismissed as "inexperienced" (Ohio Public Radio, Feb. 3, 2014). By not accepting the invitation to

step up to the podium at the renowned Cleveland City Club, DeWine comes across as self-serving and weak.

If he were not a seasoned politician, DeWine might be forgiven for his reluctance to face a skilled debater such as Pepper, who surely would waste no time calling DeWine out for inappropriately using the AG's Office to advance an extreme right-leaning agenda and pay to play culture. Pepper would seize every opportunity to expose DeWine's shortsighted handling of the heroin problem and untested rape kits. On top of all this, DeWine would find himself in the awkward position of having to explain why the Fraternal Order of Police and the Ohio State Patrol chose to unanimously endorse Pepper.

While I understand how a debate might be uncomfortable for our Attorney General, I am troubled by his timidity. Shouldn't a leader with his experience stand up to defend his incumbency? By refusing to participate in an open and fair debate, he puts self-interest ahead of the voter's need to be informed.

JOYCE SHRIMPLIN, LEBANON