

Debate prep



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
State Rep. Rebecca McClanahan, D-Kirksville, speaks on behalf of Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., at a debate watch sponsored by the College Democrats yesterday in the Hub.

KRUEGER | Interim president takes office, effective this morning

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Although Truman is looking to combat a projected drop in enrollment in the coming years (a drop facing other area colleges and universities as well because of a downturn in the overall number of students attending college), Dixon said the University never considered lowering any criteria for admissions during her five years as president.

"We talked a little bit about what a lot of private schools are doing, which is not placing so much emphasis on test scores," she said.

Dixon said enrollment numbers and admissions criteria were not the subject of the conflicting opinions regarding future goals and expectations for Truman between her and the Board — as noted in an Oct. 16 press release issued by the University — which led to her resignation. Dixon said she requested to be released early from her contract with the University and that that decision did not come as a result of any offer from the Board.

Mark Wasinger, chair of the Board of Governors, said there were a lot of discussions between Dixon and the Board on many issues involving the University prior to her resignation. He said

the priorities of Dixon and the Board did not vary greatly on any one issue.

"Perhaps [it would be] better said that the focus of the president's attention—perhaps there was some disagreement on where that should lie," he said.

He declined to comment further on specific details leading up to Dixon's resignation.

Wasinger also said the Board tried to make Dixon's resignation and the selection of Krueger as an interim president a coordinated endeavor between everyone involved. He said that is why the Board requested a résumé from and interviewed Krueger prior to Dixon's resignation in late September.

"As the discussions progressed with Dr. Dixon, it was felt that to the extent that she was not going to remain with the University, we certainly felt that we needed to search out fairly quickly and find a suitable replacement," he said.

Wasinger said definitive tasks for Dixon as the University's consultant will be outlined as Krueger's transition to a new president gets further underway.

"I think everyone wants to catch their breath a little bit before we explore those possibilities," he said.

Wasinger said possible areas

where Dixon could be valuable include helping Krueger transition into his new position and continuing to support the capital campaign. He said there will not be any reporting system for the work she does as a consultant.

"There would be really no need for a system of checks and balances because her mere presence and track record in gaining a certain amount of support among alumni ... it kind of takes care of itself," Wasinger said.

Although she no longer will be at the forefront of the University, Dixon said she still hopes to see things move forward in the coming years. In terms of the academic reorganization, Dixon said she thinks an important aspect of faculty leadership involved in that system—having a faculty member chosen by their peers as a leader—already is in place in every department.

Another thing Dixon said she'd like to see advance is the capital campaign that began during her tenure—a project she said will provide more resources for students, especially in areas outside the classroom, such as study abroad and internships.

"I hope that's one thing that will have really helped the University a lot," she said.

IL SPAZIO | Restaurant owner Jeff Newton soon to leave Kirksville

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happen [with new ownership]," Kramer said "The staff should largely stay the same."

Sophomore Sara Dix said she was not aware that the restaurant was for sale. Dix said her experiences with Il Spazio have been OK and that she doesn't mind that the restaurant is for sale.

"I don't go there a lot," Dix said. "It probably

wouldn't affect me that much."

Newton said Il Spazio went on the market Oct. 8, but that he was prepared to put the restaurant on the market several weeks before then.

"Il Spazio and Kirksville has been good to us," Newton said. "It's just time for us to pursue other interests."

Additional reporting by Robert Williams

ROBBERY | Kirksville police still searching for robbery suspect

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department suggests that if employees or customers see someone who looks or acts suspicious, they should do their best to stay calm and cooperate. He said this isn't always easy but that it's better than someone risking his or her life to prevent a suspect from stealing.

"The best thing to do is just be a good observer," he said. "Don't try to intervene. ... Try to pay attention to

the fine details as best as you can and make it through it so you can be a good witness to the police."

Looking for attributes like height, build, clothing and the sound quality of a voice will help in an investigation, Jones said.

President of Ayerco Steve Ayers said this was the first incident of its kind for his company but that he could not comment on the investigation.

FACULTY | Gradual increase in higher education funding

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interested faculty members would need to be voted onto the Senate and would not have a specific department or area to represent, known as a constituency. Some departments may not be represented at all under this model, while others could have several representatives. This was one reason the committee did not choose this model.

Junior David Hayes, student representative on the Governance Restructuring Committee, said another model was considered that required significantly fewer voting members than the current model.

