

Toilet toss-up



Traveler's Hotel hosted an auction last week for items such as bedroom and kitchen supplies. The first floor rooms were littered with boxes of books, purses, shoes and other miscellaneous items. People curiously roamed the once-vacant building during the auction and all of the rooms were left open for viewing. The hotel will be converted to low-income apartments after renovations. (See story in the Jan. 29 issue of the Index.)

Alex Boles/Index

Senate proposes new student housing option

Senate debates whether or not students should be able to stay on campus during week-long breaks

BY KELSEY LANDHUIS
Managing Editor

For some students, there's no place like home — except Truman.

This Sunday, Student Senate will vote on a resolution to allow students to stay in residence halls during week-long breaks.

Junior JoEllen Flanagan, Student Affairs chair, said the resolution addresses a concern she has heard from students in the past.

"I've talked with students who are international and then just traditional students [and] they've both said ... — either because they live in Wisconsin or they don't get along with their family or they are international students — that they would like to stay over the week-long break because it's just not worth it to go back home," Flanagan said.

If the resolution passes, students would have the option of staying in the residence halls during Thanksgiving Break in the fall and Midterm Break in the spring, Flanagan said.

"Usually the longer breaks aren't a problem, because ... there's just options available, period," she said.

Flanagan said she left the resolution intentionally vague to allow Residence Life greater flexibility to work out the logistics.

"It's a logistical nightmare ... because if you

think about it, all the international students are scattered out through all the dorms," she said. "There's no physical way — fiscal way, even — to even keep them all open because you have to have staff to keep it unlocked."

Flanagan said one way to enact the resolution would be to house all the students who choose to stay during the week-long break in the same residence hall.

John Gardner, assistant director of Residence Life, said making students who want to stay during break live in the same residence hall might create problems.

"Everybody's life is constantly changing, so maybe those students who thought they wanted to stay don't want to stay and some other student who's in a different hall all of the sudden because of a life change of some kind does need to stay," Gardner said. "And so it's a little hard to predict that, and it'd be hard for us to say to a student, 'I'm sorry, you chose to live in the wrong hall 14 months ago.' That's sort of a hard statement to make to a student when maybe something very drastic in their life changed."

Gardner said student safety was another issue concerning Residence Life.

"There's just not a lot of students on campus, and so we wouldn't have a lot of staff on campus," he said. "So even though we do have staff here, we just don't have the coverage we have during the rest of the year, so it's hard to really maintain the safety level that we would like to."

Gardner said Residence Life is aware that housing is a concern for some students and is



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Freshmen Sujan Kumar Lamichhane and Kailash K.C. study in Centennial main lounge. Senate will vote on a resolution to let students to stay in the dorms during breaks.

working to find a solution.

"It's hard to say exactly what we'll do or how it will work or anything like that but we're taking into consideration what Student Senate is currently working on," he said. "I think there are some logistical issues with that but we may be able to find a different solution that will work for everybody."

Flanagan said Senate knows about unresolved issues regarding security and staffing but will be moving forward with the resolution.

"There's no reason why we shouldn't," Flanagan said. "I mean, it's our job to fix problems."

She said she expects the resolution to pass, in which case it could go into effect as early as next semester.

Senior Susie Pope, Residence Hall Association president, said RHA has its own concerns about the resolution, mostly involving staffing.

"Our hall directors ... don't get to take vacations unless the students are all off campus," she said. "Another concern with staffing is that student advisers only get 12 days off, so how would that work?"

Pope said the main issue was the lack of specific information about the resolution's details.

"I have concerns both ways, if we do and if we don't," she said. "However, I think a lot's going to depend on further discussion and what information we find."

Pope said the issue is on the agenda for tonight's RHA meeting. She said she expects more discussion to take place, but RHA will work with Senate on the resolution.

"Our role is to make campus life better," she said. "We're supposed to act as a voice for the students to ResLife, so if we find that there is a need for this, we're going to recommend [it]."

