

OUR VIEW

## Presidential forum reduced to formality

The Presidential Search Committee will put into action a planned forum that would put the candidates for the next president of the University before Truman students and faculty. The Jan. 21 forum was developed as an opportunity for the candidates to familiarize themselves with the campus, and for students to get to know the candidates, give feedback on which candidates they prefer and (supposedly) have some input on the committee's decision.

At least, that's what Search Committee Chair Ken Read told the Index in August.

That entire idea basically has become useless, because the committee revealed they will present only one finalist for the job, and he already works here.

Troy Paino, provost and vice president of academic affairs, is a worthy candidate for the job. The problem is that he is the only finalist who will be at the forum. The Presidential Search

Committee owes it to students to bring more than one qualified candidate on campus for students to get to know.

The committee decided that only two of the five original finalists exemplified the qualities the University was looking for in a president, Cody Sumter, student representative to the Board, told the Index in December. The second finalist to be brought on campus declined. It doesn't seem likely that out of the remaining 64 candidates, there wasn't a single other applicant worthy of meeting with members of the faculty and student body. The committee might have decided the

other three finalists weren't Truman material, but students should be able to help decide that as well.

Was student opinion on the candidates going to be the deciding vote on who would take the job next? Probably not. But bringing only one candidate on campus for students to get to know makes student opinion on whether the candidate deserves the job even less relevant. Unless Paino says something to lead students into an uproar, it's unlikely that the Presidential Search Committee will go back to the drawing board to look for another candidate. Besides, most Truman students already know of

Paino. There's been plenty of student media exposure for him. Students have a right to get to know someone from outside of the University too, someone with fresh ideas. Instead, students will be "meeting" someone with whom they are already familiar.

The presidential candidate forum

has gone from a way to genuinely get student feedback and input and include students and faculty in deciding who should be Truman's next president to a formality that won't help decide if a certain candidate is better than another or if they belong at the University. Nor will students have much, if any, control about the decision to make Paino president. Although the committee has made a good choice in Paino, they should put more than one finalist in front of the student body. The committee should trust students to help choose the right candidate for the job.

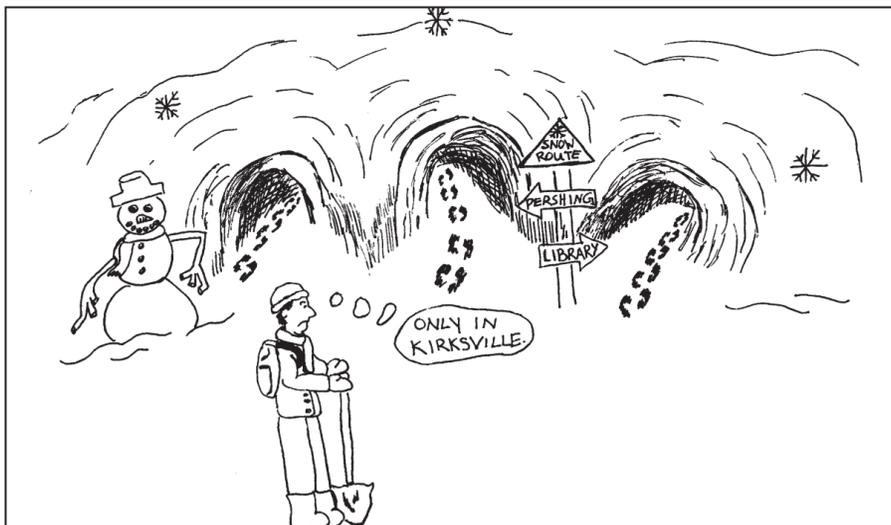
**"The committee should trust students to help choose the right candidate for the job."**

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail [index@truman.edu](mailto:index@truman.edu), call us at 660-785-4449, or send a letter to Index, 1200 Barnett Hall, Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo, 63501.

CARTOON

By Alex Boles



## Letters to the Editor

### Dixon coverage leads to questions

Thanks to the Index for devoting some attention to last year's sudden departure of President Dixon, an event that many would like to sweep into the dust bin of history, if we only could. The editorial in the Dec. 3 edition of the Index is correct that, even though Dixon has finally talked, few of the important questions have been answered. It is a little disturbing that our students feel obliged to pose questions about this to the Board of Governors, but in this particular case, that seems reasonable.

Here are a few facts, which may prove nothing but are still very interesting. We have nine members on Truman's Board of Governors, plus the student representative. All but the student have six-year terms, so one would expect one or two of them to rotate off annually (or be formally reappointed). However, from January 2007 to February 2008 (barely a year), Governor Matt Blunt appointed seven of the nine, then left office at the end of 2008. In September 2008, President Dixon and the Board released their announcement explaining that her "resignation" reflected differences in their "visions" for the University. We learned later that Darrell Krueger had already agreed to become interim president by the time of Dixon's surprise announcement. By the end of the academic year, John Ashcroft was receiving an honorary degree from Truman, almost in the same week that Matt Blunt joined the Ashcroft Group, a consulting firm. It was quite a year for Truman.

Here are the remaining questions. Why did Dixon have to leave so precipitously? Clearly the Board insisted that she leave, and they had to honor her current contract. (The Index did a good job exposing the fiction of her "consulting" assignment — the public will never see that document). The parties soothed over the transition with a \$10,000 bonus, apparently an iron clad agreement that everyone would hush for at least one year. This settlement was shameful for our University and all the parties involved.

