



Mark Hardy/Index

The News 36 production studio moved to Barnett Hall at the beginning of the school year but still lacks updated equipment. The Board of Governors passed a resolution Saturday approving the purchase of digital production equipment, worth \$479,000, in order to get the news program back live on the air by fall.

News 36 makes jump from analog to digital equipment

BY BECKA MAYFIELD
Staff Reporter

Truman's TV station is finally getting new equipment to match its new digs in Barnett Hall.

The Board of Governors approved a budget of \$479,500 on Saturday for new equipment and \$35,000 for the hiring of a consultant to help with that purchase. The studio will comply with federal guidelines that require TV broadcasts to be digital by February 2009.

"It's part of the mandated conversion that the government passed in 1996," said Elizabeth Clark, chairwoman of the communication department and former adviser to News 36.

She said the analog equipment must be replaced in order to meet the federal guideline.

"It is our intention to transition from analog equipment, such as that which was used in the Kirk [Building] studio, to digital equipment in the new studio," Clark said.

She said replacing the old equipment would have been difficult.

"The outdated equipment ... could not be replaced with analog equipment because no one's making it anymore," Clark said.

Clark said the consultant will be instrumental in the transition from analog to digital equipment. The consultant

will collaborate with the News 36 and put together a request for proposals that will be sent to vendors. Those vendors then will respond with offers on prices for new equipment and the installation of that equipment.

"It's a pretty extensive project," said Bob Jones, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Jones said moving the studio equipment from Kirk Building to Barnett Hall would include uninstalling old equipment, pricing new equipment and coordinating the processes to get the new studio functioning on time.

The Board of Governors approved the hiring of a consultant to aid with studio setup.

"We're hiring a consultant because we don't have the expertise on campus in order to ensure that we get the quality equipment that we need and that it will all interface appropriately," said Doug Davenport, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Davenport said the consultant will make sure the studio gets all of the correct equipment delivered and installed appropriately and on time.

"Our hope is that it will be completed in time for the fall [2008] semester," he said.

Davenport said the University will make progress on the project during the next few weeks after administrators hire

a consultant and create and send to potential vendors a request for proposals. He said that after receiving responses from the vendors, one will be selected based on criteria established by News 36 and the consultant.

"At that point it should be a matter of awarding the contract and the purchase of equipment," Davenport said. "Then the delivery and installation."

Davenport said the new studio will benefit communication students.

"Our students working in convergent media are going to be working in digital environments," Davenport said. "We need to prepare them for that work environment."

Clark agreed that the studio will provide a learning environment for students.

"I'm very happy that we are progressing and moving toward a brand new digital facility," Clark said. "I think it will really contribute a lot to what we are able to offer students in terms of a learning experience."

Clark said even students outside of the communication major will benefit from the new equipment.

"The lessons that you can learn from producing and being involved in the production of TV can help you better understand issues as a consumer," Clark said. "Televised information is predominant in our culture as a means of communicating."

Accountability for use of student fee prompts review

Student Senate budget committee examines equality of current system

BY PATRICK FELLING
for the Index

No one likes taking a pay cut, but Student Senate must plan for one every year.

Currently, students can request a refund of the \$2-per-year portion of their \$72 student activities fee if they feel their money was not properly spent, and Senate must comply. However, the Student Activities Board and Funds Allotment Council do not have to give money to any student who requests a refund. Senior Greg Wisa, former chairman of Student Senate Budget Review Committee, said the Senate should be able to keep its allotted funds from the Student Activity Fee.

"It makes me feel like our expenditures are less important," Wisa said. "We need a concrete budget also."

The Organizational Activity Fund committee is in charge of the three organizations receiving funds from the Student Activity Fee: Senate, SAB and FAC. It meets every three years and is in charge of analyzing the entire usage of the student activities funding. A previous OAF committee made the distinction on refunds, forcing Senate to issue refunds to students who request them and allowing SAB and FAC to keep all of their allotted funds.

The budget review committee recommended that Senate lobby the OAF either to mandate all organizations give refunds to those students who request them or to remove the current provision entirely, meaning Senate no longer would have to issue refunds.

"If SAB and FAC do not have to offer refunds, then we shouldn't have to either," Wisa said. "If we are to be held accountable, then so should they."

Wisa said he would rather not have any OAF organization be mandated to fulfill requests for activity fee refunds because it takes away funds from programs meant to benefit students such as SAB concerts

and Senate's new Safe Rides program, which is set to begin its services Feb. 29. Some members of other OAF organizations do not support the idea of activity fee refunds either, senior and SAB President Bonnie Treichel said.

