



Roger Festa, professor of chemistry, speaks Tuesday about the effects of reorganization.

## DIVISIONS | President Dixon reorganizes campus division offices

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larger divisions like language and literature. However, faculty voiced concerns that a part-time convener would not be effective.

"Essentially what you're doing is expecting a chair to, in a one-course release, do all the attending of numerous meetings, expect them to be the one that's writing the reports and expect them to do all the evaluations as far as personnel reviews," said Candy Young, professor of political science. "I think you do have to ask the question whether that's feasible for a faculty member who's still at least half the time in the classroom."

The proposed changes were in part a response to faculty frustrations and suggestions from the Higher Learning Commission report, Dixon said. The three models differ significantly from one another and were developed by looking at other institutions, liberal arts colleges and faculty problems, Dixon said.

Model one would implement a sys-

tem where most majors fall under one dean in the college of arts and sciences, according to handouts from Dixon. Model two would eliminate deans altogether and rely on academic chairs from each major to report directly to the vice president of academic affairs. A third model would be similar to the existing system but would consolidate the number of deans from eight to five. All three models contain part-time academic chairs or conveners at the discipline level that mean to reduce the number of people one dean or academic chair oversees.

The first two models would save the University about \$200,000 annually in administrative costs, Dixon said.

"That's a very quick and dirty analysis," Dixon said. "That's a first-time estimate of what might be saved, but that's not the reason to do it."

Reorganization talks are taking place at a time that would cause the least amount of disruption to the deans' group, Dixon said. Of the eight current deans, three have interim po-

sitions, and two more might retire or step down in the next few years.

Some faculty, however, said they think the plan might have more costs than benefits.

"Reorganization has hidden expenses to it in terms of the time and effort faculty have to expend to readjust and come up with new governing schemes and to rearrange the way they think about their classes in relationship to other departments that were one time in their division," said Scott Olsen, professor of education.

Many details relating to the structure change, such as where support staff and where each area would have its offices, remain undefined and will be decided if a change is made, Dixon said.

Dixon will make a final decision on the proposal before the end of the academic year. This shift won't go into effect until fall 2007.

"The kind of culture they create or recreate is going to be the key," said Steven Reschly, associate professor of history. "I'm hopeful but concerned."

# Women aspire to form sorority

Katie Curry for the Index

A group of women stressing individuality is hoping to offer a new choice for those seeking to join a social sorority.

Freshmen Kelly Albright and Julia Werner are in the process of forming a new local social sorority.

"We definitely want the sorority to be more laid-back than other ones on campus," Albright said. "We are hoping people who maybe otherwise couldn't join a sorority because of time commitments will be interested in joining ours."

The proposed sorority is tentatively named Zeta Omega, Albright said.

"It sounded good to us and different than the other names that are already here," Albright said.

Albright said obstacles prevent the sorority from getting accepted into the Panhellenic Council.

"They really discouraged us from trying to go national, so we decided to just create a local sorority for now," Albright said. "We are just trying to get enough people at this point interested to present a convincing case to Panhell."

Senior Frances Knapp, president of Sigma Chi Delta, the only local sorority on campus, said that to be successful, Albright and Werner will have to do their research.

"My advice is to talk to Panhell," Knapp said. "It's a pretty lengthy process, and you need to see how long it's going to take."

She also said the women should try to get support from one of the national sororities on campus.

Panhellenic Council adviser Janet Gooch was unavailable for comment on the process. Senior Ashley

Taylor, president of the Panhellenic Council, also was unavailable for comment.

At this point, efforts are mainly focused on getting students interested, Albright said.

"Right now we are just trying to gauge how much interest there is," Albright said. "At this point, we just need people."

She said in an informational meeting Nov. 2 that the new sorority will be based on such values as individuality, dedication and loyalty.

Albright and Werner said they hope to have a pledge class for their first rush in fall 2006 and a total of 35 to 40 people by spring 2007.

"The reason we are doing a fall rush is because we want to take the summer to really get things organized and really get a grip on it," Werner said. "If we tried for spring, it wouldn't be as organized, and we really want to get this up and running properly."

