

Truman responds to proposed changes

BY MARGARET HOOPER
Assistant News Editor

The commission on undergraduate curriculum received almost 1,000 students' feedback on proposed changes to Truman's curriculum. Survey says: Students prefer Truman's current Liberal Studies Program to any of the other proposed curriculum models.

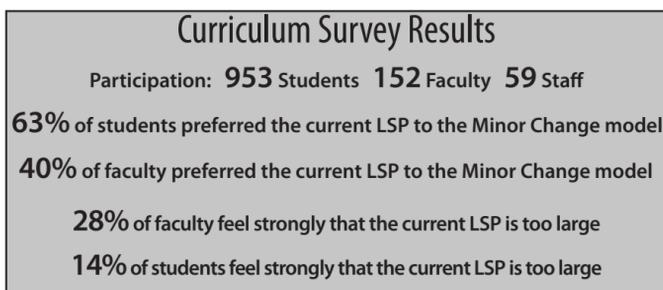
Senior David Hayes, Student Senate academic chair, said he was thrilled by the number of students who decided to participate.

"I would have been very pleased with a couple hundred students, so getting 953 is mind blowing," Hayes said.

The commission presented the survey results at Thursday's University Conference and currently is reading through the comments left by the 1,164 students, faculty and staff who participated in the survey.

Hayes said the survey produced more than 300 pages of comments, with students alone writing about 200 pages. He said the number of comments from students shows that they took the survey thoughtfully — not only to be entered in the drawing for \$250. He said many of the comments he has read so far have been well-argued and thoughtful.

Overall, Hayes said students supported the current LSP model with some alterations such as combining the life science and physical science modes into a single science mode, establishing a more substantial difference between B.A. and B.S. degrees and allowing a single course to satisfy both



a major and an LSP requirement.

"If they're not satisfied with the LSP right now, they're more satisfied with that than they are with any of the proposed models," Hayes said. "I saw it as an endorsement for most of the status quo, with some changes."

Hayes said the models tended to become less popular the further they deviated from the current curricular model, with the portfolio model being the least popular proposal.

He said many of those who commented on the portfolio section were dissatisfied with the current system, which they see as cumbersome and ineffectual.

Math professor Scott Alberts currently is working on a measure to reform the portfolio requirement before the new curriculum become effective.

He said the survey results have not dis-

couraged him because students rejected the portfolio model but supported many of the changes he is working to enact, such as receiving "formative feedback" on portfolio submissions.

Faculty Senate president James Guffey said that although he has not had a chance to study the survey results, he is glad the current LSP model seems to be working for students.

"It would be frightening to think that we have been doing everything wrong for so many years," Guffey said.

Guffey said he hopes to see curriculum revision move in the direction of regular revision, rather than a drastic overhaul, but was careful to leave the predictions to the curricular commission as it continues to work toward a final proposal.

"They're the experts on campus," Guffey said.

Bypass receives federal aid

BY COLETTE LINTON
Staff Reporter

The plan to construct Alternate Route 63 is in fifth gear.

Federal aid from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is accelerating the planning process for Alternate Route 63, which is now expected to be under construction by the end of summer 2009.

Funding for the project previously was determined and stated in a contract between MODOT and the city of Kirksville. The Economic Recovery program provided funding that will allow construction of Alternate Route 63 to take place 15 months ahead of schedule.

"The Economic Recovery plan gives MODOT an opportunity — it has not in of itself provided us with the opportunity to enhance the project," said Preston Kramer, project manager for the Alternate Route 63 project. "The budget is the same. The plan is to go ahead and construct the northern portion of Alternate Route 63."

Kramer said MODOT owns the right of way for the northern portion of the project. The money from the Economic Recovery program will allow MODOT to move the north two thirds of the project 15 months ahead of schedule.

Plans for the north six miles are scheduled to be completed by April 24. By July 3 the project will be awarded to a contractor and work will begin shortly after. Construction on the southern portion of the project is expected to begin before work is completed on the northern six mile section, Kramer said.

When the project is finished, it will be an eight-and-a-half-mile stretch of pavement from Benton Way to the southern Route 6 connection on the east side of Kirksville, according to the MODOT Dec. 5, 2008 news release.

Kramer said this is a big project in North Central Missouri, and if MODOT can get a good start on it, the plans can be completed with enough time to begin the project this summer.

