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Nixon proposes level higher ed funding

BY JESSICA RAPP AND JULIE WILLIAMS
Index staff

Students and faculty can breathe a deep sigh of relief — almost.

Gov. Jay Nixon announced an agreement Wednesday that would put an end to the anticipated 15, 20 or 25 percent funding cuts for Missouri public colleges and universities. Nixon visited three public universities Wednesday to announce his recommendation for a level budget for higher education in fiscal year 2010, according to a press release issued by Nixon's office Wednesday morning. In order to receive the same amount of funding appropriated for the 2009 fiscal year, public universities must agree not to increase their tuition or ask students to vote on academic fees, according to the release.

"To turn this economy around, we must ensure that Missouri's workforce is trained and prepared for the jobs of the future, and Missouri students must have access to an affordable four-year degree," Nixon said in the release.

A spokesperson for Nixon was not immediately available for comment.

Interim University President Darrell Krueger responded to Nixon's recommendation later Wednesday morning in an e-mail sent to all students, faculty and staff members.

"The most important thing for all of us right now is to ensure the University gets better, the results improve [and] that we do everything we can to



ensure an improved educational experience for our students," he said. "If finances inhibit that, then we need to look at what we need to do to try to get the revenues back."

Should Truman receive level funding for the 2010 fiscal year, the Investing in Students initiative, which has to date brought in \$100,000, (\$30,000 of which was donated by Krueger and wife Nancy), will shift focus to helping the families who are hurting financially because of the economic crisis so they can afford to send their children to school.

State Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirkville, said she is not aware of any similar budget announcements for any other state department.

"One of the first questions I think about is the impact on the rest of the budget, but I'm pretty confident that the governor's office has taken a careful look at the issues related to the budget," she said.

McClanahan said Nixon and his transition team have been analyzing the state budget and looking

"What we're at right now is both the best case scenario and the worst case scenario. If we had received a cut, we could be planning for it right now."

Cody Sumter
Student Representative to the Board of Governors

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So long, Sugar



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Specialty foods store Sugar now features a going-out-of-business sale. Economic conditions have forced several local businesses to shut their doors, including Sugar and Fitness Fusion. For full story, see page 8.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Alpha Kappa Lambda member Nathan Hoffman gives a presentation to the Interfraternity Council at a meeting Jan. 21.

AKL attempts to regain charter

BY BLAISE HART-SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

After two years, suspended fraternity Alpha Kappa Lambda is trying to regain its charter with the University.

On Sept. 15, 2006, then-freshman Ryan Schafer signed a bid with AKL and later that night was found at the bottom of the stairs of the AKL house after consuming alcohol, bleeding from his head, according to the Jan. 28 2007 issue of the Index.

The Truman AKL chapter received sanctions from its national fraternity including a revised risk management policy and community service.

On Dec. 13, 2006 the University Conduct Board found the fraternity in violation of two sections of the Student Conduct Code: 8.05.2-5, disruptive conduct and 8.05.2-15,

alcohol- and drug-related misconduct. The fraternity was sentenced to two years of University suspension, meaning it was not allowed to meet, advertise, or participate in any formal events on campus.

More than two years have passed since Ryan Schafer's incident, and AKL now can reapply for its charter through the University.

Laura Bates, director of student activities and campus activities, said AKL submitted its charter packet to the Center for Student Involvement Jan. 20.

Bates said any organization that wants to get a charter from the University must go through several steps, beginning with filling out a charter packet. The packet must include signatures from an adviser, at least six members and a primary and secondary contact, Bates said.

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"We have confidence that the Greek community will stick together and make the right decision."

Justin Rolwes
AKL President

Privacy law affects student record use

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

A recent amendment to federal law could erase campus crime from the public eye.

The Department of Education (DOE) has tweaked the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which is designed to protect the identities of students and their education records as long as they attend a public institution.

The minor changes in FERPA were appointed by the DOE to help universities decide whether to release information about students if they pose a threat to the health or safety of themselves or others in light of the Virginia Tech tragedy. DOE spokesperson Jim Bradshaw said the Virginia Tech administration thought FERPA prevented them from releasing information about the student shooter to the people who could have anticipated the situation.

"This is an effort to try to clarify what can and can't be released and provide schools with the flexibilities to inform the people that need to know to make their campuses safer," Bradshaw said.

New FERPA clarifications state that schools can release a student's

It doesn't end there

The FERPA debate is not limited to documents in crime cases. FERPA also deals with private information including grades and financial data. University General Counsel Warren Wells said school officials place so much importance on abiding by FERPA because the right to privacy can have critical implications for certain students, such as crime victims.

Truman educates students and parents about FERPA during freshman orientation, with a primary focus on informing parents that the students need to sign a release form to let parents see grades. For Truman's full policy on FERPA, visit <http://fedinfo.truman.edu/ferpa.asp>. Student Affairs' policy for releasing information can be found at <http://saffairs.truman.edu/studentconductcode.asp>.



information to parents, law enforcement and health officials if they think the information is relevant to a significant health or safety issue. But FERPA remains unclear about when the general public has

the right to know about a campus crime.

FERPA and Open Records Acts

Federal and state laws allow

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Student charged with sex crime

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
Editor in Chief

A Truman sophomore was arrested last week after being indicted on two counts of sexual misconduct by an Adair County grand jury.

Adair County prosecutor Mark Williams said Robert G. Gunn III, 19, was charged with sexual mis-

conduct in the first degree, a class A misdemeanor. He said the alleged incident occurred Feb. 2, 2008 at a house off Truman's campus. Williams said the charges were delayed because it took seven months for evidence collected at the scene to return from the Missouri Highway Patrol laboratory and then additional time for Gunn's case to go before a grand jury.

Williams said the use of a grand jury is common in sex-related crimes once the victim is determined to be safe.

"This will give the defendant and his or her attorney notice that this is what juries think about when we present the facts of this case to them," he said.

Williams said several witnesses

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A sigh of relief?

Editorial Board warns University against budget complacency.



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Peanut butter recall

Dining halls not serving sandwich commodity



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Old school game night

Games like Twister take students back to childhood



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WEATHER

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly Cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Partly Cloudy
High 49 Low 25	High 33 Low 10	High 18 Low 13