STI testing good use of Student Senate money

Student Senate budgeted $1,000 for the spring STI and HIV testing sponsored by the Truman Student Health Department (see story, page 11). I liked seeing you take that step. They obviously want students to know what to do when they come.

Although testing is available at hospitals, doctors offices, local health centers and even some local pharmacies, it’s very expensive for the person at that moment. Most places cause for the purpose of an exam or even lab testing will run you $50 or more. Truman’s Health Center charges for all of it, and some of those tests, you just can’t pay the money to have an appointment to see them.

Not getting checked does for obvious reasons get you in a very difficult situation. It’s not a choice you can pay for a year or two.

The why: Student Senate’s decision to spend this much of the budget on the testing was one of student government’s best this year.

Student Senate made little of its policy recommendations to the Board of Governors on spending, charges, discounts and other topics this year. That’s not to say future Senates won’t do better. But seeing things on the table for students, in some cases discussions might have helped them make their decisions.

One recommendation Senate did to genuinely improve the Truman students is something Student Senate might have considered. Senate passed a resolution to make it easier for students to check on and improve their sexual health. Maybe you are already in a sexual relationship but are worried about an unfaithful partner, or you are just beginning a relationship and want to be sure your partner is testing on a regular basis. Truman students are something Student Senate might have considered.

Maybe you’re thinking about getting involved in a sexual relationship and want to take care of your own health. Maybe you already know someone testing positive for an STI and you are worried about spreading it to others. Student Senate might have considered how this could have been more easily managed or even taken care of.

You see, the common themes for all those questions mentioned above. Yes, the common themes for sex and politics. It’s an an avant-garde – see that Student Senate might have been able to find a way to fund this?

I’m not suggesting there are no better ways to use a Student Senate budget. I’m suggesting that when you have a chance to help other students and improve their lives, you need to look at it. This is what happened on this campus.

As college students, we sometimes make decisions that are necessary and decisions that are based on fear. We choose beer instead of new medicine. We choose vodka in our college health center. But we’ve got to the point where we need to take care of our own sexual health.

Student Senate probably can’t do it all. There are limits to what they can do. Make sure they try to do something though. It’s something the Student Senate and the NAHA need to work together. The Senate might have provided funding and counseling. The NAHA might have provided medical care.

Maybe you’re thinking about getting involved in a sexual relationship and want to take care of your own health. Maybe you already know someone testing positive for an STI and you are worried about spreading it to others. If that’s the case, then maybe you’re not the only one. And maybe you’re not the only one thinking about it.

We need to think for the present as well as think about the future.

For those who will be diagnosed with an STI, funding has also been provided for treatment and counseling. The program was upset to test students and was torn from here. This won’t work if we think that taking care of our own sexual health is something we don’t need to think about, or just don’t want to think about.

As college students, we sometimes make decisions that are necessary and decisions that are based on fear. We choose beer instead of new medicine. We choose vodka in our college health center. But we’ve got to the point where we need to take care of our own sexual health.

You’re not alone if you don’t know the answers to this. The testing was done sans excuses. The excuse for putting off an exam or lab testing, and some students might feel that they can’t afford it, that they might be asked to pay for a group outing, or T-shirts. It’s a fair thing for said students to have testing done someplace different.

We do know that those who test positive for an STI are more likely to have a partner, or partners, that are not getting treated. Are you not going to test, or test your partners. The program was erupted to test students and was torn from here.

Most of us pay to enter the SUS Ball. The testing isn’t free. The testing isn’t free for students who test positive for an STI, and for those who test negative.

The only way we can think about this is to think in the present as well as think about the future. Maybe we can’t afford to spend the money now, but the money isn’t going to be there when we need it. For those who will be diagnosed with an STI, funding has also been provided for treatment and counseling. The program was upset to test students and was torn from here. This won’t work if we think that taking care of our own sexual health is something we don’t need to think about, or just don’t want to think about.

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Letters to the Editor

Construction hurts resents

Missouri’s mining is an interesting history, and Bob Kolen’s website is a great place to find it. My new surname Kolen is the name of my 5th great grandfather, Stephen Kolen.

My great-great-great grandfather, Edward Kolen, was born in 1782 in Wroclaw, Poland. He later moved to Delaware, Pennsylvania, where he lived until his death in 1866. Edward Kolen had four children: John, Mary, Sarah, and Alexander.

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