

ONE-ON-ONE

This week, two of our columnists debate each other. Their topic for this issue is:

Should Student Senate give money to the SOC?

No vague funding for religion, politics



Chris Waller

VS.



Jackie Gonzalez

Little investment but great returns

Have any of you ever heard of a group called the Student Organization Center?
I didn't think so.
First let me explain what it is. Then I'll explain how it's stealing your money.
According to its section of Truman's Web site (which is rather difficult to find), the Student Organization Center is a group of offices located in Pickler Memorial Library (which are even harder to find than the previously mentioned Web site). These offices are available for use by organizations that are chosen for membership in the SOC by the SOC Committee, which is part of Student Senate. Oddly enough, this committee is not part of the list of committees listed on senate's Web site.
The SOC contains several offices for the member organizations. Members of SOC are selected annually at the end of the spring term and serve a one-year term. The group was created in order to "promote diversity, incubate organizations and ideas, disseminate information and to reward organizations that provide service to the University." Currently there are four organizations in the Student Organization Center: Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Sigma Pi, Alpha Sigma Gamma and my personal favorite, the College Republicans.
Now I know what you're thinking. What is the big deal? Why should I care?
Do me a favor and open up your Web browser when you get

a chance, and look at the senate budget for this year. The Web site is senate.truman.edu/records.html. I'll wait while it loads.
...
Now scroll down the budget to the section labeled SOCC. Here you will find a summary of senate funds allotted to these organizations. Keep in mind that this money is above and beyond the funds that already might have been given to these organizations from the Funds Allotment Council and that these four organizations are the only four out of the hundreds of organizations on campus that are eligible for these funds (except for the ambiguous "other organizations" in the budget, which received \$200).
The first group on the list is APO, which received \$100 of our money to put on its "Ugly Man on Campus" event. Now the good thing is that half of the money raised by this event will go to various charities in the community. I have no problem with senate spending money to help out the community. Unfortunately, the other half of the proceeds from this event are going to funds to help rebuild the Catholic Newman Center. Indirectly, senate is funneling money into the rebuilding of a religious organization. It is allocating money for constructing a building so members of a certain religion can worship comfortably while our own educational buildings fall apart.
But it doesn't end there. Continue down the list and

you will notice that the College Republicans received \$100 for a "voter drive or speaker," the latter of which probably would be someone amenable to the Republicans. Meanwhile, the College Democrats are not a member of the SOC and receive no extra funding. Regardless of your political affiliation or that the Democrats might have had the option to join SOC, senate is spending your money to advance the cause of a political agenda.
The worst item of all on the list is the \$100 allotted to PSP for an "event to be determined." PSP actually has been allocated money from senate for an event that they haven't even planned yet. The senate decided to give our money to an organization with absolutely no written idea of what it plans to do with it.
Where is the accountability? Shouldn't we be able to, as students at the school, ask the senate where our money is going and be told with certainty that it is being used to benefit the school?
Apparently not in this system. If you are upset about this, talk to a senator about it and see what he or she says. If you don't get any answers, visit senate.truman.edu/refund-req.html to fill out a form to request your senate money back. If they are going to misuse our money, we reserve the right to take it back from them.
Chris Waller is a senior English and communication major from St. Joseph, Mo.

There's always a complaint about Student Senate, isn't there?
Personally, I think it's been doing well lately. Its promotion of environmentally friendly programs has been noteworthy, and I haven't heard much about unfair policies or sketchy behavior. That is, until I was informed about the Student Organization Center.
The Student Organization Center, or SOC, has been under fire as of late. Personally, I had no knowledge of its official existence until its brief mention in last week's Our View. So I decided to meet with junior Emily Meyer, the chairwoman of the SOC Committee on senate. Not only did I learn most of my concerns were based on false assumptions, but also I was informed of a good opportunity for other organizations to get involved.
Senate created the SOC to bring organizations together, as opposed to its rumored circle of exclusivity. The organizations appointed for the year have no say in what organizations come in the next year, nor is their committee membership automatically renewed. The members of the committee are appointed by senate itself, and senate has the final word on where the money from students is going.
Currently, the SOC has four members, but Meyer said there is no cap on membership. As long as senate finds an organization to meet the requirements,

