

OUR VIEW

Conduct Code review needs student input

Too often we sit around in the residence halls, the Student Union Building or in our classes, shaking our heads at the things the University punishes us for.

This year, Truman is asking for your two cents about those things, and if you don't take advantage of it now, the opportunity might not be available for you again before you graduate.

That's right, this is the year the University's Student Conduct Code is being reviewed, and it won't happen again for another three years (see story, page 2). Take note of it now, and also take note of the rules of the game.

There's probably nothing you can do that would ensure your protection when running naked across the Quad, but if

you're concerned about your safety in the residence halls, what might happen to you if you get help for an underage friend who has been drinking while you also are intoxicated or how much your parents will find out about your screw-ups, get out your pen and paper.

The Provost, the University attorney and Student Senate all will play a part in amending the Student Conduct Code. For obvious reasons, the office of Student Affairs will not collect random student rants. If you have an argument to make, let a student senator know about it, or if you want to be even more involved in the process, go to senate.truman.edu and fill out an application to become a part of the Conduct Code revision committee. This committee will be responsible for vetting ideas from students and submitting a list to the office of Student Affairs for review. The suggested amendments then pass under the eyes of a staff council, travel through University President Barbara Dixon's hands and will be submitted to the Board of Governors at the April meeting for discussion and an eventual vote for passage.

We predict the most heavily debated topic during this process will be alcohol — consumption, possession and punishment. Keep in mind that although you can submit your requests for a campus that allows students to stumble drunk through the Quad and permits alcohol advertisements to hang next to honor fraternity banners, they might not get far. Truman is a dry campus not just because the Student Conduct Code says so, but also because of a code of policies set by the Board of Governors. It's not federal law that alcohol be prohibited at Truman, but it might take a more extensive argument to lift the drinking ban.

We don't promote underage drinking, but we also aren't stupid: Alcohol and college students are like peanut butter and jelly. We also wonder if it wouldn't be wiser to lobby for a rule tweak that might save your life or the lives of your friends. As it stands, Truman has no guarantee that one intoxicated student who gets help for another intoxicated student in the residence halls will walk away without punishment. How often do you think this leads to bad decisions made based on the possibility of punishment? Secure an amnesty policy, and students will no longer be afraid to come forward with a friend in need of medical attention.

Maybe alcohol isn't even a concern in your book. Instead you choose to make a case for increased residence hall safety or to allow gambling on campus. Whatever your suggestion, we recommend taking a long, hard look at your argument, as the purpose of the Conduct Code is to preserve community values.

But think fast, because if you don't act before Dec. 15 you'll have to save your suggestions for the next go-round. And we hate to think what might happen in the meantime.

Truman is asking for your two cents, and if you don't take advantage of it now, the opportunity might not be available for you again before you graduate.

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail index@truman.edu, call us at 660-785-4449, or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo. 63501.

- A design on page 9 of the August 17 issue of the Index should have been credited to Sarah Schneider.
- A jumpline on page 15 of the August 17 issue of the Index contained a misspelled name. The player in the photograph was sophomore Ashley Petak.



Letters to the Editor

Congress should take lead in energy policy

During July, I attended a nationwide conference about sustainable business with faculty and administrators from 100 collegiate business schools. Forward-thinking corporations such as General Electric want our students to be educated for sustainable use of resources to protect expectations for long-term profits. Many schools, large and small, such as Arizona State and

Duquesne, are activating courses or entire majors to do that.

But action by educators and the private sector won't be enough to achieve sustainability. Right now we need a sensible energy policy from our national government in order to avoid piecemeal regulation by various states that will complicate planning by our nationwide corporations. Congress must renew the tax credit programs for solar and wind energy, due to expire this December, so that business plans for these renewable

sources do not falter. Other nations and many knowledgeable Americans realize that oil and coal alone cannot meet our energy needs without severely disrupting global climate and land use. The U.S. can lead in large-scale implementation of technologies for renewable energy, but only by coordinated action now. Congress needs to help meet this big task by playing its part in September.

