

Senate against spending

Senate proposed a resolution against spending Student Athletic Fee money

BY ELIZABETH KOCH
Staff Reporter

A proposed renovation to the Pershing Building weight room is causing controversy.

The renovation would buy new equipment for the weight room and would cost approximately \$200,000, and the money would come out of the funds from the \$50-per-semester Student Athletic Fee.

Sophomore Isaac Robinson and junior Kyle Olmstead, Student Senate president and vice president, respectively, wrote a resolution showing their disapproval, which went through the first read through at the April 25 meeting. Senate will vote on the resolution within the next few weeks.

"We want to ensure the athletics fee is used for the benefit of all students," Olmstead said.

Olmstead said \$200,000 is about 40 percent of the total income from the Student Athletic Fee per year and could be used for other projects that would benefit a larger representation of the student body. The money would come from the 2010-2011 funds, he said.

"Prior to the money being spent, there is an ad-hoc budget that they [a committee of students and administration] present — projects that would be funded by this [Student Athletic Fee]," Olmstead said. "Its [uses of the money are] already pre-planned and semi pre-designated."

Olmstead said Senate wants to make it clear that the committee that usually decides how the fee's revenue should be spent did not initiate this renovation. The athletic department initiated it, he said.

Olmstead said he has heard some student responses supporting Senate's resolution against the renovation, but there still are many students who are unaware of the situation.

"We want to pass this resolution to bring forth the issue to the students," he said.

Junior Tessa Letuli is a thrower on the track team. She said the weight room isn't in the best condition due to broken equipment and limited space, especially compared to other schools.

"I can see how they [Robinson and Olmstead] think that [the renovation is] not representative of the entire student body, but at the same time, student athletes are representatives themselves of the student body at Truman," Letuli said. "There's 21 sports here and every time [athletes] step out on the field, or the court or whatever ... they have Truman State across their chest. We all play for one purpose, and that's for Truman State."

Letuli said Truman is already known for superior academics, but Truman should encourage more athletic students to apply, and a renovated weight room would help lure potential athletes to apply.

"[Athletes are] part of the student population too," she said. "We should be allowed to have at least proper facilities to become better athletes."

She said the weight room renovation wasn't too controversial compared to other projects the committee might have considered.

Student senator freshman Michele Oberkrom said she is undecided about the resolution but thinks the renovation could benefit more than just the athletes.

"Also, the people who are taking classes such as weight lifting ... I know personally that I had a weight lifting class and

when I went into the weight room, a lot of the equipment was broken or [felt] unsafe," Oberkrom said. "I feel like the rec center equipment is in a lot better shape than what the [Pershing weight room] equipment is in."

However, Oberkrom said there are many other projects the money could be spent on. Students might feel like their money is being taken for something that is inaccessible to them, she said.

"It's not really the time, since there are so many budget cuts," Oberkrom said.

She said a better solution could be designating only a portion of the funds for the renovation to come from the Student Athletic Fee.

Student senator junior Cassie Beard said she also was unsure of her opinion about the resolution.

"The fee is designed to benefit both the varsity athletes [and] the student body as a whole," Beard said. "So when you see this money going strictly toward varsity athletics, it kind of makes people uneasy, because people are skeptical about this fee anyways."

She said the money ideally should come from Pershing's own fund, but that's unlikely because of the major renovation already taking place in Pershing. Beard said \$200,000 was a large portion from the Student Athletic Fee, but it would be illegal to spend less money and not renovate the whole weight room.

"If they're going to renovate part of the equipment, they might as well just do the whole thing and get it taken care of," she said.

Beard said the only student reactions she's heard have been from athletes who support the renovation.

Student Senate is open to any comments or suggestions on the issue.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Senate proposed a resolution at the April 25 meeting against spending \$200,000 of the Student Athletic Fee on renovations to the athletics weight room in Pershing.

Lightning causes C-hall power outage

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE
Staff Reporter

Lightning caused a six-hour power outage in Centennial Hall, the Student Union Building and the Student Recreation Center on Saturday.

Tim Baker, assistant director of the Physical Plant, said lightning hit Ameren UE power lines just before 6 p.m. and blew the fuses of one of the high-voltage distribution centers that give power to these buildings. Baker estimated the overall cost for repairing damages at a few thousand dollars.

Baker said they called Ameren almost immediately, but the electrician who arrived was new and reluctant to fix it by himself, even though the Physical Plant knew what the problem was. He said it cost an extra two hours without power to wait for a more experienced electrician to arrive.

