

# New door policy starts next semester

BY ELIZABETH KOCH  
Staff Reporter

Next semester, if students forget their ID cards, they will be locked out of their residence hall after 10:30 p.m. The new Perimeter Access System requires IDs to be shown to open any door in all of the residence halls.

The Office of Residence Life will activate the PAS in the beginning of January after new IDs are made, and Residence Life will keep residents informed about the activation, John Gardner, interim director of Residence Life, said.

All doors in each residence hall have the system installed, but only certain doors have the ability to lock and unlock by software because of financial restrictions, he said. From 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., all entrance doors will be unlocked. Other doors will stay locked and serve only as exits. After 10:30 p.m., all doors will be locked and students will be able to use only the primary entrance.

The biggest difference from the current policy is that students will have to use a new ID card to open the main entrance door after 10:30 p.m., Gardner said. From 10:30 p.m. to midnight, any on-campus student will be able to enter any residence hall. But from midnight to

6 a.m., students will only be able to enter their own hall. Students still must check in at the front desk. If a catastrophic event were to occur, the PAS could secure every door by computer.

"When [the PAS] was initially conceptualized, I don't think there were a lot of details worked out," Gardner said. "A lot of the details, which are the more important part [rather] than the basic idea, those have just been worked out within the past six months."

The PAS keeps a record of who comes in and leaves the halls and keeps people who should not be in the residence halls out, making residence halls safer overall, he said. Gardner said students have told him that it will be an inconvenience that all doors cannot be used as entrances, which will force some students to start using different doors. The number of locking and unlocking doors is limited because of what the budget allowed for the

system, he said. The new ID cards, or proximity cards, cannot hold money on them for laundry because they don't have junk stripes, Gardner said. This could cause problems for students who still have money remaining on their current ID cards because any remaining at the end of the semester will be lost. A

Residence Life option for students with large amounts of money remaining on their cards is to have those affected post their names on a list next to their student adviser's door, allowing other students to use their ID card for laundry in return for cash.

Gardner said Residence Life will need to figure out a system for students who forget or lose their IDs to have access to their residence hall with the new system.

"[Residence Life] understand[s] that there will be some changes that some students will have to make, and we recognize there will be some inconvenience, but we think that the safety component far outweighs those inconveniences," he said.

Gardner said the PAS will benefit Truman because many of the schools that Truman competes against for students already have a similar system in place, and it greatly improves safety on campus.

"We have appreciated the campus response and we know there have been some concerns," Gardner said. "We've tried to address those as best we can, and if there are any additional concerns, we are always available to any student."

The idea of converting to a PAS has been around for many years but became a priority after an incident in Dobson Hall two years ago. Cody Sumter, student representative to the Board of Governors, said. During the incident, a male intruder got past the Dobson Hall front desk and entered the room of two female students in an attempted sexual assault.

The Board of Governors approved the \$255,000 PAS proposal this summer for the system, which approximates to about \$5,000 per door, along with additional costs for the system. The

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John Gardner  
Interim Director of  
Residence Life

**PERIMETER ACCESS**

East  
North  
South  
West

Red - Exit Only  
Yellow - Doors unlocked from 6 a.m.-10:30 p.m.  
Green - Primary Entrance

**Dobson Hall First Floor**

**Building Access**  
6 a.m.-10:30 p.m.  
• Doors with card access devices (black boxes) will be unlocked - all green and yellow doors

10:30 p.m.-12 a.m.  
• On-campus residents only permitted through Primary (Green) Entrance, by use of proximity card  
• Off-campus students and guests permitted through Primary Entrance only when accompanied by on-campus resident  
• Check in at Night Monitor station still required

Mayank Dhungana/Index

Residence Life will implement the new Perimeter Access System in January.

ultimate goal would be to have every door able to lock and unlock to increase convenience for students, Sumter said.

"The physical nature of [the PAS system] versus the implementation are two completely different things," he said. "As a concept, it is a really, really good idea."

A campus-wide PAS system including academic buildings would be beneficial too, but the future of the system depends on available funds, he said.

Freshman Caitlin Combs, a Centennial Hall resident, said she

wasn't aware of the PAS until she received the e-mail from Residence Life explaining it. The system isn't needed because it only makes the residence hall security more complicated, she said. One inconvenience is that while only certain doors can be used to enter the halls, some parking lots are on the opposite side of the building from those doors, she said.

"[A PAS] would prevent door propping, but, on the other hand, [Centennial Hall residents] haven't really had that big of a problem with it," Combs said.

# Theater department receives cuts

BY ANDREA HEWITT  
Assistant News Editor

Theater students are disgruntled after realizing an upcoming 20 percent cut in department faculty.

Currently, the theater department has five professors, but assistant professor David Goyette said his contract will not be renewed for next year.

"What that means, is four classes will be cut each semester," Goyette said. "I'm the one on the faculty that is trained as a director, so we lose that component. All the other faculty direct, but I'm specifically trained as a director."

In response to this decision, junior Madelaine Schmitt created a Facebook group titled, "Save the TSU Theater Department." The group has accumulated more than 370 members.

Senior Sarah Hitzel is a member of the Facebook group.

"The group's name is a bit of an exaggeration," Hitzel said. "The department doesn't need saving. I think we're just trying to raise awareness and bond together to keep the theater department together."

She said a similar faculty cut happened her freshman year that led many students to drop the major.

"We lost two professors and we were worried that neither of them [would be] replaced, but one of them was," Hitzel said. "We started petitioning, then didn't need to anymore. I think this is something similar to that, but on a lesser level."

"We want to make sure everyone in the department is aware of what's going on and what new changes will be happening in the department to keep everyone on the same page. And if there's something we don't like and want to change - this group will be a good way to make the changes we want to."

Hitzel said she's upset that Goyette is leaving because with only four faculty members, not as many classes will be offered.

"Every student is required to take almost every class, so we need teachers who can teach directing, acting, stagecraft, make-up and costuming, and the teachers we do have can't teach all those things," she said. "They aren't all trained to teach all those



Mayank Dhungana/Index

Assistant Professor David Goyette's contract is not being renewed for next year because the Truman theater department is experiencing cuts.

classes. We need a wide range of professors who specialize in classes."

Provost Troy Paino said the cut is being made because in 2007 Truman created department chairs for the first time. This meant

that some faculty were taken from teaching duties and put in a quasi-administrative role. Now the theater department chair no longer exists.

"A deal was struck that departments would get a

temporary faculty addition, which means they aren't tenured track positions," Paino said. "Theater was one such department without a chair. ... the issue now is if there will still be that temporary position."

Paino said he recognizes the students resistance efforts and is willing to discuss other options.

"I never say something is a done deal or I cannot be influenced before listening to everyone," Paino said.

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