I am not optimistic that we will ever find out what really happened or why, so your rumor is as good as mine. Our Board has just elected new officers. Let us hope that all of them have the best interests of our University at heart and

that they can be more honest about their actions in the future.

David K. Robinson  
Professor of History

### Resident promotes Amnesty International

As I am elected to, preliminarily only, head TSU/Kirksville Amnesty International chapter's Afghanistan human rights, anti-war campaign team open to all community interested this new 2010 semester, prior to our student activist planned quarterly initiatives, panels, speakers and petitions, I would like to set forth consensus by us in now three debates we have had. As to why we must, strongly, dissent from President Obama's abysmal continuance of disgraced former predecessor Bush's pro-war, yet more tired U.S. troops dispatch to the region, as reasonably announced in his ill-starred West Point 2009 speech.

One, Obama really does not have a mandate to send 30,000 plus young people into harm's way, yet again, following the 100,000 plus he still phenomenally, uselessly, has stationed in Iraq whose own "folly" presence he was first to his campaign denounce. True, on his favorite MSNBC TV network whilst up against an equally haphazard Hillary Clinton in the primaries, Obama made, subsequently self-repudiated, foolish remarks about "bombing" sovereign elected Socialist People's party ruled Pakistan territories because of Afghan insurgency "harboring." But nowhere in his Democrats' platform convention was a specific U.S. troops escalation openly offered especially as everyone well knows how this TV network has ties-in with Pentagon weapons Afghan and Iraq contractors.

Two, since then, and indeed since his West Point tirade for force, reiterated in the bad Nobel Peace prize misnomer award, the Afghan situation has worsened, making further U.S. troops needless targets in inadequate training, let alone fatigue. The Karzai regime lacks Pakistan's democratic legitimacy wholly in indefensibility with UN declared observers "wholesale fraud" last two contests with a pressured run-off candidate withdrawal last round: armed police who are corrupt and armies notoriously outside capitol Kabul not of the majority tribe in rural villagers detestation, all very Saigon

veterans regime familiar pray. Karzai himself, moreover, supports a U.K.-IRA style "negotiation" with the relatively uncorrupted Taliban insurgents, on the record so plentifully. And the Obama/Cheney conniving pro-pentagon TV are covering up how, not merely the Italians and the Dutch are "phasing out" their troops due to unpopularity and war unwinnability Vietnam style. But serious recent 2009 resignations like even the right wing German defense minister, after he "found out" that the Pentagon "had lied" to him, when it said there had been no civilian Afghan casualties in a hundred strong village killed NATO attack last fall. Finally, and thirdly, the international students as well as U.S. home here ones in TSU AI, reject utterly Obama's amazingly Bush's simplistic, naïve, credulous rhetoric about force up against "evil." As if brute force is the sole way the U.S./U.K. axis must deal with Muslim poor peoples rebels. In fact, all Afghans in opinion polls there, need more schools, hospitals and peace aid as Canada's last liberal government realized should be the real "peace focus" if bad Fundamentalism is ever to be lessened. And yet Afghanistan, along with U.S. influence Haiti, remains statistically one of the globe's poorest countries per head. And Karzai flouts even once elected women congresswomen rights to travel and true speech abroad, for worst in "rape" marriage permissible statute now, than ever did his opponents.

Afghanistan needs negotiation, not more troop occupiers to be slowly repulsed by their unconquerable inhabitants, as, mightily as they did the Soviets a few years ago, or they did the imperial Brits and Russians in the 19th century. It is shameful of Obama to fail to seek a new peace course he promised in "multilateralism" in his campaign in debt-cost reduction. And frankly, a disappointment given how his own academic dad was a freedom fighter against the Brits in their bloody last years of his native dad's U.K. Kenyan misoccupation in East Africa, or indeed how his own Hawaii was for so long racistly denied full statehood, in civil rights denied the Afghan peoples by our hopeless over-force mispresence there. TSU AI says "hell not in our name we cannot go Mr. President." Weak Pentagon lobby folly and capitulation to General Petraeus' misstrategy.

Larry Iles, Kirksville resident

## INDEX

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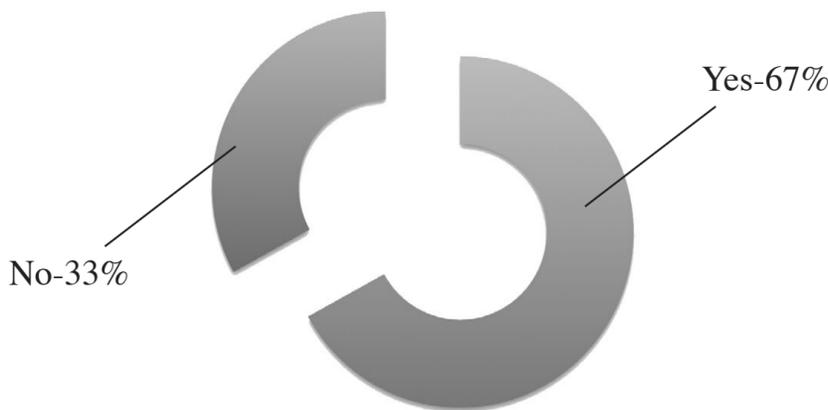
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