Werner said the sorority's rush process probably would include fundraising and fewer events in general and will be shorter than other sororities.

"It wouldn't be formal, and there would be less mandatory events," Werner said.

Both said several factors contributed to the decision to form their own sorority, one of them being the large amount of time students have to spend trying to get into a sorority.

"We saw the rush process with other sororities, and rushees were gone all the time," Werner said. "I really didn't want to have to choose between my academics and my social activities."

Werner said she views the rush

process as intimidating, which in part turned her off to the formal rush process.

"If I heard of a sorority that was a little more low-key, I would have been more apt to become involved," Werner said.

Albright warned against generalizing about sororities, however, and said that their sorority would be just another option among the diverse groups on campus.

"Each sorority has its own personality, and ours would be a completely different one than all the other ones on campus," Albright said. "Would it fit everyone on campus? Could any sorority do that? No. But it would appeal to a wider spectrum."

However, neither wants to take women away from, or create opposition to, existing sororities.

"We want to be Greek," Werner said. "We aren't against anybody or trying to steal anyone's ideas. Instead of taking away numbers, we are trying to create new numbers. We are just trying to appeal to different students — students that want to be in a sorority but feel they can't be in one of the current ones."

Albright shared this sentiment in an informational meeting.

"We aren't trying to create an antisorority or be rebels or anything," Albright said.

About 20 people attended the meeting, including sophomore Sarah Gregory, who said she was impressed.

"I like that she said that it would be about individuality," Gregory said.

Werner said interested students should look for advertisements in the form of chalkings, posters and other announcements.

## ASSAULT | Sexual assault could occur more frequently on campus despite lack of reports

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Kim LeBaron, executive director of VSS, said it is a private, nonprofit organization that works with all victims of violent crime including domestic assault victims and sexual assault victims. She said the organization has been serving Adair County since 1988. It is the only organization in Missouri that offers both comprehensive crime victims services, including counseling, advocacy, a 24-hour crisis phone line and a shelter.

The VSS shelter is a safe house for battered women and children. It holds a maximum of 35 people or six families, LeBaron said. Women staying in the shelter can stay for up to 30 days free of charge and are assessed individually by the staff. However, they are encouraged to continue with their lives while they are staying at the shelter as well.

"If they have kids, they are going to school," LeBaron said. "They are going to work, and if they aren't working, they are looking for it. Whatever they do in their daily lives, we are trying to make happen."

LeBaron said that since May, she personally has worked with 21 different rape cases.

"At any given time, a good portion of our caseload are people who have been sexually assaulted," she said.

LeBaron, Hamilton and Barks all pointed out that the preconceived notion of rape in society, the idea of a stranger attacking a woman and raping her, is not the

most common type of rape.

"It's very rare that we have a 'stranger rape' on campus," Hamilton said. "That has happened, but most sexual assaults are with someone the person knows and would happen in, you know, a residence hall or a fraternity house."

LeBaron said that in the 15 years she has worked for VSS, she probably has worked with 500 rape victims and can think of only 12 who were raped by strangers. She said that depending on what national study she looks at, 85 percent to 90 percent of rapists are someone with whom the victim already is acquainted.

In an effort to prevent dangerous situations, the campus is dotted with emergency telephones that are identifiable by their blue lights. Director of Public Safety Tom Johnson said calls made on the emergency phones are sent immediately to a dispatcher. He said that typically within two to three minutes, an officer will report to the emergency phone from which the call was made. However, he said in the two years he has worked on Truman's campus, nobody has ever used the emergency phones for an actual emergency. He said that occasionally people on campus push the buttons and then just walk away.

Although Barks said she thinks the emergency phones are helpful in safety, she does not think they pertain to sexual assault issues.

"Our campus doesn't have walls," she said. "We can't control who's coming on campus. I

think [the emergency phones] are great as a safety tool, but in response to sexual assault specifically, that's not where it occurs on campus. It happens in dorm rooms or in the upstairs or downstairs of parties."