Economic downturn cripples Foundation scholarships

BY JANE KRIENKE
Staff Reporter

Because of the recent stock market turmoil, 152 Foundation scholarships will not be available to students for the Fall 2009 semester.

The Truman State University Foundation experienced a 26 percent decline in investment returns in 2008. As a result, every new account created through the Foundation's first capital campaign, Bright Minds Bright Futures, is under the amount that originally was invested. The capital campaign began in July 2006.

"All of our endowed funds that have been created in the last three years are under water as a result of this, and many that have been created within the last four or five years are under water as well," said Mark Gambaiana, vice president for University Advancement. "This is an unfortunate consequence of a severe stock market decline. It's devastating and it's heart-wrenching, but it's reality."

This is not the first time the Founda-

tion has had to freeze scholarship funds. In '03, approximately 20 scholarships were not available to students.

"In 2003, we had to freeze some scholarships as a result of 9/11 and when the tech stocks crashed in 2000 and 2001," Gambaiana said. "There were three years of negative stock returns in 2000, 2001 and 2002 and that had an effect on some of our scholarship programs, but not of this magnitude."

As a result of the loss of about \$250,000 in scholarship money for 2009, the University created the Investing in Students initiative with a cash pledge of \$30,000 by Interim University President Darrell Krueger and his wife, Nancy, in addition to an estate gift from the late Esther Gardhouse and a cash pledge from Ray Bentele. The Investing in Students initiative has raised more than \$110,000. The scholarships will be available to students next year and will be administered through the Financial Aid Office.

"Some of the endowed scholarships

will be affected by the market next year," said Becky Pike, manager of Foundation scholarships. "Gifts to the Investing in Students initiative will help compensate for these funds."

The Foundation also is encouraging donors to consider giving to an annual scholarship instead of an endowed scholarship. Annual scholarships are invested short term and all the money received is given directly to students. Endowed scholarships cost nothing to create, but the minimum amount required to endow the scholarship is \$15,000. This money can be paid in increments over time or can be given to the fund in a planned gift. When the fund reaches the \$15,000 requirement and sufficient interest is earned, the money is awarded as a scholarship, using as much as 4.5 percent of the three year rolling average of the account.

"A lot of times when people give to the University they give, like, \$10,000 to the endowment fund," Chuck Woods, president of the Truman Foundation

Board of Directors, said. "We're asking people now to not give to the endowment but to the cash scholarship fund, then that can be used for a scholarship right away."

Sophomore Kate Modlin benefited from leftover Foundation scholarships that were applied to the Spring 2009 semester. Modlin received the Betty Jo White Scholarship for \$500.

"I applied late, so I was not able to apply for any Foundation scholarships in the fall," Modlin said. "I just ended up at Truman because it was the least expensive. I'm hoping to apply for more scholarships next year, but if they're cutting funds, then it's going to be rough."

For out-of-state students like Modlin who pay almost \$5,000 more for tuition than in-state students, Foundation scholarships often are important.

"Foundation scholarships really help, except most of them give preference to students from Missouri, so it makes it harder for out-of-state kids to come to Truman," Modlin said. "It's twice as

hard for me because I'm paying for most of my education, and I have to take out a bunch of loans. Foundation scholarships would be a big help."

Woods said he thinks the current economic situation is affecting the Foundation's funds more than ever before, but that the Foundation board of directors and the University will do everything to continue to help students afford to come to Truman.

"I'm not aware of any times when we had to cut back like this," Woods said. "The financial crisis we've gone through in the last six months is something we have probably never experienced since the 1930s. There have been ups and downs, but I think this is definitely a more dramatic situation because of the worldwide, global financial issues. However, this is just a setback that we'll have to work through."

Students can apply for scholarships on the Truman Web site. The final deadline for scholarship submissions for fall 2009 is midnight March 1.

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