



Beth Rolf/Index

University President Barbara Dixon and controller Judy Mullins read the thick resolution laying out the terms of Truman's agreement with George K. Baum during a Tuesday conference call with the Board of Governors.

BONDS | Board of Governors votes to sell bonds to finance residence hall renovations

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that in the last several days, really in the last two weeks, we've had a fairly significant spike up in interest rates."
This interest rate spike can be attributed to the recently fickle nature of the financial markets, he said.
"Even though these rates are higher, it's just indicative of what's going on in the marketplace today," Richter said.
He said he facilitated the competitive bidding on the bonds Tuesday morning. Truman received three bids, all from syndicates: George K. Baum, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch and Company. Morgan Stanley offered a TIC of 5.23 percent, and Merrill Lynch's TIC was 5.31 percent, Richter said.
He said that altogether, seven companies expressed interest in the bonds. UMB Bank recommended that the Board of Governors accept the bid from George K. Baum.
"We do feel that this is a fair bid, and it represents the value of your bonds in the market today," Richter said.
Truman will pay \$1,575 total in interest to George K. Baum for its loan, Richter said. He said this will require the University to pay about \$50,000 more per year than UMB Bank had anticipated, but expected revenues show the University will not encounter problems in paying off that amount. Richter

also expressed confidence that Truman will be able to issue a final round of bonds in 2011.
Rector said the University's bonds were reassessed by Moody's Investor Services near the end of 2007. Moody's, which is the second largest of seven nationally designated rating organizations, maintained Truman's bond rating of A2 — an investment grade rating for upper-medium-grade obligations with adequate financial security but elements of suggested financial susceptibility, according to Moody's Bond Record.
Bonds can be sold with or without insurance. The University set up its bond sale as a "buyer's choice," Rector said, leaving it up to George K. Baum to decide whether insurance for the bonds was necessary. When a bond is insured, the rating of the bond issuer (Truman, in this case) effectively is raised to the level of the bond insurer, who will pay the bond debt if the issuer becomes unable. But George K. Baum declined insurance, signaling its confidence in Truman's ability to pay off its debt.
Nonetheless, the University was able to secure insurance, Richter said.
"We were successful in obtaining a commitment to secure the bonds from

Assured Guarantee," Richter said. "The bond insurance market has been very volatile. There have been a lot of changes in the last six weeks, with some of the mainline insurers having entered the subprime market and having a downgrade or potential downgrade cited on their ratings."
Rector explained why George K. Baum was interested in purchasing bonds from Truman.
"What it boils down to is that these bonds are probably most interesting to people in Missouri because of the tax consequences," Rector said.
He said George K. Baum and Wachovia Corporation, a financial services company, are part of the same syndicate, which means they share the financial risk of taking on Truman's debt. Wachovia purchased St. Louis-based company A.G. Edwards last October, so it has a network of Missouri contacts, Rector said.
"That's probably why they were involved in this," he said. "So A.G. Edwards guys all over the state can say, 'I have Truman State bonds to sell.'"
University controller Judy Mullins said Truman will receive all \$23.57 million from George K. Baum on March 13 and immediately will invest the funds.

LIQUOR | Rodgerson votes no on liquor license

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Mike Schler from the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control said that to receive a state liquor license, a business first must receive a city license.
"In order to receive a city license, the city must determine whether or not the business and the owners demonstrate good moral character," Schler said. "Cities can be more stringent than the more general state guidelines for a liquor license."
Schler said that to receive a liquor license, a business must apply with a local agent and complete a checklist. Also, the

owners might be subject to a background check.
Geno's '70s Club at 305 W. McPherson will be a retro dance club and bar featuring '70s dance and rock music. Treasure said the inside has been gutted and redesigned, and the club will have a smaller feel and a security presence.
"Everything around here right now is pretty much either sports bars or taverns," Treasure said. "We're going to be something a little bit different."
Treasure declined to comment about the council's decision on his liquor license. He said he plans to go before the Council again at the next meeting March 4.