*Jim Turner
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The Index welcomes letters to the editor from the University community. Letters to the editor are due by noon the Monday before publication and become property of the Index. Submissions are subject to editing, must contain a well-developed theme and cannot exceed 500 words except at the discretion of the Editorial Board. All letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, signed by at least one individual and include a phone number for verification. The Index does not publish anonymous letters to the editor. Letters to the editor also may be submitted by e-mail at index@truman.edu or on our Web site at www.trumanindex.com. Include the words "letter to the editor" in the subject line of the e-mail. No individual may submit more than one letter a week.

Editorial Policy

The Index is published Thursdays during the school year by students at Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 63501. The first copy is free, and additional copies cost 50 cents each. The production offices are located in Barnett Hall. We can be reached by phone at 660-785-4449. The Index is a designated public forum, and content of the Index is the responsibility of the Index staff. The editor in chief consults with the staff and adviser but ultimately is responsible for all decisions. Opinions of Index columnists are not necessarily representative of the opinions of the staff or the newspaper. Our View editorials represent the view of the Editorial Board through a majority vote. The Editorial Board consists of the editor in chief, managing editor, news editor, copy chief and opinions editor. The Index reserves the right to edit submitted material because of space limitations, repetitive subject matter, libelous content or any other reason the editor in chief deems appropriate. Submitted material includes advertisements and letters to the editor.

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What was going on in the INDEX?

5 years ago – August 28, 2003

Several viruses overran the University's e-mail server, flooding the network. At the same time, the University introduced the banner system to provide students, faculty and staff with greater online access to their personal information.

10 years ago – August 27, 1998

Kirk Gym closed because of safety concerns, forcing several student groups to relocate their activities.

Taking college courses in high school lets students get ahead



Andrew Kindiger

College preparatory schools always have had a reputation as elite education systems far beyond the scope of the public sector. But many public schools now have adopted mandatory graduation requirements, which transform schools' curriculum to match the requirements needed to get into most colleges in the U.S. This attention to education will enable students to meet new academic challenges as opposed to having to play catch-up freshman year.

Several schools in Dallas, Texas, have taken this plan a step further. In association with the Dallas Community College District, public high schools have made it possible for students to graduate from high school with an associate's degree as well as a diploma. Students can be put on a special college-prep track while taking college courses, putting these students way ahead of the game.

If all U.S. high schools were able to give students the same options, education would be revolutionized. Individuals coming out of high school would have a larger set of skills if they chose

to enter the work force, and those who wanted to complete a four-year degree would be able to start careers at a younger age or begin graduate work earlier. Some high schools offer dual credit programs and Advanced Placement Exams in an effort to shave off a few classes or maybe even a semester of college, but the program in Dallas would let students enter college as juniors.

With college entrance rates at an all-time high, it makes sense to help ease the process of attaining a four-year degree. It would make college dramatically less expensive, and it also would give students an incentive to complete advanced degrees before entering the job market. If more and more districts are becoming interested in preparing students for college, why not take it a step further so that students would have the option of completing many, if not all general college requirements in high school?

This might seem like quite the leap, but if more colleges partnered with community colleges in an effort to install jump-start programs, this actually could be a reality. If public colleges took this seriously, they could align these programs so that students would complete their first two years at a particular community college, then complete their degree at their own state institution. This potentially could boost the attendance at state colleges.

Smaller public colleges also would see dramatic benefits from such a program. Staff concentration could be focused more exclusively in upper-level classes because students would have completed general requirements in high school. Not to mention that added revenue could go toward improving facilities and updating technology. Slowly, these public schools could look more like private institutions but at an increasingly affordable price range.

Students who are serious about attending college early in high school would be able to knock out needed requirements, but students who might not have considered college due to cost could take a closer look at options presented to them in high school. This also would allow students who are serious about a particular major to start investing in their chosen fields as soon as they got to campus.

Integrating jump-start programs similar to the program already administered in Dallas area schools would take time and special consideration from students and the staff at community colleges and local four-year schools, but it is something well worth considering. It would be a project that not only would make getting through school easier but also would help school districts make higher education a priority.

Andrew Kindiger is a sophomore English major from Liberty, Mo.