

DPS, KPD officers join forces

City council gives campus police ability to enforce laws in city

BY JOHN MOENSTER
Assistant News Editor

Department of Public Safety officers have the law on their side now more than ever.

The City Council approved the City of Kirksville Police Commission between DPS and the Kirksville Police Department. The commission means that in addition to enforcing state laws on campus, DPS officers now can enforce municipal laws and operate within Kirksville's city limits.

Director of DPS Tom Johnson said the commission had been in the works for about five years prior to its approval. Johnson said there will be very few visible changes from the commission and that DPS officers still will concentrate mainly on and around Truman's campus.

"[The Commission] gives [DPS officers] more versatility in order to take care of a situation more handily," Johnson said. "For example, DPS officers could not operate on Franklin Street even though it goes through campus and is at one point surrounded by University property."

Municipal ordinances that DPS officers now can en-



John Moenster/Index

A Truman Department of Public Safety officer drives his University car north on Franklin Street Wednesday afternoon. A new city ordinance allows DPS officers to enforce laws off-campus.

force include open container laws, noise ordinances and traffic laws on local roads. Still, Johnson said DPS will not be sending out patrols in the City of Kirksville or targeting fraternities.

"Certainly one of the things that might be confusing for some people is the fact that Truman State University public safety officers are fully licensed, commissioned and certified police officers no different than the Kirksville Police Department officers, the Columbia PD officers, State Patrol, Sherriff's Department, et cetera," Kirksville Police Chief

Jim Hughes said. "They go through the same training, the same licensing, the same requirements, the same ongoing training requirements as does every law enforcement officer."

Hughes said this commission is not unusual among other universities.

"In fact, the majority of universities in similar circumstances already have these kinds of commissions in place," Hughes said.

Hughes said that if there is any kind of abuse or if the commission is not working, it can be undone. Hughes also confirmed Johnson's statement that DPS of-

ficers will not be patrolling in the City of Kirksville.

Sophomore Chantae Rudi said she always viewed DPS officers as police officers, but specifically for the campus. Rudi said she received assistance from DPS last spring when her car battery died.

"Overall, the commission sounds like a good thing, although I think some people will be upset about it," Rudi said.

Rudi said she thinks students will feel more of a police presence around campus but that she doesn't expect an abuse of this new authority.

NEWS | In Brief

Public meeting to take place

MoDOT has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the Alternate Route 63 project. This is the second public meeting about the project. The meeting will take place Thursday, Sept. 4 at Kirksville High School cafeteria from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. MoDOT will be prepared to discuss all aspects of the project. MoDOT is seeking public comment on the project, especially in relation to the proposed options for the south tie-in. Dan Niec, district engineer, said MoDOT now has more detailed information about the project and encourages citizens to attend the meeting.

Park clean up Sept. 6

Ray Jagger, Kirksville deputy fire chief, has been helping organize a large clean up for Thousand Hills State Park. The clean up will begin Sept. 6 at 10 a.m. at the marina in the park. Jagger said several local organizations are contributing to the event. Jagger said many pick-up trucks still are needed to help clear debris that washed up during the July flood.

First response training to take place

The Adair County fire chiefs in association with Ray Jagger will be leading a two-day Fire and Rescue course Oct. 4 and 5. Jagger said the goal of the course is to train people who can be called upon in case of reports of lost hikers and other similar situations. For more information on the Thousand Hills clean up or the Fire and Rescue course contact Ray Jagger via Facebook or at ray.jagger@gmail.com.

Convention coverage

Assistant news editor Caitlin Dean is in Denver, Co., this week for the Democratic National Convention as a Fox News intern. Students can go to ureport.foxnews.com to check out Dean's video clips and get up-to-date footage from the convention.

Also, Truman's College Democrats and Students for Barack Obama will be at the Dukam at 7:30 p.m. tonight to watch Obama accept his nomination at the convention. Anyone can attend free of charge.

New director of Financial Aid

Kathy Elsea replaced Sue Neely as Director of Financial Aid this semester. Elsea graduated from the University in 1981 with a degree in business education. She has worked in the Financial Aid office for 27 years and was a staff assistant prior to her promotion in August.

Neely, who retired after 35 years, will continue to work part time until October to ensure a smooth transition.

Fan bus organized for football game

Students interested in attending Thursday night's football game in Fayette, Mo., have a free option of transportation.

A fan bus will leave the Pershing Building parking lot at about 4:45 p.m. tomorrow to head to Central Methodist for the Bulldogs' season opener against Missouri University of Science and Technology.

The bus will hold as many as 50 students and there is no cost to ride. Interested students simply need to go to the athletics office in Pershing 213, to sign up. A student ID is required for sign-up. Admission to the game also is free for students.

