

Sumter to join Board of Governors

Junior to replace senior Emily Kiddoo as non-voting student member

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
News Editor

Sitting on a couch in the SUB Down Under, junior Cody Sumter dropped three thick binders on the cushion next to him.

"I've already been given this much stuff that I have to read," Sumter said of his recent appointment as the Board of Governors student representative, maintaining a smile even as the reading piles up.

After an application process that ended with his being selected by Gov. Matt Blunt's staff, Sumter will take over for outgoing student representative senior Emily Kiddoo as soon as he is confirmed by the Missouri Senate.

Sophomore Tom Hogan was the other nominee submitted to Blunt's office. Even though he has not previously been involved with Student Senate, Sumter said he is excited about the job.

"I knew that I would regret not at least applying for it," he said. "It was something I thought would be very interesting to try to represent the student body."

In order to fill his two-year term, Sumter will have to make some personal sacrifices, including spending an extra year at Truman.

"I will be a super senior because of this, but I am more than happy to do that," Sumter said. "Guess I could pick up a couple minors or something."

Even as he familiarizes himself with Board policies, Sumter already is formulating goals in his mind for the position.

"Currently the student representative does not have voting power on the Board of Governors, and over the past few years I've seen a couple different bills come up which would attempt to give the student representative voting ability, which — considering the student body pretty much is the entire focus of this campus — it would kind of be nice if the students had a vote on the Board," he said.

Because Sumter's appointment was supposed to have happened at the beginning of January — and culminated with a personal interview with Blunt that did not happen for reasons unknown to Sumter — he has spent the semester learning about the position by attending Board of Governors meetings.

He said he was involved with everything but the closed session of last Saturday's Board meeting and will take over fully once his appointment is confirmed.

Sumter said he would like students to e-mail their concerns to him so he can bring them to the Board.

"The student representative is as powerful as the students want him to be, so most of that is getting what is student opinion on things and trying to stay in touch with that," he said.

Kiddoo said she is excited that Sumter was picked for the position because she thinks he will bring different strengths to the Board since he has a science background and has done a lot of undergraduate research.

"If he didn't get appointed as a student governor, he would have been studying abroad in Japan," she said. "I think he'll be a really strong advocate for students because of those things."

Kiddoo said she sees the student representative as having a specific role on the Board of Governors, which is made up of people with many different areas of expertise.

"I'm like an expert in student life because I am a student," she said.

Keith Beardslee, deputy press secretary for Blunt, said Missouri statutes mandate that the governor's office have the final say in appointments such as Sumter's.

"This will be the same for all student appointments to governing boards for universities," he said.

Beardslee said Sumter's appointment still must be confirmed by the Missouri Senate and that he has been appointed to a term ending Jan. 1, 2009.

Ameren proposes rate increase

Power company says rise in fuel costs is primary reason for possible hike

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

Last Friday, AmerenUE announced that it would be seeking approval from the Missouri Public Service Commission for a 12.1 percent increase in electricity rates, or about \$9 per month in an average home. This estimate is based on an energy consumption of 1,100 kilowatts per month.

"The biggest component of this rate case is because of fuel costs," AmerenUE representative Susan Gallagher said. "The cost of coal has gone up dramatically, by more than one-third if you look at the cost of transportation as well."

According to an AmerenUE press release, expenses involved in the continuation of system-wide reliability improvements also contributed to the increase.

"We've had about 500 meetings throughout our communities as well as surveys and focus groups, and we have found that reliability is key," Gallagher said.

To address this concern, AmerenUE recently implemented Project Power On, a three-year, \$1 billion initiative focused on burying power lines in areas prone to outages, improving repair and

maintenance programs, reducing emissions and developing wind power and other renewable energy sources.

Even with AmerenUE's progress, Kirksville resident Angie Devito said she is not excited to see electricity costs rise.

"Just like anyone else, I'm not happy about the rate increase," Devito said.

Senior Brandon Ping said he agrees.

"I don't think it's fair because they are already charging us so much," he said.

However, Adair County AmerenUE representative Annette Sweet said the response has not been overly negative.

"I think that energy prices in general have gone up, and people aren't surprised when an energy company talks about increasing costs," Sweet said.

If the 12.1 percent increase is approved, it most likely will go into effect in spring 2009.

