

Bike Co-op plans race ahead

Student Senate passes resolution in support of insurance policy

BY BECKA MAYFIELD
Staff Reporter

The Bike Co-op project is rolling forward.

Student Senate passed a resolution Feb. 3 giving the Bike Co-op program access to \$1,378 for an insurance policy for the program. This money is part of the \$3,000 budgeted for the program, the rest of which will be spent on a repair workshop set to open in March.

"It's not a bike shop in the sense that you would just bring your bike in and drop it off," said graduate student Cassie Phillips, Bike Co-op coordinator. "You would come in and learn how to fix your own bike, so really, you're the one making the repairs."

Phillips said the money set aside by the Senate will become available to the Co-op when Senate approves an itemized money motion.

"We won't actually get the money unless we have a specified list of how we're going to use it," she said.

Phillips said the company Senate has chosen to provide insurance is a good fit because it specializes in bike shops.

Phillips said insurance will be one of the bike Co-op's biggest expenses, and the policy will give the program full liability coverage and insure the

workshop and the items inside.

"It's a pretty low-risk venture," Phillips said. "But we don't want to jeopardize our project."

Regardless of the risk, an insurance policy is needed for the Co-op project to move forward.

"We are required by the University to obtain insurance for liability purposes," said senior Brett Wiley, Senate Environmental Committee chair.

Wiley said the Bike Co-op is a hybrid program, meaning that even though it is run by students, it also is associated with Truman's health and exercise science department.

"Since we are not officially part of the University, we cannot be on their insurance policy," Wiley said.

He said the policy Senate has chosen will provide year-long coverage that has \$2 million of liability.

Wiley said the property and incidents the insurance will cover include the workshop, equipment, people who are injured while using a bicycle from the bike sharing program and people who are injured riding a bike that was repaired at the workshop.

"We've been working on the Bike Co-op since fall of [2006]," Wiley said. "It started out as the community bike sharing program."

He said the bike sharing program evolved into the Bike Co-op because of the lack of bike repair resources in Kirksville. He said the Bike Co-op project calls for a revival of the



Mark Hardy/Index

Maintenance manuals, assorted tools and bike frames litter the eastern end of the Grim Smith Hospital, the temporary location of the bike co-op.

bike sharing program and provides resources for those who require bike maintenance and repair.

However, the project has run into some setbacks.

"One of the big things that's holding us back now ... is the weather," Wiley said.

He said the frozen ground needs to thaw before electrical lines can be run to the workshop.

Despite this problem, the Co-op project pushes on. Wiley said he hopes to make bike sharing and the workshop a reality for Truman students the week following Midterm Break.

"The plan is for students to have free membership to the Bike Co-op,"

Wiley said.

He said the money for the transitional costs of the Bike Co-op is coming from Senate, which draws its funds from the student activities fee.

"I definitely think it's worthwhile because there's no real convenient way to get your bike fixed if something minor happens," senior Clayton Davis said. "I don't have the tools to do it myself."

Davis said he supports the bike sharing program.

"Sharing is caring," Davis said. "Our campus is so small you don't always need to ride a bike, but when you do, it's nice to have them available."

Bill could alter textbook transactions

Publishers might be required to make prices available to professors

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Assistant Sports Editor

A Missouri bill might help students save money on textbooks.

Professors and students at Missouri public institutions could have the opportunity to re-use older textbook editions more frequently if a bill calling for textbook transparency passes through the Missouri legislature.

The bill, which calls for the establishment of the Textbook Transparency Act, would require publishers to provide professors at public institutions with a description of new editions, explaining how they differ from older ones. The publishers also would be required to make the prices available to professors before they choose whether to purchase the book. Neither of these provisions currently is mandated in Missouri.

If the bill passes, Missouri will join a list of states including Washington, California and Connecticut that have passed a Textbook Transparency Act.

State Rep. Jake Zimmerman, D-Olivette, sponsored the bill and said it should help protect consumers.

"I think it's an important issue for students, and it ought to be an important issue for our faculty and administrators," Zimmerman said. "In any kind of marketplace, full disclosure of prices and of purchasing conditions is essential to an honest business environment."

Zimmerman said he understands the bill might not be popular with some textbook publishers.

"I can see where the textbook publishers may not be thrilled about this, and I'll look forward to talking

to them and hearing their concerns," he said. "And if there are ways to improve the language [of the bill], I'm certainly willing to listen. But I would also be a little bit skeptical because it's my sense that textbook publishers — to some extent — have been taking advantage of an information imbalance for some time now."

The bill currently has more than 40 co-signers, including Gayle Kingery, R-Poplar Bluff, who is the chairman of the Higher Education Committee. The bill, No. 2048, was assigned to this committee Feb. 12, according to the Missouri government's Web site.

Junior Chris Miller, a student senator, played a role in convincing Zimmerman to sponsor the bill. Miller interned at the Capitol during the spring 2007 semester, and he said he established a good relationship with Zimmerman.

Miller said he became interested in textbook transparency last fall because it was a way to help students save money.

He then supplied information for the bill and sought out Zimmerman for sponsorship in December.

Miller said Zimmerman had some questions about the bill, so Miller continued to make revisions through January before Zimmerman eventually agreed to introduce the bill.

Textbook transparency was one of the major issues for the eight Truman students who participated in Storm the Capitol on Feb. 6, said student senator junior Casey Millburg, who coordinated the event.

