

MOHELA | University close to hiring architect for Pershing renovation

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controversial law that mandates the transfer of assets, proposed by Gov. Matt Blunt, became effective Aug. 28. If the funds transfer is found to be illegal through the lawsuit, the statute will be declared unconstitutional.

If the lawsuit is successful, the money Truman would have gotten for Pershing might instead be refunded to student borrowers, said John Lichtenegger, attorney for the plaintiffs, two former University of Missouri students.

"If it's already spent and in a building, we're not going to get it back," he said, though he suggested MOHELA then might divert funds from its asset pool of \$5.7 billion in order to provide refunds.

MOHELA is required by law to charge reasonable interest rates for student borrowers. Lichtenegger said he thinks that in order to accumulate its current \$230 million surplus, MOHELA must have been charging higher than reasonable rates.

"We feel that the students are entitled to the profits that MOHELA has collected over the years," he said, pointing out that MOHELA was established as a non-profit agency.

Lichtenegger and co-counsel Mike Flannery argued for a preliminary injunction Sept. 11, which would have paused the asset transfer (and therefore the Pershing renovation) until

the case is decided, but a Cole County judge denied it.

MOHELA associate director Quentin Wilson confirmed that they had transferred \$230 million last week and that further transfers will be made quarterly. As to when the money would be allocated to individual universities, Wilson said he didn't know.

"It's all in the hands of the state agencies now," he said.

"[Pershing is] substandard in so many ways. We had a small fire the other day, we had a small flood the other day, I'm just waiting for the locusts."

Sam Minner
Dean of the School of Education and Health Services

Lichtenegger said that although there currently are only two named plaintiffs, more than a half-dozen other students have asked to be included in the suit. He has asked the court to certify the case as a class action suit.

"It seems like a natural for a class action," Lichtenegger said. "... Virtually every MOHELA borrower [with a loan taken out prior to Aug. 28] would be eligible."

About 80 percent of the \$9.5 million in loans processed by Truman go through MOHELA, said John Fraire, former associate vice president for enrollment management, in 2006. This means that if the lawsuit is successful, many Truman students could see refunds if they choose to opt into the class action.

"Plaintiffs and Class members have been damaged in that they have not received the benefit of MOHELA's surplus assets, paying off their loans at above-market interest rates, with no offer of lower interest rates and loan forgiveness," according to the amended complaint against

MOHELA, filed Sept. 5.

Lichtenegger said he is not against building projects but thinks they should be funded by taxpayers, not students.

"Ironically, if you happen to be affluent and not need a student loan, you're going to be going to school in buildings paid for by lower-income students," he said.

Lichtenegger said he expects the suit to take about a year to go to trial.

Minner said that even though uncertainty looms, Truman is pushing ahead with Pershing. If the lawsuit succeeds, however, work might be halted altogether.

"In my opinion, we would not be able to fund this project with our own resources," said Minner, who added that Truman will kick in a significant sum of money if the Pershing renovation goes forward.

The architect and Truman representatives will make decisions on infrastructure, design and aesthetics within the next academic year, Minner said. He praised the University's Quad, saying the advisory committee recognized a need to anchor the southwest corner of the campus, in an attempt to continue the aesthetic appeal of the existing Quad.

Minner called Pershing an inadequate learning environment.

"It's substandard in so many ways," he said. "We had a small fire the other day, we had a small flood the other day, I'm just waiting for the locusts."

Although the University plans to pay for the renovation with the MOHELA funds and some of its own resources, Minner said Truman hasn't ruled out donations.

"I think it's potentially fortuitous for us that the Pershing project is occurring during the time of a [capital] campaign," he said.

NURSING | Proposed legislation could benefit Truman program

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graduating more students would be responding to demand.

"I think every employer is asking for more nurses," she said. "If you look at the national picture, or state picture, or local picture, employers are looking for more nurses as the baby boomers require and the demand for nurses increases."

Although Powelson said she enjoys the close-knit atmosphere of the smaller program, she was not opposed to enlarging it if it would help more potential nursing students get the education and skills they require.

"I think it would be helpful to Truman students who are already here who would like to enter the nursing program here," she said of students who already might be enrolled in Truman under other majors or as undeclared who decide later in their college career to go into nursing. For those students, expanding the number of applicants and thus potentially allowing them into the nursing program could be what keeps them at Truman.

"Sometimes they can't wait until a seat becomes available," Powelson said.

University President Barbara Dixon is also behind the proposal.

"The fact is that we have a very high-quality nursing program — we have more applicants than we can take that are qualified. So I think it helps us, actually, to fulfill our mission as a public liberal arts college," she said.

Dixon said that although nursing and health care are not considered liberal arts, she thinks the duty of a public liberal arts college is to provide these skilled individuals to the state of Missouri.



Jason Williams/Index
Juniors Jamie Menown and Katie Hinrichs practice taking blood pressure in a nursing lab.

"It helps the state as a whole," she said. "There's a real shortage in the state of these kinds of health care professionals that these kinds of programs are designed for."

