Fair clearances graduate confusion

The first-ever Graduation Clearance Fair aims to ease the clearance process

Senior Samantha Cook talks to a representative of Walgreens during the Career Expo last week. The Graduate Clearance Fair, which takes place just a week after the career fair will allow upcoming graduates to confirm their graduation arrangements and complete the graduation clearance forms.

The University registrar is helping streamline the process. The first Graduate Clearance Fair began Wednesday and continues today from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the SUB Quiet Lounges.

University Registrar Ray Anderson said this event will enable graduating seniors to complete their graduation clearance forms conveniently and quickly.

“Once the grad clearance process was more cumbersome, and students were in a very stressful situation,” Anderson said. “It certainly wasn’t something that thought was giving the best customer service. The original plan to simplify the process was to establish an online system, but it became clear in September that such a system would just be too much for most of our problems. And we had to put that plan on hold for a little while longer.”

Anderson said the fair will save time for students and money for the University. "Students can come in and get all done very quickly and get everything finished,” Anderson said. "And even if there is a requirement that they can’t complete that day, they will have the information of where to do it the next day."

She said the new process changes the way the University registrar’s office functioned over the years, but the Truman Bookstore had in-kind vendors for it in its own graduation fair, but this year it is working cooperatively with the fair organized by the University registrar’s office.

“Students can come in and spend 20 minutes and get everything finished,” Anderson said. "It was a very simple idea, really. Students can come in and do all the things they have to do in one place. It was a great idea to bring in the services we already have on campus to do this at one time."

Anderson said that in previous years, the Truman Bookstore had in-kind vendors for it in its own graduation fair, but this year it is working cooperatively with the fair organized by the University registrar’s office.

Food will be provided as the event for the participants, and there will be opportunities to win prizes.

“We honestly hope it will be fun for them and for us,” Anderson said. “We have a lot of prizes. We’re going to host a contest here in 30 minutes and get some free food, maybe hang out for a while, eat, win a prize and get some free food while we’re at it.”

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University registrar

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Ogilvie said it was a pain, and just wasn’t looking forward to it. After she met with Anderson and the University registrar’s office, it became cleat that certain requirements wouldn’t be there. "They’re a great group of people,” Ogilvie said. "So that awareness of the graduation requirements, because we were having things like, certain requirements weren’t there and the red tape was a very unfriendly,” Anderson said. "It was very cumbersome, and students saw it as very unfriendly,” Anderson said. "It thought was giving the best customer service we could, but I am happy about the idea of a fair to calm down and get all of your graduation stuff done at one time in every way that the fair was organized.”

This semester's fair will consist of 10 campus participants, including representatives from the Registrar's office, assessment and test center, the Academic Affairs office, the Truman Bookstore, the assessment and test center, the Academic Affairs office, the Truman Bookstore, the Academic Affairs office, the University Registrar, the Academic Affairs office, and the Truman Bookstore.

This semester’s fair will be more efficient because there will be less paperwork and less data entry for the participants, including representatives from the registrar’s office, assessment and test center, the Academic Affairs office, and the Truman Bookstore.

Students and Ogilvie said she is glad the University is trying to improve the clearance process.

Samantha Cook

Student

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