

# Sodexo changes meal options

BY DANA BRUXVOORT  
Staff Reporter

Changes to off-campus meal plan options for next fall could reduce the amount of Ramen noodles and macaroni and cheese in the diets of off-campus students.

Students living off campus will be able to purchase any of the four meal plans Sodexo offers to on-campus students beginning next fall. Right now, off-campus students only have one meal plan option: a 165-meal plan with 100 dining dollars. Student accounts supervisor Marla Fernandez said this plan costs \$1,010 per semester.

Freshman student senator Isaac Robinson III put together a resolution that Student Senate passed regarding the policy change, making off-campus students eligible for the same options available to on-campus students.

"It's a much better bargain, and it's a better deal financially for students, which is why I saw it as an issue and why Senate saw it as an issue and passed our resolution," Robinson said.

He said the change will increase flexibility and will help students save money.

"It allows the new option of the open meal plan to allow students to take full advantage and get the best deal for the money that they're paying," Robinson said.

He said he didn't encounter any opposition regarding the change.

"It was pretty much unanimous with the people who I talked to on campus, the students who provided feedback — they all saw it as a great thing," Robinson said.

He said Senate visited numerous organizations on campus to discuss Sodexo's dining services. Groups such as Tau Kappa Epsilon expressed concern about price discrepancies between the meal plans offered.

TKE put together a breakdown of the \$1,010 plan offered to off-campus students and found that the meal prices averaged \$5.52. After averaging the costs of breakfast, lunch, dinner and premium nights in the dining halls, they found that the average cost of a meal should be \$4.95.

Robinson said Senate took this information and various organizations' complaints and



Krista Goodman/Index  
Freshman Kayla Jackson-Williams buys lunch in the SUB for senior Maurice Mathis, who doesn't have a meal plan because he lives off campus.

suggestions to Sodexo.

Dennis Markeson, director of dining services, said that when Robinson approached him about changing the policy, he was open to the idea.

"I hadn't received that request in the past, and I didn't know that the off-campus students were upset about it," he said. "I didn't see any problem with that [change]."

He said meal plans were set up this way during the 1990s, and a change like this never had been suggested.

Markeson said he took Senate's idea to the dean of student affairs and the Business Office, and they made the decision to change the off-campus meal options next fall.

"I thought it was a good idea, and that's why I pursued it," he said. "The school is more than willing to go with it."

Markeson said there are approximately 200 off-campus students who have meal plans, but more off-campus students use Bonus Bucks to eat on campus. Bonus Bucks can be purchased anytime throughout the semester in the Food Service Office located on the main floor of the Student Union Building.

He said that although it's cheaper to prepare food at home, a meal plan offers more variety and convenience.

"For students that are not wanting the hassle, it's a good program to be able to buy an off-campus meal plan and dine on campus," Markeson said. "We do all the dishwashing for you, we do all the meal preparation for you and we do all the clean up."

Senior Lindsey Pearson, who lives off campus, said she

doesn't have a meal plan but does purchase Bonus Bucks. She said it's convenient to be able to add Bonus Bucks to her card whenever she needs to.

Because she usually only eats lunch on campus, Pearson said a meal plan wouldn't be the best bargain for her.

"It's nice when I'm here on campus to eat lunch, but I rarely ever eat dinner [on campus], so I feel like it would be a waste," she said.

## The Meal Plan Breakdown:

Current off-campus plan: \$1,010/sem  
\$50 per month on groceries = \$200/sem  
\$75 per month on groceries = \$300/sem  
\$100 per month on groceries = \$400/sem

Design by Antionette Bedessie/ Index

# Students present research findings

BY JARED YOUNG  
Staff Reporter

Truman students generally worry about issues such as grades, scholarships and internships. Senior Amanda Zerkel also considers swine odor a top priority.

April 7 marks the 22nd annual undergraduate and the 7th annual graduate research conference. The conference allows students in various departments to present their research via oral papers and visual presentations.

Zerkel is presenting on research done with high amylose corn and its effect on the reduction of swine odor. A first-time presenter, Zerkel said doing the research took a lot of time, but the research itself and the opportunity to present are very beneficial.

"It was a great deal of work, but I was not shocked at that," Zerkel said. "[The conference] is a good opportunity for students to contribute to advancements in research."

Agriculture science professor Thomas Marshall mentors students working on two of the research projects to be presented at the conference. One of those projects focuses on reducing the gelling point of the biodiesel produced by Truman.

"We're converting waste vegetable oil from campus cafeterias and from area businesses into diesel to be used at the University Farm," Marshall said. "Part of the problem is that it gels up in cold weather. Petroleum diesel has the same problem, but its gelling point is much lower."

Marshall said the research involved

testing commercial additives to see if they had any positive effects on the gelling point of biodiesel.

The other project for which Marshall mentors students involves researching the effect resistant starch in high amylose corn has on reducing swine odor.

"We took blood and fecal samples from two groups of pigs and then put the pigs on two different diets," Marshall said.