She said that she is most concerned with the public understanding that this money would be allotted solely for the purpose of health care training. If the state legislature decides to grant the proposal, the money would not be allowed to be spent elsewhere. Schools across the state are collaborating in asking for the resources to expand their health care programs.

"This isn't a question of

us getting a certain amount of money and getting a choice about where to spend it," Dixon said. "This is a chance to be a part of this statewide program or not."

Minner said he is positive about the impact the proposal could have on both Truman and the state as a whole.

"We have good students at Truman — we have good students in Missouri," he said. "We need to make sure that more of these students have a seat in these programs if that's what they want. We shouldn't be turning away people. ... That's a mistake for us as a society."



Petition for Justice
Photo by Jackson Groves
Senior Ryan Gray, President of the Association of Black Collegians, talks to freshman Vincent Kurth about a petition in support of freeing the Jena six. White students at Jena High School hung nooses from a tree, and black students retaliated by beating the white students who put them there. The black students all were charged with attempted murder even though the white students were not seriously harmed. The noose that hangs over Gray's shoulder was used as a way to draw attention to the cause.

MAYOR | Newton cites restaurant commitments, gives way to Rowe

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his seat on the council until next year's election. He said he has no plans to run for a council seat again next year, citing another restaurant opening in the near future as taking up his free time.

Newton said he will not be leaving Kirksville to live elsewhere.

"Kirksville is our home," he said.

Newton said the mayor's main responsibility is presiding over council meetings in which citizens and city officials bring up new proposals for the

city. Not being able to be present at all the meetings prompted his resignation.

"While staying on the council, whether ideal or not, it's OK in my mind to miss a few meetings. The mayor just can't do that," he said.

Mari Macomb, Kirksville city manager, said the turbulence in the position has not had a dramatic effect on the city.

"The mayor's position can switch every year," she said. "The council as a whole makes the policies, not the mayor. [Changing the position] is not as sig-

RUSH | Fraternity's disaffiliation with University results in two rushes

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plan as in years past. ... They made it clear that they wouldn't be handing out bids until Thursday."

At Truman, formal rush lasts one week, according to the IFC Web site. Rushes are encouraged to introduce themselves to fraternities and search for organizations that best fit their personalities. On Thursday night of Rush Week fraternities hand out bids — formal invitations to join a fraternity. Rushes who choose to do so may sign a bid from a single fraternity before Friday at 5 p.m. to join that organization.

Rush Week kicks off with an introductory assembly sponsored by IFC, according to their Web site. There, rushees meet the director of Greek affairs, the assistant dean of student af-

fairs, the IFC advisor and representatives of each of the 13 active campus fraternities. As a sanctioned organization, AKL was not included in the rush assembly, but, Malnassy said members of AKL were present outside the IFC assembly.

"I think that there were definitely some people that were frustrated," Malnassy said. "I know that there probably were a few individuals who had received bids from other fraternities who chose to sign with AKL instead."

Malnassy said that in the past other fraternities have chosen to hold independent rushes. As a fraternity unaffiliated with IFC, AKL would not have to comply with the IFC judicial board rules, he said.

"Anything that would happen to AKL would be through student affairs," Malnassy said.

AKL president Ryan Parks said their rush strategy was essentially the same as in past years. Parks said AKL had a successful rush because of hard work.

"Our strategy ... was the same big picture," Parks said. "We had the same rush events but we didn't have a list of rushers so we had to work harder pre-rush. ... We had 20 guys sign bids."

Parks said AKL maintained the same rush strategy and time frame as in past years because it is easiest to follow the blueprint they typically use for rush. Additionally, AKL hopes to maintain its relationships with IFC and other on-campus fraternities.

"At the present moment, we plan to resume participation in IFC as soon as we are able to," Parks said.

QUESTION: "Can you be certain when human life begins?"

ANSWER:

Medical textbooks, scientific reference works, some of the world's most prominent scientists and physicians consistently agree that human life begins at conception.



"Conception is the moment when the egg is fertilized by the sperm, bringing into existence the zygote, which is a genetically distinct individual."¹

"Human life begins at conception"
Dr. Alfred M. Bongionanni, professor of pediatrics and obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania²

"It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive. ... It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception."
Professor Michelle Matthews-Rogh, Harvard University Medical School³

"After fertilization has taken place a new human being has come into being; it is no longer a matter of taste or opinion" and "not a metaphysical contention; it is plain experimental evidence."
Dr. Jerome LeJeune, professor of genetics at the University of Descartes in Paris, discoverer of the chromosome pattern of Down syndrome⁴

KIRKSVILLE CHAPTER OF MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
KVRTL.ORG

¹ Pro life answer to Pro choice questions, Pg 51
² See Above Pg 53
³ See Above, Pg 53
⁴ See Above, Pg 53

If you are uncertain when life begins, should you not err on the side of life?
Abortion kills a human being, made in the image of God.

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