

**HEALTH** | State Rep. Rebecca McClanahan and former state Rep. Judy Baker have a "town hall" Tuesday evening about health care

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state level, sharing stories of health care woes among her constituents.

McClanahan used examples of couples getting divorces to receive health care coverage to illustrate her points on the need for health care reform, and she stressed the escalation of health care costs and inefficiencies.

"The most expensive thing that could be done is nothing," McClanahan said.

McClanahan and Baker also discussed specific components of health care reform, including the costs. They said all of the proposed bills are budget-neutral with expected funds coming from various sources, including money saved through reforming the health care industry.

There are five health care bills currently in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. Instead of focusing on the specifics of each, Baker and McClanahan explained the problems with the current system and the overarching ideas of the bills, which include a health insurance exchange system to pool money and lower costs, affordable health insurance on a sliding scale and increased health insurance choices. They said that not every bill contains a public option, and each is far from a socialized health care system.

McClanahan said misconceptions, such as labeling the reform as socialist and bringing separate

issues such as abortion and immigration into the debate, detract from the need to reform the health care system. And although the Internet might lead to misinformation, McClanahan applauded it as a "tremendous resource."

"Americans today are more informed than ever before," McClanahan said.

Jaime Diaz, president of the College Democrats, said she hoped the "town hall" would help bring information to the student body. She said College Democrats, along with the American Medical Student Association, Amnesty International, GlobeMed and Alpha Phi Alpha, brought McClanahan and Baker to Truman for this reason.

But Stuart Murray, College Republicans vice-chairman, said a lot of his organization's questions were left unanswered, and he said he thought the "town hall" meeting was geared more toward health care reform supporters than people looking for more information.

"I think it was good that our organization attended, but I don't think I got much out of it," Murray said.

Murray said the College Republicans originally asked the College Democrats for a debate, but the Democrats declined the offer. He said he appreciated the "town hall's" contribution to the discussion of such an important topic.

"This is something that is going to affect us," Murray said.



Mayank Dhungana/Index  
Representative Rebecca McClanahan and former representative Judy Baker gives examples of health care woes to illustrate the need for health care reform.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** | Scholarship renewal process looked at by committee

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monetary change must be made.

"We only have so much money, and we're not getting more money at the moment," Sumter said.

Currently, the Scholarship Oversight Committee, created by Interim President Darrell Krueger, is reviewing the policy. Sumter said a formal report should be presented to the Board in December.

"It will go through the administration," Sumter said. "The Board will be given the opportunity to voice their opinion and at least hear the proposal before it's put into effect."

Financial Aid director Kathy Elsea said that after students have lost part of their scholarships, they can appeal once they raise their GPA.

Scholarship requirements are reviewed on a yearly basis. So if a student's GPA drops after the fall semester, he/she has all of spring semester to bring it back up. The current issue with this policy stemmed from the expected decrease in state funding in the years to come.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for Enrollment Management, is a member of the Scholarship Oversight Committee. She said the committee is looking for a way to hold students to standards appropriate for receiving scholarships.

"You have to remember that this is scholarship renewal," Morin said. "When you put it in that context, you have to look at the big picture, and you have to ask yourself what it should reasonably take to renew a scholarship."

The committee must look at all aspects of the current policy, while also looking at the financial situation Truman is facing. Morin said the committee

is looking beyond Truman for possible solutions.

"What we're trying to do in this committee is build a big picture," Morin said. "The committee is looking at other universities to find ideas of how to alter the scholarship policies."

Morin said the solutions the Scholarship Oversight Committee comes up with will pertain to the entire scholarship process.

"We're not just looking at the renewal and how you get that money back, but looking at the front end and trying to land on what is the best way for us to structure that program," Morin said.

Currently, no decisions have been made about the structure of scholarship programs. Morin said a concrete solution will take time.

"I think anything is on the table," Morin said. "That's the point of the committee — to look at what is the existing policy, what have been the policies in the past and what are the policies at other institutions."

Current students with scholarships should not be concerned with any changes to the scholarship policies. Morin said more than likely, current classes of students would remain under the current policies, even if they change in the near future. She also said Truman will continue to provide students with a quality scholarship program.

"Nationally, Truman has been a leader in awarding scholarships and awarding merit aid for decades," Morin said. "I don't know what the results will be, but I can tell you that Truman will remain committed to having one of the best scholarship programs of any public institution across the country, and that is regardless of whether we make changes in how scholarships are awarded or changes in the renewal criteria."