then it is offered a membership into the SOC.
The SOC is composed of College Republicans, Alpha Sigma Gamma, Alpha Phi Omega and Phi Sigma Pi. College Republicans aside, each of these organizations demonstrates a dedication to community service and is associated with ideals that benefit more than just the organization itself. Granted, I am an initiate for one of the organizations (Phi Sigma Pi), but I rushed it because I saw the positive qualities within it that senate probably sees as well.
Although some might argue that senate has been reluctantly trying to "find" organizations to get involved, one issue remains: Why should they be the ones to go out and find organizations to give money and manpower to?
Clearly the organizations themselves should step up, take some initiative and in turn reap the benefits. For being at a university level, it is ridiculous to hear of the whining and complaints made by others when they too had the same opportunity for some financial backing.
I think any student here can agree that a superfluous amount of publicity doesn't necessarily equal a strong turnout for anything — so why have people been complaining about the lack of publicity for SOC membership? Senate claims it contacted every organization on campus that was approved by the Center for Student Involvement via organization inboxes.

If organizations don't check their boxes, that shouldn't be senate's problem. If organizations don't take the time to complete applications and make deadlines, that also is in no way senate's fault.
Keep in mind these expenses are minimal. With \$800 allotted to the committee for the entire year, no more than \$100 is granted to any specific organization. The purpose is to get various campus organizations to work together for a common goal. The money is used to enhance a traditional event thrown by each specific group.
Senate is doing exactly what it should be doing when it allots money to the SOC — giving it back to the students. That's our money. Surely the SOC has some flaws, but I'd like to consider it a work in progress.
If the selection committee had a plethora of strong applicants, not only would the SOC be much more effective, but also the money actually would go toward events that deserved a bit of improvement.
The SOC is a tiny committee compared to others on senate, with a budget of only \$800. Why should it be attacked so vehemently? I'm sure there are other things within senate's budget that should be examined more closely.
Jackie Gonzalez is a junior communication and history major from San Diego, Calif.

Career Center should promote more interest in Graduate School Week



Alex Hayden

A flood of business suits. That's what there was just a couple of weeks ago when the University had its Career Expo, during which companies sent representatives onto Truman's campus. Students surveyed the possibilities of what life would be like after they graduated and what kinds of businesses might hire them, including Boeing, AT&T, IBM and the FBI. Of course, with about 50 percent of Truman's students entering into careers after graduation, why wouldn't the Career Center try to create an opportunity such as this?
Yet, something bothered me when I thought about this. The Career Center works hard to help students get a job after graduation and has the Expo to further that goal.
Still, only 50 percent of the student body needs an Expo. What of the other students who graduate? What do they go on to do?
More than 50 percent of Truman's students go on to graduate schools, according to the Career Center's Web site. Some go into law, others medicine, and still others go into education.
So, then, what resources are being allocated to assist this other half of the student body? The Career Center offers offline and

online materials about what students can do to better their chances of getting into graduate school. Graduate School Week, sponsored by the Career Center, is dedicated to producing programs such as a personal statement writing seminar. And yes, there also is a Graduate School Fair.
But to say that we have a Graduate School Fair is not to say that enough resources are being allocated to it.
We can start by looking at the amount of advertising that takes place around and about the Graduate School Week and Fair compared to that of the Expo. Just looking around campus, you've probably noticed the large number of signs and flyers about the Expo. In addition, you probably got an e-mail and a Facebook message to remind you to go to the various events throughout Career Week. As if that weren't enough, every other classroom had a message on its chalkboard about Career Week and the Expo.
And what of the Graduate School Week? Some of you might have not even known it was happening. There was a sign near the Career Center talking about it and a link on TruView about it. That was it. No uproar with people constantly reminding you to go. Just some minimal advertising.
Keep in mind that this is supposed to target half of Truman's student body, and many of us barely are aware it exists. The Expo, however, remains a top priority.
Let us next turn to representatives who were brought to both the Expo and the Graduate School Fair. Nearly 100 companies