"We found that the lightning had burnt the wiring and had blown off three more fuses in the switch," Baker said. "We took

about three and a half hours to repair the wiring and clean up inside the switch. There were places inside the switch which had burnt and had a lot of carbon debris. We also had to replace the fuses."

He said the lightning also damaged the fire alarm systems in most of the affected buildings. Because of this, the fire alarms can't automatically call the Kirksville Fire Department, even though the alarms are still working. The Physical Plant is working on getting this fixed.

"We are still trying to track down the problem," Baker said. "We don't know whether the problem is on our side of the system or the city's side."

Baker said they also have dis-

covered that the air conditioning in Centennial Hall and some pizza ovens in the kitchen have been damaged because of the lightning.

"Compared to what it could be, the overall damage is very minor," Baker said. "We might find some other things that are damaged in the next few weeks. We will deal with them as we find them."

John Gardner, interim director of the Office of Residence Life, said that the lights and heating do not work at all when the power goes off in a residence hall.

"We have some emergency lights that came on," Gardner said. "But other than that, there is not really much that will stay on without power."

He said the main concern is the safety of the students when things

like this happens.

"The first thing we do is we try to tell all the students what's going on as soon as we can," Gardner said. "We encourage students in a situation like that to go to the library or go and hang out at a friend's room in another building."

However, Gardner said the staff makes sure students have access to the building if they need to get into their rooms.

"Our staff does rounds regularly during that period whenever there is a power outage," Gardner said. "We walk around to make sure that everything is all right and people are getting everything they need."

Gardner said that, although students are frustrated in such a situation, they also understand that it is beyond the control of the staff, so there were minimal complaints. In the meantime, the electricians worked hard to get the power back on.

"Whenever power [goes] off, we want to get it back on as soon as we

can because of the inconvenience and because there are some safety issues," Gardner said. "Our first concern was the safety and then that students were able to study or whatever they needed to do."

Dennis Markeson, director of Dining Services, said the cafeteria in Centennial Hall had to be closed because of the power outage. The food services in the SUB HUB also had to be shut down.

"We actually had a banquet going on [in the SUB] for over 200 people," he said.

Markeson said his crew had prepared the food already, and they still managed to serve it. He also said they did not have to throw away any food, and the dining services did not suffer any losses. However, he said it's difficult to get anything done in the dark, and they have requested that the University install emergency lighting in the kitchens as a future precaution.

"We have had power outages before, and we are accustomed to how to handle it," Markeson said. "We still try to carry on with our services."

"We found that the lightning had burnt the wiring and had blown off three more fuses in the switch"

Tim Baker
Assistant director of the Physical Plant

MAE Admissions Update

Congratulations to the students who were accepted for admission into the Master of Arts in Education program in the spring of 2010!

Counseling: Lisa Arment, Michael Bolle, Brooklyn Fleshman, Lindsey Fraser, Debra Hutton, Carrie Maggart, Robert Pacanowski, Brandon Ping, Bethany Rye, Keiko Shinohara, Ashley Trenhaile and Kristy Warmbold. **Elementary Education:** Rebecca Fouts, Jessica Germer, Stephanie Myers, Krista Puetz, Katherine Riley, Loren Roberts, Elizabeth Shocklee, Elizabeth Uptergrove, Jenna Willbrand, Amanda Witzel and Jared Young. **English:** Justin Clark Carissa Hantak, Stephen Kainz, Diane McGinnis, Martha Strauss and Margaret Varty. **History/Social Science:** Adam Barbee, Bethany Goldammer, Alexander Klein, Margarita Nogin and Fiona Williams. **Mathematics:** Erin Collins and Tracy Hickenbottom. **Music:** Shantay Guyton, Colin Hunt, Millicent Keane and Adam Ueltschy. **Science:** Dennis Tarasi. **Spanish:** Jacqueline Boos, Lisa Brooks, Jonida Dosti, Theresa Giuffrida and Jason Sinclair. **Special Education:** Meredith Keough, Anna Koch and Kayla Simmerman. **Visual Arts:** Alexander Thierry.

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Northeast Missouri



The United Way of Adair County/Northeast Missouri is looking for a *full-time executive director* to oversee the entire United Way program in Adair County/Northeast Missouri.

This local United Way handles the fundraising and administration of United Way programs of this area.

Successful candidate must have a *dynamic personality* along with *great people skills* and be a *clear communicator*. Candidate must also have good computer skills in word processing, spreadsheets, and PowerPoint.

Resume and cover letter are due by 5/8/10 and should be sent to *United Way, 304 S. Franklin, Kirksville, MO 63501*, or e-mail to *adairunitedway@cableone.net*. For more information, visit our website at *http://liveunitednemo.org* or call **660-665-1924**.