LAB | Forensic lab would create jobs, internships

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Tate said. "They will need degreed personnel in chemistry and biology. This is a real opportunity to develop some career tracks for students upon graduation."
Mike McManis, dean of planning and institutional development, said the company also is interested in partnering with the University to form internships.
"They are interested in making internships available to students, and of course Truman has a strong commitment to internships as well," he said.

Hastings, who is from St. Louis, said she also thinks many students would be interested in staying in Kirksville after graduation to work at the lab.
"It's a job," Hastings said. "If they offered me a job, I would stay in a heartbeat. It is close to home, and there are so few job openings in forensics elsewhere."
But some Kirksville residents are not happy with the idea of a forensic lab coming to Kirksville.
The announcement comes on the heels of news that Ortech, a General Motors

"If they offered me a job, I would stay in a heartbeat."

Missy Hastings
Junior

supplier in Kirksville, will lay off 100 of its 185 employees in the next two months. The layoffs have prompted some residents to express concerns about the shrinking of Kirksville's middle class. However, David Gillette, professor of economics, said he thinks Kirksville residents will not see a net loss in the middle class.
"I don't think we're going to get rid of the middle class," Gillette said. "If anything, [the lab employees] are going to be more solidly in the middle class than the manufacturing workers were. My guess is that they are going to strengthen the middle class."
McManis said he is thrilled about this opportunity, and he thinks others should recognize the benefits.
"This is a very exciting opportunity for the Kirksville community," McManis said. "Many of [the businesses of the future] will be knowledge-intensive. This is a real-world example of that. These folks are going to want to have a variety of services available to them in the community where they live, including a good education system."
Biology and chemistry students have been receptive to the possibility of a new Kirksville forensic lab as well. Junior biology major Missy Hastings said she thinks quite a few Truman students would be interested in gaining some hands-on experience in forensic science.
"I think it will be a good opportunity for students to be able to go somewhere and not just study forensics in class," Hastings said. "You don't really get to do forensics work in Kirksville. It's all distance learning, and this would be a hands-on opportunity that would be available."

POLICY | Athletes sometimes suffer from lack of concrete attendance policy when forced to miss class time for tournaments and games

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of history and faculty athletic representative, said that although most instructors are understanding of the demands on student athletes and are accordingly flexible, situations like the one Belcher experienced her freshman year come up time and time again.
As FAR, Gall acts as a bridge between the athletic department and the faculty when student athletes find themselves stuck between the two. He said student athletes are encouraged to approach their instructors at the beginning of the semester with a list of potential game conflicts, but problems still arise. Gall said that during their main season, student athletes get a one-hour academic credit for their efforts on the field, making any conflicts more than just a clash between two areas of interest.
"The liberal arts experience is about getting all kinds of experience, in class, out of class, the mind, body, spirit, the whole thing," Gall said. "In a way, not only do [student athletes] have their athletic experience and academic experience [in conflict], but it's a class and a class."
Gall said instructors often find themselves in a bind when a student must travel on the same day they have non-repeatable class components scheduled. Many times, a student must accept a lower grade for missing the essential work or drop the class, he said.
"This is not easy because there are some things that take place

that there's really no way to re-create that experience," Gall said. "Sometimes teachers say if they find out early, 'Well, they can drop the class.' ... In some cases we've had professors say 'Well, it's just a few points.' ... I'm not so sure the issue isn't still there. I had a football player last fall who said 'I want to get into med school — a few points might be the difference between an A and a B to me.'"
Gall said that in one case before he became the FAR, one student athlete failed a class because he was traveling with his team to the NCAA finals during exam week. Gall said that although it was an extreme case, the incident illustrates the need for a campuswide attendance policy.
"It was a big deal on campus," Gall said. "I don't think anybody supported that professor. ... But there wasn't a whole lot that we could do because we don't have an absence policy."
Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering said he agrees with Gall that the policy needs to change. Wollmering said that although conflicts arise between athletics and academics in a minority of cases, new instances come up every semester, most recently involving unexpected games when