Moving a major project ahead 15 months is a significant task. Congressional members recognized the project as a substantial investment that could benefit the Kirksville area even more if the plan were accelerated, he said.

"Districts in 2008 submitted a large wish list of projects they could do within a year's time if we had some additional



Mayank Dhungana/Index
Traffic backs up on Highway 63 Tuesday evening during rush hour. The 63 Bypass project has received aid as part of President Obama's stimulus package.

funding," Kramer said. "Those of us at the district level and those at the central office level started weeding those projects back to identify the ones that would give us the biggest bang for our buck."

Preparations within the city of Kirksville have been made in advance. With utility lines and small service roads, Kirksville is going to make the construction of the alternate route a smooth transition.

"We had already relocated utilities in anticipation of this project some time ago," said Mari Macomber, Kirksville city manager. "We are discussing signage with

MODOT and the names of small service roads that will be constructed to accommodate access to property."

The city will be contributing its portion of the funding at the time initially decided upon between the city and MODOT. The time at which the city of Kirksville is expected to pay its share of the funding is not accelerated along with the construction of the Alternate Route 63 project.

"The agreement between the city and MODOT states that the city will begin making payments to MODOT in the fall of 2010 — accelerating the project is not an issue for us," she said.

NEWS | In Brief

Recycling center updates services

The Truman Recycling Center will expand its services to include electronic equipment starting March 1. Residents will be able to drop off equipment such as computers, printers and televisions free of charge. The center also will require materials to be sorted before they are dropped off or delivered. The Center's hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information about the Center and the materials it processes, call 660-785-7672.

Chemistry program ranked nationally

Truman's Chemistry program recently tied in 15th place for the number of accredited degrees given in 2006-07 with 32, according to the most recent ranking of the American Chemical Society (ACS). The number of accredited degrees given by Truman exceeds any Ivy League schools. A comparison based on the ratio of the number of accredited degrees awarded to the total undergraduate enrollment for each of the top 25 schools places Truman's program seventh.

Music course to be offered this summer

A Rock Generation course is being offered this summer, May 17 to June 9. Students will travel to the United Kingdom to experience the roots of the British invasion and groups like the Rolling Stones, the Who, Pink Floyd and the Sex Pistols. At the same time, students will learn about the UK and its people. For more information contact Gregory Jones, professor of music, at 660-785-4423 or e-mail at grjones@truman.edu.

Applications available for peer mentor position

The School of Business and New Student Programs are accepting applications for the Academic Peer mentor scholarship position for the 2009-10 academic year. Peer Mentors provide an academic outreach to first-year students who have expressed interest in pre-business or pre-accounting majors. Positions are limited to business majors who will have junior or senior status next fall. Applications are due March 23. For more information contact Marilyn Romine, business academic adviser, at mromine@truman.edu or Mark Weidner, head academic adviser of New Student Programs, at mweidner@truman.edu.

Parenting seminar to take place

The Kirksville Church of Christ is hosting a parenting seminar from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday Feb. 28 at 110 Pfeiffer Ave. Dan Green will lecture on the four compass points of parenting: choices, consequences, compassion and consistency. Green has a Master's in counseling and works with his wife Gaylene ministering to Ekklesia Campus Ministry. To enroll, leave a message at the church office, 660-627-4003.

Student co-op to host event

The CAFO Co-op will be hosting the Kirksville Piathalon at 8 p.m. this Friday at 411 E. Jefferson. The event will feature a pie eating contest and live music from the Can Kickers. There also will be a pot luck vegetable dinner before the event begins.

Student Senate | In Brief

- Student Senate passed a resolution to allow students to lobby for Storm the Capitol.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$100 for roundtables.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$700 for the Big Mix.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$30 for postage to send letters to legislators.
- Student Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$115 for recycle bins in the Quad.
- Student Senate passed resolution to recognize Campus Recreation Director Sue Limestall.
- Student Senate discussed a money motion in the amount of \$100 to Lambda Pi Eta for a speaker.
- Student Senate discussed Conduct Code revisions.

DPS | Reports

- 2/21 **Sophomore Jennifer Rasnic and junior Therese Gerbich were issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**
- 2/19 **Sophomore James Megahan was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.**

Rock Band Tournament Coming Soon!

Jam sessions starting Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursdays 8 p.m. to close.

- No cover
- No fee to play
- Equipment provided
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