

BOOKS | Truman considers textbook alternative implemented in other Missouri schools

Continued from Page 1
University recently experimented with a pilot program, issuing each student a Sony eReader, a device about the size of a paperback book that can download all of a student's textbooks. Despite high hopes for the program, students had problems using the technology, according to an article in The Northwest Missourian. The article also stated that the eReaders did not have a search mode, color or the ability to display images. Students stated that it was a good idea, but more work needed to be done, according to the article. A representative for Northwest could not be reached for comment.

Betsy Delmonico, professor of English and linguistics, said that although the eReader might be effective in some instances, it is not for everyone. Delmonico also said that although today's generation might start using eReaders and similar technology, past generations might have trouble making the transition.

"Some people need the feel of the page turning to remember what they're reading," Delmonico said.

She said she likes the idea of a task force investigating cheaper ways to acquire textbooks. She wouldn't want to see the bookstore go out of business, but understands why impoverished students try to find their books online for a cheaper retail price. In some classes books cannot be recycled because the science and technology changes every few years, Delmonico said.

"There is so much available on the Internet," she said. "I could teach every course I teach without students buying any books if I had to."

However, Delmonico said it has been her experience that students do not retain as much information when they read from the Internet compared to reading from a book. Delmonico has had students use an online anthology instead of purchasing a textbook in the past and found



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Students stand in line at the University Bookstore to pick up their books for this semester's classes. Some schools are proposing alternatives to textbooks to ease budget concerns.

that students tended to skim and not do as well compared to when they printed out online material.

Freshman Jack Cooper said he spent close to \$500 on six textbooks for the upcoming semester and that he thinks expenses associated

with textbooks are completely out of hand. Cooper said he would like to see a system where textbooks were rented for a nominal fee. Cooper said eReaders are still a novelty and would be expensive.

"Every Truman student being issued an eReader-type

device upon his or her arrival is something I don't see happening in the near future," Cooper said. "With everything costing more and everyone becoming more conscious of their spending, it doesn't make sense to invest in something so expensive."

BUDGET | Recent threats to funds force students to look at other options

Continued from Page 1
Sumter said.

However about a month ago, the state requested that public universities put together budget impact predictions for 15-, 20-, and 25-percent cuts in state funding.

"We have no actual way of knowing [how much the state will cut], but the current estimate is between 18 and 22 percent," Sumter said.

Although Truman's faculty and staff are looking for ways to reduce costs, Sumter said their measures alone will not be enough to cover the anticipated funding deficit.

"When you're looking at a cut of \$6 to \$10 million, just turning off the lights isn't going to be enough," Sumter said.

To compensate for a cut in state funding, President Krueger has proposed a \$33-per-credit-hour fee which works out to approximately \$1,000 per year for full-time students. This proposal, or a similar one, will be voted on by students in March, prior to Midterm Break. Sumter said students should expect plenty of discussion forums and other opportunities to ask questions before the vote takes place. He remains optimistic that students will approve the measure.

"I think, of any school in the state of Missouri, Truman has the best chance of passing this fee," Sumter said.

Without the increase, Truman would lose at least 124 employee positions. Approximately half of those positions would be cut from faculty. Sumter said he worries about what cutting

faculty positions will mean for the school.

"We are bare-boned at the moment, and if we have to start firing faculty, we're going to lose programs," Sumter said.

Sumter, a computer science major, used his own major program as an example.

"If we took out one or two of our professors [from computer science], we would cripple our major," he said.

Senior Clare Morgan Martin-West expressed similar concerns.

"I'm a classics major, and there aren't enough professors or classes for majors now," Martin-West said.

She said she would vote for the fee increase, but she thinks most students will not be in favor of the proposal, especially those who are paying their own way through school.

"Students come to Truman because it's the cheapest, best education you can get in Missouri," Martin-West said. "I think it would be out-voted hard core."

Freshman Dan Gilmore said he discussed the situation with his family and supports the fee increase. He said the measure sounds like a reasonable first step toward a solution to the current budget crisis.

"In this economy, the University is going to have to raise prices," Gilmore said. "It was something everyone expected."

Gilmore said he would rather see the quality of Truman maintained more than the low price tag.

More information about the University budget and proposed fee increase is available at <http://budget-info.truman.edu>.

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Cody Sumter
Student Representative to the Board of Governors

LOPEZ | Former restaurant owner takes plea agreement, receives 11 month sentence for extensive social security fraud

Continued from Page 1
a voluntary guilty plea to one felony count of Social Security fraud. The other 41 counts were dismissed at the time of sentencing, according to the plea agreement. Lopez was sentenced in U.S. District Court on Jan. 6.

During a six-year period, the Social Security Administration that the Social Security numbers of more than 70 of Lopez's employees were incorrect, and the employees obtained the false identification at his instruction, according to the press release.

The maximum penalty for the crime to which Lopez pleaded guilty is imprisonment of not more than five years, a fine of not more

than \$250,000 or both, according to the plea agreement.

El Vaquero shut its doors three weeks after Lopez entered a guilty plea. Beth Meline, business license clerk for the city of Kirksville, said some businesses contact her office when they close, but they are not required to do this or provide any details about the reason for closing. Meline said she has not been contacted by anyone from El Vaquero.

"It doesn't surprise me that we haven't heard anything," Meline said. "Some people tell us that they've gone out of business."

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Beth Meline
Kirksville Business License Clerk

MASTEN | Defense attorney files motion for new trial

Continued from Page 1
of Too Tall's," according to the motion. "More importantly, this image is depicted at the scene of the fire three minutes after the defendant left and three minutes before the first 911 call was made."

In the motion, Smith also states that when the copy of the surveillance tape was given to the attorney then representing Masten about one week before the original trial, it was described as "an exact copy of the original 'reel to reel' VHS tape recording." The government did not tell Masten's attorney that the defendant or other suspects were visible

on the tape, according to the motion.

Smith said Tuesday he could not comment on when or how he found out the DVD presented during Masten's original trial was incomplete. He is asking the court for both a new trial and for production of an original video tape.

"The post trial motions for a new trial are somewhat

rare," Smith said. "They're not something that comes up every time."

Smith said a local rule mandates that the prosecution file a response within five days, but that deadline expired Tuesday. No response had been filed by the prosecution as of Wednesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dean Hoag, who is prosecuting the case, declined comment.

"The post trial motions for a new trial are somewhat rare. They're not something that comes up every time."

Aaron Smith
Columbia-based attorney representing Masten

FUNDRAISING | Investing in Students initiative proposes funds for Truman's neediest students to aid in pending budget crisis proposals

Continued from Page 1
for enrollment management, said that because the program is so new, many of the specific details have not yet been decided. At the very least, \$1,000 grants will be available to some students through the financial aid office, but Morin said she would like to see loan and student employment options available as well.

Eligibility for the Investing in Students program will be determined by a student's estimated family contribution results as calculated by the FAFSA and will not be tied to GPA. Morin said applications for the program should be available mid-March.

Mark Gambaiana, vice president of university advancement, said the proposed program would target returning students who already have Stafford Loans, those for whom an additional \$1,000 would be difficult to scrape together.

"We know that there are some students for whom this will be a tipping point — whether they can continue their education," Gambaiana said.

Investing in Students has emerged as an addition to the University's current 5-year fundraising campaign, Bright Minds, Bright Fu-

tures, which enters its public phase this spring. "It compliments what we're already doing and strengthens our case for scholarship donations," Gambaiana said.

He said he hopes the Investing in Students fund will be able to raise enough money to sponsor several hundred students, but the program is too new to make an accurate prediction.