The last rate increase was 2 percent in 2007. Prior to that increase, AmerenUE had seven rate decreases during a 20-year period.

"At this point, in comparison to the rest of the nation, our electricity in Missouri is very cheap," Sweet said.

Sweet said that although she would like to see the full amount approved by MoPSC, the commission more likely will approve an amended version of the proposal.



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Junior Cody Sumter discusses his role as student representative to the University Board of Governors Monday evening. He is awaiting appointment to the board by the Missouri Senate.

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NEWS | In Brief

Four groups host regional job fair

The Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Missouri Career Center, the Missouri Employer Committee and Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Inc., is hosting a job fair April 17, according to a Friday press release.

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the NEMO Fairgrounds, also according to the release.

Local residents who are looking for employment or thinking about changing jobs are encouraged to attend and talk with hiring officials from up to 50 area employers from all types of industries.

The job fair is the region's largest, according to the release. For more information, contact the Missouri Career Center at 660-785-2400 or the Chamber of Commerce at 660-665-3766.

Local resident runs for Second District

Thom Van Vleck, of Greentop, Mo., has filed to run for state representative in the Second House District, according to a press release from Tuesday.

Van Vleck currently is the director of counseling at A.T. Still University. He is also a former counselor with Preferred Family Healthcare. Van Vleck, a Truman alumnus, will run against incumbent Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirksville, in the Nov. 4 general election, also according to the release.

Educator of the Year finalists named

The Educator of the Year Committee has announced its 2008 finalists, according to a press release from Monday.

The finalists are Jeffrey Gall, associate professor of history, Jonathan Gering, associate professor of biology, Warren Gooch, professor of music, James Guffey, professor of mathematics, Leslie Hahner, assistant professor of communication, and Alanna Preussner, associate professor of English.

The recipient of the 2008 award will be named at the Educator of the Year banquet at 6 p.m. April 28 in the Student Union Building Georgian Room.

Sophomore places high in marathon

Sophomore Paul Chisolm placed second in his age group, men 1-to 19-years old, and 83rd overall in the GO! St. Louis Marathon, according to race results. He finished with a time of 3:18:03.

The race took place last Saturday.

ROTC News

- Junior Philip Busick contracted with the Truman State University Military Science Department as a Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. He is pursuing a B.S. Degree in Communication. Following successful completion of both his university studies and ROTC requirements, Cadet Busick will receive his commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

- Junior Nicholas Schmidt contracted with the Truman State University Military Science Department as a Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. He is pursuing a B.S. Degree in Justice Systems. Following successful completion of both his university studies and ROTC requirements, Cadet Schmidt will receive his commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

- Sophomore Shane Wright contracted with the Truman State University Military Science Department as a Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. He is pursuing a B.S. Degree in Biology. Following successful completion of both his university studies and ROTC requirements, Cadet Wright will receive his commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

- Sophomore Shane Haas contracted with the Truman State University Military Science Department as a Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet. He is pursuing a B.S. Degree in Journalism. Following successful completion of both his university studies and ROTC requirements, Cadet Haas will receive his commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

- While pursuing a commission as an officer in the United States Army through Truman State University, Cadet junior Calvin Van O'Linda has joined the Missouri National Guard as a simultaneous member. The SM Program reinforces training on the role of the commissioned officer in the Army and gives the Cadet the experience of working with soldiers and Non-commissioned officers. Cadet Van O'Linda will be a member of the 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company.

DPS | Reports

4/6 Freshman Kelly Kaufman was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

4/6 Freshman Andrea Grelle was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

4/5 Freshman Warren Galloway was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

4/3 Freshman Matthew Palozola was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

4/1 Report of property damage in Violette Hall

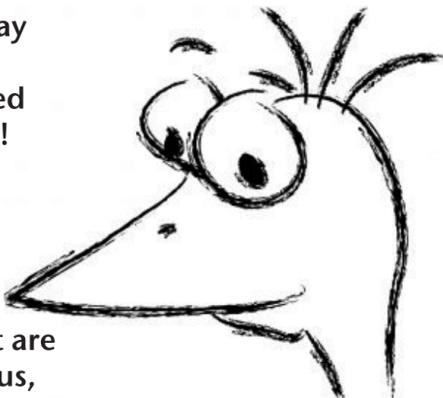
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