Storm the Capitol allows students to discuss issues relevant to them with state lawmakers. Millburg said that in the past, Truman students usually requested an increase in funding, but this year the students made textbook transparency one of their major issues.

"We decided that instead of asking for our traditional budget increase that we would try to lobby on issues that we thought we would have a better chance making an impact on," Millburg said.

The price of textbooks has risen at twice the rate of inflation since the 1980s, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Web site.

Because of this, Millburg said the Storm the Capitol group presented lawmakers with two ways to decrease textbook prices: the elimination of sales tax on textbooks and textbook transparency. Millburg said she

expected the sales tax proposition to be more popular with legislators, but instead it was the textbook transparency that caught their attention, a notion that Miller agreed with.

"When I approached [one Senator] about it and described the bill to him, he looked at me thinking about it, and he was like, 'I love it. I love it. Send a copy of that down to my legislative assistant so I can take a look at it,'" Miller said.

Despite the interest of some legislators, Miller said it could be difficult for the bill to pass during this legislative session, which ends

May 16, according to the Missouri government's Web site. If the bill doesn't pass this session, Miller said it will have to be re-sponsored.

Millburg said she isn't ruling out the possibility of the bill passing in this session.

"One thing that it does have going for it ... is that this is the new bill on the capitol," Millburg said. "It's the thing that legislators want to have their name signed onto because it's an election year."

If the bill does pass, it likely would have an impact on how professors decide which textbook to select for a class. Patricia Burton, professor of philosophy, said she was unfamiliar with the bill but that textbook transparency would provide professors a good opportunity to help students save money on textbooks.

"The great thing about this bill is that it would make it easier for [professors] to get the information rather than having to look for it so vigorously," Burton said. "... A lot of times, these new editions aren't really bringing in cutting-edge research. They're just changing type font, or they're adding so much stuff, you're not going to have time to cover it in a one-semester class."

Burton said affordability is one of Truman's core values and that if the bill becomes law, professors should take advantage of it to help decrease textbook costs for students.

"We need to realize many of our students are here because they couldn't afford a private [institution]," Burton said. "We have a lot of students still who are first generation going to college. And if we're really going to push students to take a summer off from working to do internships or study abroad, we have to cut costs for their education here in ways where we don't sacrifice learning."

NEWS | In Brief

DPS to offer shuttle for Midterm Break

The Department of Public Safety will offer a shuttle service from campus to the train station in La Plata, Mo. for students going home for Midterm Break, according to a Monday press release.

The shuttle will leave for the station at 9 a.m. March 8, and it will be available to take students back to campus the evening of March 16.

Reservations are necessary, according to the release. Taking the shuttle will cost \$5, and the money is due at the Public Safety Building by March 6.

For more information or to make reservations, contact DPS.

University receives Pershing money

The University received \$1,129 in the fifth and most recent allotment of Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative funds, according to a press release Friday. Gov. Matt Blunt specifically designated the funds for the University's Pershing Building renovation project.

Overall, Blunt has set aside \$335 million for the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, which funds the development of learning centers that will prepare students at Missouri universities and colleges to compete in a global economy, according to the release.

The initiative in turn is being funded by a partnership between the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority and the state.

Couple donates \$30,000 to campaign

Duane and Joy Hercules have donated \$30,000 to the University's "Bright Minds, Bright Futures" campaign, according to a Monday press release.

The Duane and Joy Hercules Family Accounting Fund will award two \$2,500 scholarships each year to accounting students from St. Louis or St. Charles County, also according to the release.

The fund also will award \$1,000 to an accounting faculty member selected by the dean of the School of Business. The award will be based on excellence to the profession, service to students and impact on the University's campus.

"Bright Minds, Bright Futures" is the University's \$30 million advancement campaign launched in July 2006.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senator junior Chris Miller gave a first reading of a service scholarship resolution that would award a \$500 scholarship to any Truman student who worked at a summer camp called Camp Wonderland, a special needs camp for kids and adults across Missouri. Senate discussed changes to the resolution and Miller then withdrew it with the intention of bringing a substitute resolution to the Feb. 24 Senate meeting.
- Junior Ellen Brandt was appointed as SOC chair.
- Senate accepted the resignation of freshman Emily Cruse.
- Senate passed a resolution outlining specifics for requesting a refund from Senate.
- Senate passed a resolution finding that the term "raffles" wrongly is being interpreted as unlawful under the University code of conduct where a charitable organization is involved.
- A resolution regarding campus safety was first read, and Senate voted to change standing rules so that they could vote on the resolution immediately. The resolution passed.
- A resolution endorsing HB 2048, the Textbook Transparency Act, was first read.
- Senate passed a Student Senate election timeline that shows election season starting March 18 when petitions become available in the Senate office and ending April 20 when new Senate members take office. Senate also voted to approve an election packet with guidelines for the 2008 Senate election.
- Senate approved a money motion for \$200 to be spent on advertising for the spring 2008 Senate election.
- Senate approved a money motion for \$25 to be spent for the Budget Review Committee Survey Incentive.
- Senate approved a money motion for \$300 to be spent on HIV testing that will be administered by junior and senior nursing students at Truman.

DPS | Reports

- 2/17 Junior John Mohr was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 2/17 Sophomore Timothy Williams was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 2/16 Freshman Jeremy Degroff was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 2/16 Freshman Timothy Schulte was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

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