

# Perimeter Access System put on hold

BY SHIHARA MADUWAGE  
Staff Reporter

The University's plan to implement the new Perimeter Access System this semester has been delayed unexpectedly.

John Gardner, interim director of Residence Life, said the goal of implementing a Perimeter Access System was ensuring the maximum safety of students living in residence halls.

"The system essentially allows us to better control who gets access to the buildings so we can have a more secure environment," Gardner said.

He said Residence Life expected to implement the new system this semester but had to delay it because the contractors, Ingersoll Rand, did not complete their work on time.

"We were not going to attempt to roll out a partially completed system or anything like that," Gardner said. "When the work did not get done we made the decision that we have a very safe system in place anyway, and so we would rather have a system that we know works than a system

we have not properly tested and properly trained our staff to use."

Gardner said Residence Life is planning to use the system this summer and test it thoroughly, and it should be implemented for students in the fall.

"We don't plan to try to implement it mid-semester or anything like that," Gardner said.

Gardner said he received both positive and negative feedback from the students about the change to the system. He said there would be slight inconveniences initially, and some students are frustrated with the system, but it would have many benefits such as providing more flexibility for students, making the buildings more secure and having a wider base of access for students.

He said the University would

not incur any additional costs because the work was not completed on time.

Freshman Maximilian Ernst said he was in favor of the current system and was happy to hear that the Perimeter Access System was being delayed. As an exchange student from Germany, he said the current system is very different from the system used in Germany.

"I like the feel of the campus being open for everyone," Ernst said. "And I feel that the Perimeter Access System takes away the feeling of freedom in your movement around the campus."

He said that when talking about the issue of safety, it is important to consider many scenarios. The current system is capable of taking care of students in case of a fire or an emergency, he said, but in case of a

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Maximilian Ernst  
Freshmen



Mayank Dhungana/Index

The Perimeter Access System was not implemented this semester as planned.

university shooting, neither system would be completely efficient in protecting all students. He also said that in such an event, it is important to consider the safety of the students who would be outside and cannot access a building because of the Perimeter Access System.

Junior Deana Dighero lived on campus during her first two years at Truman. She said she saw some benefits in the new system.

"There is something that I really like about the Perimeter Access System as compared to the current system, and that's that all the doors would be locked at night," Dighero

said. "So no one can get into the building at all unless they live here, where as right now they can come in and run past the night monitor."

As for students, she said, the system will not be much different from the current system.

Dighero said that most students do not completely understand all the details about the system, which is why they are frustrated with it.

"I can see how [the new system] could be really cool if done correctly," she said. "I can also see how it can go really badly and be a waste of money if done incorrectly."

# Kiplinger's names Truman among best values

BY DAN WARNER  
Staff Reporter

It's the season when seniors in high school choose their future college and Truman is poised to be one of the most attractive schools for Midwestern students, especially for households where money is tight.

Once again, Truman has been recognized by Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine as one of the Best Value public colleges in the nation.

Truman was ranked 26th for in-state students and 10th for out-of-state students. The article in Kiplinger's said the schools on the list "deliver strong academics at reasonable prices." School rankings were based first on academic quality, which made up two-thirds of the analysis, followed by overall cost and financial aid.

Regina Morin, Truman's associate vice president for enrollment management, said the ranking is especially important because many families are facing financial difficulties.

"It's getting harder and harder for students to be able to afford higher education," she said.

Morin said Kiplinger's has ranked Truman among the Best Value colleges for the past several years.

In December 2008, the Missouri Department of Education asked its public universities to develop scenarios in which they could cut their budget by up to 25 percent.

Interim President Darrell Krueger encouraged all departments and faculty across campus to think of ways they could become more cost-efficient. Morin said this immediate response helped put Truman in better financial shape than most public and private universities.

Despite budget cuts, Truman continues to strive for excellence in all academic areas

while keeping tuition as low as possible.

"At the end of the day, the most important goal for all of it is to preserve the quality of what happens to [students] when they come to Truman," Morin said.

On Tuesday, The Princeton Review and USA Today also ranked Truman on their list of best public universities. Also, U.S. News & World Report ranked Truman as the No. 1 master's level public college in the Midwest for the 11th consecutive year, as well as in the top five up-and-coming Midwest colleges.

Heidi Templeton, director of Public Relations, said Truman's inclusion in the rankings is wonderful for the University.

"[Affordability] has always been one of our core values," she said. "We want to

make sure that students can come here."

Templeton said the rankings help Truman by making it more visible to prospective students.

"This is the kind of recognition [that Truman] doesn't have the funds to advertise for," she said.

Templeton said one of the most important things Truman can work on in regard to its public image is promotion of the city of Kirksville because of its intimacy and the small-town atmosphere that is not often experienced with high quality colleges. She said students can best help Truman's public image by telling people what they enjoy about Kirksville.

Templeton said the rankings among the top universities in the country show a general consensus that Truman is achieving its goals of excellence and affordability, and are basically pats on the back of the entire Truman community.

"I think we can all have a lot of pride," she said.

"[Affordability] has always been one of our core values. We want to make sure that students can come here."

Heidi Templeton  
Director of Public Relations

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