The game starts at 7 p.m., and the bus will return to Truman following the game. For more information, call 660-785-4235.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate passed a money motion to allow RHA to use \$100 from its budget to hold a ResLife roundtable Sept. 9, one of five roundtables with various organizations to take place this semester.
- Senate discussed election dates and the election packet.
- Senate discussed dates and revisions regarding the Student Conduct Code and approved the date of Oct. 1 to submit its first draft.
- Senate discussed questions to include in a survey for professor ratings.
- Senate discussed the organization of its election process and campaigning for this year.
- Senate discussed budget and enrollment changes.

DPS | Reports

- 8/25 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of Magruder Hall.
- 8/25 A bicycle was reported stolen outside of Ryle Hall.

Alcohol policy undergoes review

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Staff Reporter

This year, the Board of Governors will review and revise the Student Conduct Code, and students will have an opportunity this semester to discuss problems and suggest changes through Student Senate.

Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist said the review process takes place every three years. Gilchrist will consult with the University general counsel, the Provost and Vice-President of Student Affairs, Conduct Officer David Hoffman and Student Senate in developing her office's recommendations to the Board of Governors.

Student Senate will have until Dec. 15 to submit its suggested changes to Gilchrist.

After Gilchrist collects all the suggestions, she will be responsible for drafting a revised Student Conduct Code, and the draft will be submitted to the Board of Governors and discussed at the

Board's April 4 meeting.

Before the Board acts on the draft document, the University Council will review the document for appropriate legal wording, and President Barbara Dixon also will have an opportunity to look at the revisions.

Gilchrist said she would pass along any suggestions that are given to her, but her office can not make policy recommendations if the cost of enacting the changes is too high.

Sophomore JoEllen Flanagan, Student Senate Student Affairs chair, said multiple revisions already have been discussed, including changes to policies concerning alcohol, amnesty, parental notification, gambling, double punishment, fier posting and alcohol paraphernalia.

In addition, Senate is in the process of forming a committee to discuss changes to the Student Conduct Code and solicit student opinions. The committee will have between three and eight members who will meet

for an hour once a week until Oct. 1, at which point Flanagan said committee members would like to submit their changes to Gilchrist. Applications for the committee are available on the Senate Web site for students interested in participating in the process.

Flanagan said she thinks one of the issues discussed most will be changes to the alcohol policy. She said she would like to see alcohol permitted at special events.

"Basically what we're trying to do with the alcohol policy is to get special events approved, to have the President actually do that for the first time in our history," Flanagan said. "To have tailgating and champagne at graduation are our two biggest goals."

The Good Samaritan policy, related to the alcohol policy, also is under consideration for change. Currently, the Student Conduct Code states that "the University will take into consideration the positive impact of reporting an incident on the welfare of students when determining the appropriate response for policy violations by the reporter of the incident."

Student Senate Vice President Brett Wiley said an amnesty policy would create a more safe and responsible environment because students would be able to do the right thing without fear of personal repercussions.

"We're looking at an amnesty policy for the person who is aiding in the health and safety of [a] friend," Wiley said. "They should not have to worry about being punished or having their parents notified."

Parental notification also is a major issue. Currently, the University reserves the right to "notify parents/guardians of non-dependent students who are

under the age of 21 of alcohol and/or drug policy violations." Flanagan said adult students are capable of handling their own legal problems and should have the right to decide whether to involve their parents.

Freshman Anne Schauwecker said parental notification should depend on how involved students' parents are in their education.

"I think maybe it should coincide with whether or not you've released your grades to your parents," Schauwecker said. "Some kids, if they're financially independent and their parents aren't involved in their college [educations], their parents probably shouldn't be involved in their personal matters, but if you're at a point with your parents where you're sharing information like grades and they're helping pay, then they should probably be a little more aware of your little blunder."

Flanagan also said she would like to see University organizations permitted to host raffle fund raisers, an activity currently prohibited as gambling, and to eliminate the University's right to punish students for off-campus violations when they have already been prosecuted by county officials. Flanagan said she also would like to loosen and simplify the regulations overseeing what can be posted in residence halls and campus facilities and stop the University from prosecuting both residents of an on-campus room for alcohol paraphernalia when the item in question belongs to one or the other.

Students who wish to review the current Student Conduct Code can visit the Student Affairs Web site and download a copy. Those with suggestions or comments should contact a Senate member.

Is 18 old enough?

Last week about 100 university presidents joined together to encourage lawmakers to lower the national legal drinking age from 21 to 18. Presidents from nationally known universities such as the Ohio State University and Duke University are part of a movement called Amethyst Initiative. The group hopes to provoke national debate about the drinking age. They are already drawing criticism from groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving who say that a lower drinking age will result in more fatal vehicle accidents. No law has been brought forth to congress to lower the age. University President Barbara Dixon was not one of the presidents involved.



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