Marshall said that at first, he thought the research would show growth reductions in pigs on the high amylose corn diet, but the research showed no reduction in growth rates and did reduce odor in pigs, with no health problems.

"The pig project took a lot of effort," Marshall said. "Our facilities aren't the best, so there was a lot of labor involved. We now have enough information to give preliminary results."

Marshall said the research conference is a chance for students to demonstrate all the work they have done during the year and gain useful experience by presenting to an audience.

"If you haven't [presented] before in a research setting, it's kind of daunting and scary," Marshall said. "This gives them practice doing that and responding to questions from the audience."

Although the research conference is open for all to attend, Marshall said students mostly end up presenting to their peers and professors in their respective departments.

"They all ask about research design,

methods [and] statistical questions," Marshall said. "The research conference doesn't get to a huge audience. It's mostly an internal conference."

Senior Andrew Green worked on the biodiesel research, but is presenting his research about high amylose corn starch separately. Unlike the research Marshall was involved in, Green looked at the properties of the starch to find out what traits make it useful.

"What we were hoping to find, when looking at this starch at a really high magnification, [was] what some of those ... characteristics were," Green said. "High amylose corn starch is used now for a lot of things like biodegradable cardboard and packing peanuts. It also has food applications like gumdrop candies."

Green said he looks forward to presenting his findings at the research conference. He said it's a good way to get new information to other people.

"It's interesting to throw [the information] out there and see how it can benefit other people or if others have ideas," Green said. "It's important to make what you're doing known, so that people know the departments, and the programs are all valuable."

Green has presented at the research conference previously and said the atmosphere is very inviting.

"There will be a decent crowd," Green said. "Everybody is interested in what you have to say. Some people are a little more inquisitive than others, but it's generally a good time to talk to people about what they've been working on."

## NEWS | In Brief

### City Council candidate forum to take place

The Governmental Affairs Committee of the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a public forum March 24 at the Shrine Club to introduce candidates running for Kirksville City Council as well as representatives for other local issues on the April ballot. A period of open questions from the public will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by the formal forum at 6:30 in which candidates will answer questions from media moderators. Contact Alisa Kigar at 660-665-3766 for more information.

### Career Center offers job search tips

The Career Center will present a full day of workshops and seminars April 5 in Violette Hall aimed at 2009 graduates called "Job Searching in a Recession." The workshops, scheduled throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., focus on résumé and cover letter writing and critique, developing interviewing skills, resources for locating employment opportunities in a limited market, networking and alternative post-graduate options such as higher education and volunteer work. The Professional Development Institute Web site, <http://pdi.truman.edu/register/classlist.asp>, has a full schedule of events and registration information.

### Traveling exhibit stops in Kirksville

The Kirksville Arts Association will bring a traveling Smithsonian exhibit to town this weekend. "New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music" will run from March 21 to May 2. "New Harmonies" will showcase the history of familiar homeland tunes, both old and new. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Charity dress sale ends today

Today is the last day to drop off dresses for STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, at the Ryle Hall table from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. STAND will host a dress sale to benefit genocide victims in Darfur Saturday March 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SUB Down Under and Sunday March 29 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in SUB Georgian Room A. People may drop off any type of dress including summer, formal and prom dresses.

### Staged reading to be performed

The students of Theatre 481, Staged Readings, will be performing Frank Wedekind's "Spring's Awakening" at 2 p.m. Sunday March 22 in Baldwin Auditorium. Staged Readings is a senior-level independent studies course in which the students research, advertise, produce and perform staged readings. Other readings will take place during the semester, as well as two performances during finals week of selected pieces submitted as part of a 10-minute play competition. For more information contact Dana Smith at [dasmith@truman.edu](mailto:dasmith@truman.edu).

### City begins spring cleaning

The City of Kirksville's annual Spring Cleanup will take place starting Monday. City crews will collect tree limbs, household furniture, metal items and appliances, household solvents and cleaners and solidified paints. Items must be sorted and placed curbside to be collected by the crews. Residents whose regular trash day is Monday will be able to put out items for pick up from March 23 to 27. For those whose trash day is Tuesday, clean up will be March 30 to April 3. For Wednesday, the dates are April 6 to 10 and for Friday, April 13 to 17. For additional information visit [www.kirksvillecity.com](http://www.kirksvillecity.com) or call the Department of Public Works at 660-627-1291.

## Student Senate | In Brief

- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$100 to help fund Alpha Sigma Gamma's Run Walk fundraising event on April 25.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$250 for Educator of the Year invitations, programs and certificates.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$100 for the Educator of the Year plaque.
- Senate approved the Spring 2009 senate election packet.
- Senate passed a money motion in the amount of \$100 for posters to advertise the professor ratings system.
- Senate passed a resolution in support of offering Sodexo meal plans to off-campus students.

## DPS | Reports

3/5 A theft was reported in the Ryle Hall cafeteria.

3/6 Property damage was reported at Ryle Hall.



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