**BAN** | Student Senate will vote on a resolution regarding the smoking distance policy. If the resolution is passed, students will have to smoke 20 feet away from campus buildings

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they want, and the distance rule includes only residence halls, not academic buildings, Flanagan said. The goal of the resolution is to make the smoking policies consistent, such as having to smoke 20 feet away from all buildings, she said.

Benefits from the resolution include increased respect between smokers and non-smokers, such as being courteous by not blowing smoke in someone else's face, Flanagan said. A disadvantage is that the resolution is not a student vote, so some representation is lost, she said. Students might feel as if campus is a prison and they aren't free to do as they choose, she said.

There are around 20 voting senators, while the Senate body consists of about 50 students. Flanagan does not have a vote on the resolution, but she does have a veto.

"It's looking at ... [the vote] as, well, whose voice is very vocal that doesn't have a vote doesn't technically matter," Flanagan said. "So it's kind of like behind the scenes lobbying to make sure you get the majority of the votes to pass it."

Flanagan said she thinks the Senate is in favor of the resolution because she hasn't heard many complaints. She said the resolution probably will pass in its current state because a vast majority of voting senators made very mild forms of recommendations, and they're not asking for anything extreme. Flanagan did not say whether she supported the resolution because she is concerned that it does not reflect student opinion. Flanagan is doubtful the resolution would affect potential Truman students.

"Kids are going to smoke if they want to smoke somehow, at least that's what I believe," she said. "It's kind of like sex. I mean kids are going to do those sorts of things — you're just not going to stop them."

If the resolution were passed, research into designated smoking areas would begin. But the responsibility of the resolution would then leave the Senate — they are only advocating it. If the resolution does not get passed, it cannot be brought up again until the next legislative session.

John Gardner, interim director of Residence Life, said the Residence Life policy states that if a student is smoking closer than 10 feet from a residence hall, the incident is documented and sent through the Residence Life conduct system.

"One of the concerns with that is that we have ashtrays that are attached to the top of trash cans and are cemented into the ground that



Krista Goodman/Index  
If Student Senate passes a resolution on Sunday students will no longer be able to smoke right outside buildings, but have to move 20 feet away.

are about 10 feet away from the buildings," Gardner said.

Smoke flowing into a student's window is another serious offense — because of the danger of secondhand smoke — that the policy prevents, he said.

Students smoking in residence halls are not a huge problem, and the number of students beginning to smoke has decreased, Gardner said. There also are few conduct cases concerning students smoking too close to the residence halls because overall the students who do smoke are respectful of other people, he said.

Residence Life and Student Senate have had several discussions about smoking on campus. One suggestion that has ended up in the resolution is to allow students to smoke 20 feet away from all buildings, but that did not seem promising.

There are not many places on campus that are 20 feet away from every surrounding building, so most trash cans would have to be moved to make that proposition possible.

Gardner said the goal is to have healthy students making good decisions, and respecting their peers' health. He said that if the resolution is passed, the campus would be a healthier environment for students, but some students might feel as if they're losing their individual rights.

If the resolution is not passed, Residence Life will keep its policy the same, but if the resolution is passed, Residence Life will enforce the new policy, he said.

"I do believe that the more we can get

smoking away from the buildings, it will benefit us," Gardner said.

Freshman Claire Tichenor, who does not smoke, said she has heard about the vote this Sunday and thinks the resolution benefits the non-smokers. Squirrels can even become addicted to nicotine from eating littered cigarette butts, she said.

"Personally, I would like that [the resolution pass], because I don't like the smell of it, but I'm sure smokers will be [upset]," she said.

Freshman Molly Haman, who smokes, said she also heard about the resolution that will be voted on Sunday. Haman said the resolution is a bad idea and has no relevance because all smoking is done outside, and if someone is bothered by smoke they can move away. Smoking is a basic freedom, she said. Other non-smokers who have said that they are being poisoned by smoke and are overreacting, Haman said.

"If you're 18 and you can buy tobacco, you should be able to smoke outside," she said.

However, Haman said the concept of designated smoking areas could work if there are enough of them in convenient locations, she said.

"I just think that it's really, really stupid for Truman to try to take away something that is pretty much a basic freedom," Haman said. "I really don't see what the problem is. If people are that bothered by cigarettes, then I don't know what's wrong with them."

**PORN** | Former Truman employee indicted for child pornography

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pornography images on his computer, according to the release.

If convicted, "possession of child pornography carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000," according to the release.

"These are just two examples from many of what happens when state, local and federal resources work collaboratively on an issue of critical importance to Missouri and the entire nation," Kirksville Police Chief Jim Hughes said in the press release.

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