"We operate on a tight budget in which the administration at Truman strives to sign contracts far in advance of events," Treichel said. "It is impossible to refund student money that has been previously allotted to entertainment options upon student request. If we were to offer a student refund policy, we would not be able to have any entertainment events."

The OAF committee originally established the refund policy as a way to hold Senate accountable if students thought their money was not being spent wisely.

"Well, what if I don't think SAB is spending my money wisely? How do they get held accountable? ... Why can't I go ask for my money back when I'm not interested in the things they put on?"

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Beth Cooney
Junior

Cooney said she was unaware that Senate must issue refunds when requested.

"I don't think it's justified that Student Senate has to give money back to students when SAB and FAC don't," Cooney said. "I think Student Senate does much more for campus. I would much rather my money go to them where I would know that it is going for more policies to help our campus."

The OAF committee next meets this spring to review the usage of the Student Activities Fund. Any decisions made to change the appropriation of the Student Activity Fee must be placed on the spring ballot for students to vote on, giving them a voice as to how their money will be spent.

Besides voting in the spring election, Wisa has another suggestion for students who feel their money is not being properly spent.

"If you don't like the way student government is working, any full-time student can run for Senate in the spring elections," Wisa said. "I encourage them to do so."

Kelrick appointed as interdisciplinary director

BY ALEX BOLES
Assistant Features Editor

It was all about timing for Michael Kelrick.

Last Thursday, Kelrick, professor of biology, was named the new director of interdisciplinary studies. He was chosen for the position after a series of interviews with the deans, University President Barbara Dixon, Garry Gordon, vice president of Academic Affairs and Adam Davis, the former director of interdisciplinary studies.

A forum also was open to faculty, staff and students to aid in the selection process.

"I never imagined that I would be thinking about a job as an administrator, even if you would have asked me a year ago," Kelrick said. "It was timing and serendipity."

Kelrick said applying for the new position seemed like the right thing to do to reach the next level in his life.

"When this job became available, when I learned that it became available, it just seemed like the timing was right because I felt like I could capitalize on a lot of the other experience I already have, and the kinds of things I was already putting a lot of energy and attention into as a faculty member," he said. " ... So I just thought this made a lot of sense to make the next step and might enable me to enlarge my ability to have an impact on this culture-building thing."

Kelrick said he wants to continue to grow and learn new things and that this position is a great opportunity to do so. He has been an active

member in the interdisciplinary studies program and has helped develop two minors, he said.

"I've been here a long time," he said. "I work hard. I have a lot of interests. I'm dedicated. I hope I'm a good listener — I try to be. I hope I'm articulate — I try to be. You know, I have a lot of worthwhile and valid experiences that are related to the kinds of things the person in the job has to turn his or her attention to."

He said the whole process has been humbling and that he is truly grateful for the response of the community after

the e-mail release on Friday.

"It's just been almost overwhelming," he said. " ... It's an amazing experience to have so many people wishing one well."

Kelrick said that although the new administrative position is a little intimidating, he believes in taking a chance, and he also believes in his own ability to lead.

"You know, nothing ventured, nothing gained, ... and I am game to try things, and I'm ready to put a lot of effort into it," he said. "I'm a high-energy, high-dedication person."

Davis said he left the position because he was reassigned

to other duties.

"It's not good for one person to wear too many hats, at least too long," Davis said. "It's not good for the person. It's not good for the things the person oversees, and ultimately, it's not good for the institution."

He said when one person has too many duties, there is a danger that other people will miss out on the opportunity for leadership development and positions.

He said Truman uses these internal positions for leadership development within the campus community.

Davis said he is gratefully stepping down as director and that he has gained a lot from the experience.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "I really enjoyed it, and I'm sorry to be leaving it but

it's time. I've learned an awful lot. I think this is one of the best things we do at Truman."

Senior Brett Pierson said he heard the news that Davis was stepping down sometime last fall, and as a member of the interdisciplinary studies oversight committee, had worked with him for a few months at that time.

Pierson is the only student member of the oversight committee, which reviews proposals for the interdisciplinary studies major.

Pierson said he thinks the University made a good decision when choosing Kelrick.

"I know of [Kelrick] because of my involvement with the interdisciplinary oversight committee," Pierson said. "He's been an active faculty [member] in interdisciplinary studies."

"You know, nothing ventured, nothing gained, ... and I am game to try things."

Michael Kelrick
Director of
Interdisciplinary
Studies



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