

OUR VIEW: Moos' salary likely to cause some concern

By Doug Bauer, for the editorial board

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There's little doubt Bill Moos will do great things for Washington State University athletics.

For what he's being paid, he'd better.

Moos' name was first on the list for Cougar fans far and wide after former athletic director Jim Sterk unexpectedly departed for the same job at San Diego State - and for good reason.

Moos has deep ties to Pullman and did wonders during a highly successful 12-year stint as athletic director at the University of Oregon. He's experienced, affable and highly capable of turning WSU into one of the elite athletic institutions in the Pac-10 Conference, if not the entire country.

But the timing couldn't have been worse as far as his pay rate is concerned.

Moos and President Elson S. Floyd negotiated a seven-year deal worth at least \$455,000 per year - or roughly \$150,000 more than Sterk was earning on an annual basis.

That's a princely sum by nearly any standard, especially when compared to the salaries being paid to most faculty and staff members throughout the institution.

Many of those working stiffs will rightly question whether WSU is placing a higher priority on athletics than academics, particularly when the institution's state funding is being slashed at every turn.

Floyd faced similar criticism when he came on board in 2007 at a starting salary of \$600,000. The new president quickly proved his worth to the university, however, when it was announced that contributions to the WSU Foundation increased by \$51.6 million in the first full fiscal year after his arrival.

Moos is expected to have the same effect on the athletic department and its various endeavors, and in that sense will be worth every penny he's being paid.

The question is whether that will be enough to assuage the folks who believe WSU should invest more heavily in education than it does entertainment.