"This model would have had three voting members from the School of Health Sciences and Education, five voting members from the College of Arts and Sciences and three voting members from the School of Business," he said. "That would have had 11 voting members on Faculty Senate."

Of the three models discussed, the committee pro-

posed the departmental plan to Senate.

"There were two primary concepts that we had in mind in reorganizing the Faculty Senate," Senate President James Guffey said. "Number one [was] to try to keep the size under control. We didn't want it to get really large and unwieldy where it's difficult to get things done. ... Number two was to mirror the academic organization of the University so that we could enhance conversation and communication between faculty and the governance process."

The Governance Restructuring Committee agreed upon the representative plan, which ensures each department is represented on Senate.

"In order for it to even go to the faculty, it had to be approved by two-thirds vote of the faculty senate," Guffey said. "So if the Senate doesn't have a strong approval of it, it doesn't even go to the electorate. It passed us by a minimum two-thirds vote. Then it was put out to

the faculty and it required a majority vote from them to pass."

Of the 425 faculty eligible to vote, there were 197 responses. Of these votes, 124 responded yes, 65 no and eight abstained.

Before the recent Senate restructuring vote, faculty last voted on a Faculty Senate measure Oct. 2003. This vote regarded whether or not administration members should have a vote in matters of Senate. For the Oct. 2003 vote, 64 percent of faculty voted, compared to the recent Sept. 2008 vote in which 46 percent of faculty voted.

"When you get a response rate close to 50 percent and two-thirds voting in favor of the measure, that is a fairly strong mandate," Guffey said.

Because the vote received the majority faculty vote needed to continue, the bylaws were presented and ratified Oct. 3 at the Board of Governors meeting.

The Faculty Senate reorganization will take effect December 2008.



Mayank Dhungana/Index
A student studies in Pershing yesterday. Pershing renovations are on standby. The gubernatorial election will determine the availability of funding for the project

MOHELA | MOHELA funding depends on fall election

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governor in the state of Missouri have expressed great concerns about the transfer of funds from MOHELA to start with," he said. "And stumping around the state, they have made several comments about taking a close look at MOHELA, taking a close look at the deal from the very beginning, auditing funds. I don't know who's going to win the election, obviously, but what the new governor might do to kind of put a halt to this flow of money from MOHELA is unknown."

Truman planned to use \$21.6 million from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative and \$4 million in local funding to perform extensive renovations on Pershing. So far, Truman has drawn from the available money to fund renovation designs done by St. Louis-based architectural firm Hastings and Chivetta, Minner said. But if the state funding does not come through, the University will put the project on hold, he said.

"Before we actually sign the agreement to implement the plans, the drawings that Hastings and Chivetta are working on, we will need to be absolutely certain that that money will be available to us," Minner said.

Pershing needs to be redone and Truman will continue with the planning phase of the project,

he said. He said he hopes MOHELA funds will come through.

"But if they don't, there may well be other options available to us," Minner said. "Either direct funds from the legislature or some other source. But we will not proceed unless we see a clear funding strain for this project. We have to be careful with the resources that we have."

Budget Director Dave Rector said schools drawing money under the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative recently have been asked to participate in a cash flow projection, in which they tell the state budget office how much money they will need each month. The current fund is expected to run out in mid-summer, he said. If that happens, Rector said Truman will put the Pershing renovations on the shelf until another option to fund the project becomes available.

"Obviously there's several institutions in the state that are in the same situation we are, and some are actually in a worse situation in that they've already signed construction contracts, have a project underway and now they're being told that there may not be money available mid-summer," he said.

Although the government has promised this money to schools, the constitution mandates that the governor balance the bud-

get, which can result in cuts as he or she sees fit, known as withholding, Rector said. He said that if MOHELA is unable to provide the funds to schools, it could result in an interesting legal situation.

Some schools have progressed far enough into their building projects that they might finish before the money runs out, Rector said. He said some schools already had projects ready to go as soon as the money was available, such as designs on the shelf from a project previously promised funding that did not come through. Smaller projects, such as the construction of general classroom buildings like in community colleges, also can be completed more quickly, he said.

Rector said he expects the new governor will address the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative early in the term, perhaps in the January State of the State speech.

"The design phase we're in is such that it will be January when we're ready to decide [whether or not to hire a contractor] so hopefully the political decision-making will match where we are so [we] won't have delays [on the anticipated final completion of the project]," Rector said.

Neither Governor Matt Blunt's nor Attorney General Jay Nixon's offices returned phone calls.



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