teams make it to the post-season. Wollmering said that in such situations neither the student nor the faculty have much time to react, throwing a wrench in the system of planning ahead.
"It's a student welfare issue," Wollmering said. "So here again, you put a student athlete in a tough situation: They just had a success, and that success affords them the opportunity to go on to NCAA tournament, ... yet all the sudden it puts them in a tough situation with their classes."
Assistant Athletic Director Linda Anderson said that before coming to Truman she worked at two private universities addressing the same issue. In one case, Anderson said a strong statement from the university president helped get the ball rolling toward change.
"[At the one university] the president came out and made a strong statement that faculty and the athletics department needs to work together and not put the student in the middle," Anderson said. "We're here to give [students] a well-rounded experience."
Anderson said Truman's Student Senate tried to address the issue this fall when it passed a resolution ultimately opposing athletic pre-registration (search

trumanindex.com for more info). However, Anderson said Senate missed an opportunity to open the issue up to campuswide discussion and debate.
"I think it would have been nice if Student Senate had waited [to pass a resolution]," Anderson said. "We didn't limit our research at that time to just student athletes. We wanted to find out what other student groups on campus would benefit from such a policy because we know there's other student groups that do travel during the week. ... It might not have been priority registration across the board every semester. ... They're shooting it down without considering other models out there that might work."
The Flip Side
Student Senate isn't the only campus governing body to address the student-athlete debate. The Undergraduate Council first proposed a campuswide attendance policy in May of 2002, according to the Faculty Senate Web site. Tom Zoumaras, professor of history, said he served as a member of the UGC when the policy was proposed. Zoumaras said that ultimately, Faculty Senate shot the resolution down because members of the council did not feel comfortable predetermining the requirements of a course.
"I would not want to dictate to a colleague what has to be done and when it has to be done," Zoumaras said. "We decided that we didn't want a blanket statement. ... I don't

know the exact structure of another faculty member's lab assignments and interaction with that student may have to happen with other students as part of the process."
Zoumaras said the UGC and the Faculty Senate reached their decision in the spirit of co-responsibility on the part of the student and the faculty member. He said the council placed special emphasis on the need for faculty to publish their attendance policies in the class syllabus and to work with a student's other obligations whenever possible.
"For any extracurricular activity, you map your calendar and you map out what you have to do for your academic requirements and what you want to do for your social requirements, and you see what does and does not work," Zoumaras said. "... One of the realities is that you're going to have conflicts. ... You just make choices, that's one of the realities."
Faculty Senate President James Guffey said that within the last year, the UGC has once again begun to consider an attendance resolution. In April 2007, the UGC formed a new committee with the intention to revisit the issue by December 2007. However, Guffey said he had yet to discuss the findings with the committee.
"We haven't taken up an official policy [about instructors including an attendance policy in their syllabi]," Guffey said. "There is some effort being made to try to

put together some language that might be general enough to where nobody feels like they're being imposed upon but still offers just a general guideline, some expectations as to what we might expect in attendance."
Guffey said he has no attendance policy for his classes because for him, being reasonable rules, and this is a principle he said he hopes comes through in any official policy.
"I have no attendance policy — I simply expect you to be there," Guffey said. "We're all adults here. In my house, in my rules, reasonableness rules. ... In order to produce learning, students need to be in class. However, there are other things. Students who are scholarship players, ... they're the ones who really feel the pinch. We have to find a reasonable compromise to this."
Belcher said she understands the struggle to come up with a solution. She said that although she might enjoy a policy of in-season pre-registration, she understands where it might be seen as unfair. Belcher also said faculty members have a reasonable expectation for student-athletes to be responsible.
"The optimal solution?" Belcher said. "Some kind of policy within the faculty that any date on a student athlete's list of dates is excused — no penalty. Now, any absences outside that list is a different story, they should be eligible to be penalized."

"We're all adults here. In my house, in my rules, reasonableness rules."

James Guffey
Faculty Senate President

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