were represented at the Expo. The Graduate School Fair had two representatives: the University of Missouri-Columbia and Des Moines University. I find myself questioning why this is, and I hope you do as well. With 50 percent of our student body going to graduate school, why is it that we only had two schools at the Fair?
The Career Center has an open policy to any graduate school to come in any time it wants to meet with students, but this is different from actively encouraging schools to come. A passive invitation rarely brings people, but an active recruitment of schools does. We must let other schools know that Truman wishes to establish a relationship with them and that Truman students are worth their time. Simply saying, "You can come if you want," is not enough.
I know that the Career Center is a great resource for the student body and provides many useful materials for planning life after Truman. Its Expo alone can attest to that.
However, I believe, as I'm sure you do as well, that the Career Center's resources should be equally distributed throughout the student body. Because of this, more needs to be done to improve Graduate School Week and the Fair here on campus. Truman students are worth the effort, as any faculty members or business representatives can tell you. It's time that graduate schools knew the same.
Alex Hayden is a senior communication and philosophy and religion major from Jefferson City, Mo.

Liberal Studies Program often ends up as "just another thing to cross off"



Andrew Kindiger

Truman kicked off registration this Monday, inviting students to continue their educational pursuits. By Nov. 9, all students should be well on their way to fulfilling graduation requirements and constructing their academic futures. However, there is a nuisance for many students when putting their schedules together: the dreaded LSP requirements.
Because the University wants its students to garner a Trumazing education, we students are not only free to explore classes outside our major but also encouraged to do so by requirement. The LSP requirements are not supposed to signify an end to the learning process.
So why is this the case for most Truman students?
Truman Week refreshed my understanding of what a liberal arts education tries to achieve. I rather enjoyed the notion of not conforming to one mode of thought during my four years in college and thought it was a noble pursuit to engage in different modes of inquiry. However, the magic wore off when

students I encountered were realizing for the first time they actually were attending a liberal arts college, which made me wonder if they thought liberal arts meant Democratic candidates were going to stop in on some lectures. Although the idea of exploring a liberal education sounds enticing, I do not believe the philosophy is adequately understood and practiced by students at Truman.
In my Truman Week class, the question, "Why are you at a liberal arts college?" never was answered adequately. I personally can attest to not actually knowing the reasons I finally decided on coming to a liberal arts college. Like many students at Truman, I ended up attending this University because it is a good school at a reasonable price. The liberal arts aspect, for me anyway, just seemed to be a bonus, like a collegiate equivalent of Tide with bleach. In all honesty, now it doesn't even seem like a bonus — just a hassle.
Truman students should view the LSP as an opportunity to grow outside the bounds of a traditional education, but it is only required that we adhere to that mind set to attain a small portion of our credit accumulation. Other non-liberal arts schools require students to take similar classes, they just label them as general education. Why is Truman so special? Do we have optimized gen eds because we label them as modes of inquiry or LSP?
Many LSP requirements can be met with a

simple introductory course. The convocation speaker during Truman Week thought this was good enough to broaden our horizons and transform modes of thinking. But I still have my reservations toward mathematics after taking Calculus I. I was not graced with the same surge of energy that our convocation speaker assumed students would have, and I still like to believe that my computer functions by some sort of wizard magic that I hopefully will never have to comprehend.
Sure, the liberal arts education mind set sounds good in Truman Week-style descriptions, but after those requirements are filled, Truman students still go after a major and a specific degree, liberal arts or not.
Do students at our school really appreciate the philosophy of learning without borders, or do we just dot the I's and cross the T's as they come up? Is that literature class just standing in the way of your pre-med four-year plan, or are you interesting in perusing a liberal arts education to its fullest potential?
Does it even matter that our University has given us the opportunity to make learning an ongoing experience, or are LSPs just another thing to cross off the list before graduation?
Andrew Kindiger is a freshman English major from Liberty, Mo.

AROUND THE QUAD

What would you do if zombies attacked?

- "Welcome them with open arms."**
Chris Moore, Senior
- "I would beat them off with a large stick."**
Sarah Stallman, Junior
- "I would unleash them on Wal-Mart."**
Austin Henry, Freshman
- "Consult Brother Jed."**
Matt Johns, Junior

WEB POLL

Are you concerned about the recall of ConAgra-produced pot pies?

I'm mildly uncomfortable because I've enjoyed a pot pie a time or two. (24% — 7 votes)	Yes, I eat them all the time, and I'm terrified. (6% — 2 votes)
What's a pot pie? (30% — 9 votes)	I'm not worried at all. Salmonella, schmamonella. (40% — 11 votes)

This week's question:
Should sororities continue to have mixers with Alpha Kappa Lambda?

Vote online at
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