Public Safety also provides an escort service to students who want someone to walk them across campus if they feel uneasy, Johnson said. That service can be reached by the emergency phones or by calling Public Safety from a regular phone. He said the emergency phones are checked weekly to make sure they are in working order, and annually, Johnson along with other Public Safety officers do what he calls a 'walk-through' of campus, to see if any safety issues need to be addressed.

"I think it's a pretty safe campus," he said. "People can get where they need to without any problems."

In another effort to enhance safety, one Public Safety officer is assigned to each residence hall to provide educational safety programs and be a liaison between Public Safety and the residence halls, Johnson said.

Sergeant Chad Witthom said Public Safety also offers self-defense classes for women. He said that in previous years, it has not been offered for credit, but this year it has been available as a fitness credit.

LeBaron said taking a self-defense class is not a bad idea, but it is important to continue practicing for years to come because later, it might be difficult to remember.

"Taking a self-defense class

can give people a false sense of security," she said. "It's just one more thing that you may be able to use to keep yourself alive."

Hamilton said that in more recent years, the outlook on rape prevention has changed.

"In the past, a lot of focus was on the victim and what the victim could do to not be in that situation," he said. "Really, prevention is moving away from that because we find that first of all it is not effective, and it really doesn't matter what a victim does. A lot of times they're still going to be a victim. It just feeds into our victim blaming culture to present 'Here's what you should have done.'"

He said rape prevention tactics are moving toward focusing on the men, on communication and on making sure there is a definite understanding of what rape is. He emphasized the importance of watching out for behaviors in friends that might lead to them engaging in unwanted sexual activity.

"It's kind of like the idea of 'Don't let your friends drive drunk home,'" he said. "Don't let your friends sexually assault someone."

LeBaron added that communication is important, and learning about the sexual assault in advance is imperative to knowing how to react if the situation comes up.

"I think it is really important people think about the possibility it could happen to them and think about what they would do if it happened," she said. "If you've thought about it, you aren't caught off guard in the same way."

## BLUNT | Governor cancels Kirksville visit

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it should be a local control issue," Montgomery said. "The biggest thing I have a problem with is what is called support services. ... But we could, in Kirksville, in a few numbers, make that 65 percent. It's not that it's hard — it's the philosophy."

Currently, 63.34 percent of the district's more than \$18.5 million budget is allocated to direct instruction. It will take between \$400,000 and \$1 million to redistribute the money, she said.

"What really disturbs me is what's been pulled out and not counted as classroom instruction," she said, citing guidance counseling, school nurses, utilities and the Parents as Teachers program.

"My No. 1 thing is what's best for kids," Montgomery said. "Is it

good for kids to have a nurse in every building? Yes. Would it be good for kids to sit in a cold room in the winter? Of course not."

She said the high percentage of special-needs students in Kirksville requires more support services.

Another concern for Montgomery is that the initiative does not take into account high-performing schools. Few of the top-performing districts meet the 65 percent figure.

Montgomery said many unknowns exist, but she still thinks Blunt's intentions are good.

"I think they want to help in education, but I'm not sure they really know what we need in education," Montgomery said. "I'm not just sure he's really looked at these things."

## CAPITAL | University restarts campaign

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Gambaiana said the funds raised wouldn't go exclusively to building projects, but to scholarships and endowments as well.

"Anything that we do to support the teaching and learning environment will come forward as an initiative," he said. "Students will be the primary focal point in this matter. It won't be a campaign for just bricks and mortar."

The campaign is still meeting with on-campus focus groups. Next semester, Gambaiana said the University hopes to start focus groups with alumni in various parts of the country to make them aware of the campaign.

"The second step will take our

preliminary findings into our strategic markets," he said. "These meetings will be small groups hosted by our board members, and it's designed to get feedback and build some ownership with our key stakeholders."

Gambaiana said this campaign is designed as a long-term projection of four to five years and said he thinks it will be a successful campaign.

"It will be successful financially, but also deepening the commitment of volunteers," he said. "It will also raise the awareness and goodwill the University provides. The impact to students will be a home run to provide a better experience through private giving."

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