

# INDEX EDITORIAL

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Thursday, October 29, 2009

## OUR VIEW

### Senate slate rejection seems counterproductive

The student committee to select the slate of potential student representatives to the Board of Governors chose three qualified candidates from 11 applicants. They made their selection after several sessions of reviewing applications, interviewing and deliberating. The committee, co-chaired by current student representative Cody Sumter and Student Senate President JoEllen Flanagan, included members of prominent organizations on campus, and was formed to choose a slate of students who, if appointed to the position of student representative to the Board of Governors, would serve the entire student body's best interest.

At the end of a thorough process, the committee chose the three best candidates for the job, and presented the slate to Student Senate, which decided, in one closed meeting, to reject the slate.

Did Student Senate act in the best interest of the student body by rejecting the slate of three candidates the committee selected? It doesn't seem that way. Was Student Senate even qualified to approve the slate of candidates? Probably not.

The 10 committee members who spent many hours working together to nominate the best applicants for the job had their hard work dashed away in a single meeting by Student Senate, which had not interviewed all 11 candidates to determine which three candidates would be the most qualified as student representative.

By rejecting the slate, Student Senate basically said to the committee that the three contenders on the slate were not the three best candidates for the job, something they have no real information or knowledge to back up, considering they don't even know which candidates did not make the slate. Student Senate obviously doesn't have faith in smart, successful

students at this University who were chosen by co-chairs Sumter and Flanagan to help pick worthy candidates for the job. When elected — or shall we say pseudo-elected, as most senators run unopposed — officers have little or no faith in their constituency, the system fails.

The Index has some bias in this opinion, as a member of the Editorial Board is on the nomination committee. But this doesn't change the fact that Student Senate made the wrong decision, especially considering the looming deadline of Nov. 1 to submit a slate of candidates to the Governor's office.

It will look unprofessional if the University misses the deadline, because the slate goes directly to Gov. Jay Nixon's office. Nixon then interviews the three candidates and makes the final selection. This isn't some silly homework assignment — this is a deadline to the leader of our state. Any opportunity to show him that Truman students and faculty respect his time would be wise to take advantage of. Missing that Nov. 1 deadline could be just the reason Missouri government needs to review the University's funding and whether we deserve everything the University is getting. Now is the time for the governing body of our student population to take the steps to impress those in control of the funding for our student body.

Student Senate's rejection of this slate of candidates shows a lack of trust in fellow students to make good choices. Luckily, voting senators have a chance to reverse their original decision. The committee decided to send the same slate of three candidates back to Student Senate for another vote tonight. Whatever their reasoning for originally rejecting the slate, Senate needs to decide whether a missed deadline is the best way to serve students.

## 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.

• An article on page 19 incorrectly said the men's soccer team's record was 11-2-2. The record was actually 11-2-1.

## CARTOON

By Alex Boles



## Letters to the Editor

### Missed coverage of spelling bee

The Truman Forensics team (that's speech and debate) hosted a spelling bee two weeks ago. We contacted the Index by e-mail, by phone and by Facebook message, yet we couldn't get our event covered.

The Bee was a raucous, irreverent event with a ton of prizes that were given away throughout the night. Baldwin's Little Theater was standing room only. Nick Berg won a pretty amazing prize package (correctly spelling "bio-accumulation" for the win), and second through fifth places fared pretty well with their prizes, too. Door prizes were in abundance, with everything from a rainbow slinky (won by Jen Lasley) to restaurant and shop gift certificates from all over town.

This event was well supported by the Kirksville community and Truman faculty and staff. We even took our own photographs (thanks to team member Mel Kapitan) and were willing to provide those to the Index.

But for whatever reason, our event wasn't deemed important enough to cover. There really were things other than homecoming happening that evening. It's a shame you didn't opt to share that with your readers.

*Susan Presley, senior*

### Debate an unfair competition

As Kristi Scholten and Director of TSU Forensics Kevin Minch kindly went out of their way to make sure this latecomer Brit from the earlier but necessarily overlapping meetings for Amnesty International, College Democrats, and the Global Medicine pro-health reform debate was accommodated for and allowed to participate in the debate on future U.S. China relations and was negatively won "against" by his own all-male British post-grad team, may I pertinently on both questions be permitted a bit of equity in thanks of reciprocated balance in Truman's accuracy favor!?

Truman's forensic losers, Sarah

viewing China as some kind of general "threat."

Most of all, though, it ought to be within the realm of commonsense fairness for surely well-paid by we taxpayers and you student fee-payers TSU administrators, to be flexible enough in posting expensive color posters even in the farthest deep residence halls. To hence guarantee their brave outaged own student debaters a large and representative audience, especially when a rival community-national emergency debate like public health care accessibility/affordability comes alongside in audience subtraction. For noticed, example, the U.K. "won" debate got disproportionate numbers of males and known center-rightwingers at its too proximate gathering: thus, leading to, I heard, shouts of "shame" irately, if justly, from students sitting behind me when Dr. Minch "called" the vote, accurately, alas, "for" my nation's fogies! Why? Of course, because most center-left students gender balancingly, were at either the health care, arts club, or gender studies faculty talks! Easily, administrators, you could and ought to have manually changed the time on posters to just an hour later than the actual disastrous seven o'clock inflexibility in order to get a fairer floor debate and question sample than what travesty happened. As it happened, only one Chinese/Chinese American female student showing great courage was able to give her contribution publicly.

Is it really, folks, beyond hope of redress that these observations will not only be read but remedied upon in the future? Because, as I said to our interested and beloved ex-TSU Nursing Instructor and State Representative later that evening, "TSU's progressive side that night lost, alas" their anti-racist case through very little fault of its own debaters. More classic, overpaid TSU bureaucrats unresponsiveness and inflexibility to average students and we community members' attendance priorities that known crowded Tuesday evening in the life of Kirksville's hubris center, this valued campus.

*Larry Iles  
Kirksville resident*

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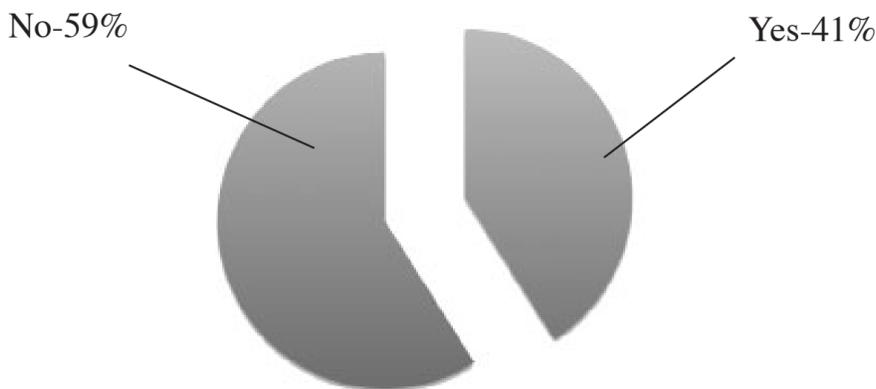
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Are the changes in class registration policies helpful?



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