

INDEX EDITORIAL

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Saturday, August 21, 2010

OUR VIEW

Provost search must commence

It's been five and a half months since Troy Paino was appointed University President, leaving his old position of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs without a permanent replacement.

A Provost search commenced last semester but ended up fruitless.

Where are we now? In the words of Paino himself, we are back to square one (see story, page 3).

Paino said he spent the summer thinking about the office of the Provost and the kind of person he wanted for the position.

Although we respect his desire to find the perfect candidate, the search isn't moving as quickly as it could be.

It is time for some action. We need a permanent Provost. And the sooner we start looking for one, the better.

One of the issues with the last search, as noted by Student Senate President Isaac Robinson, was the time restraints the committee faced, given the time in the academic year when the search began. If a committee was formed now and started taking applications and résumés now, they would have all school year to work on finding the perfect Provost, satisfying a need for the University to see action and our desire to find someone who truly is right for the job.

Maybe a committee isn't the best way to find the next Provost — that's fine, too. We just want some momentum to start the race. And hopefully reach the finish line by the end of the year. Paino needs to get the ball rolling before a time crunch forces us to invite candidates to campus during finals week again, resulting in epically low student attendance at the forums.

Paino is coming from the position, so he must be pretty knowl-

edgeable about the behavioral traits, characteristics and qualifications that would make a solid fit in a Provost and would work well in conjunction with him. He's had three months since the previous finalists for Provost weren't offered the position — a position that has a major impact on the future of our campus.

This position is the second most important on campus and having a permanent Provost in it for the long haul helps fulfill the Provost's mission: "The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Office provides positive, professional support needed for students, faculty, and staff to achieve the University's mission and core values." We would like to add permanent support to the list as well.

We're not saying that Richard Coughlin isn't doing a good job as interim Provost.

But Coughlin already has said he won't be seeking the permanent position, so we've got to start searching for someone who will.

Paino shouldn't rush the choice and just pick some dude off the street, slap a name tag on him that says "PROVOST" and stick him in a luxury office. We aren't suggesting that. We respect that it is important to find someone trustworthy whom he will work well with. But we would like to move the process along now.

Paino made the right decision not to offer the position to the candidates in May when he wasn't 100 percent sure they were the missing piece to the Truman puzzle. We'd rather not get stuck with someone who isn't going to be the right addition to our administration. But it is now time to take action again.

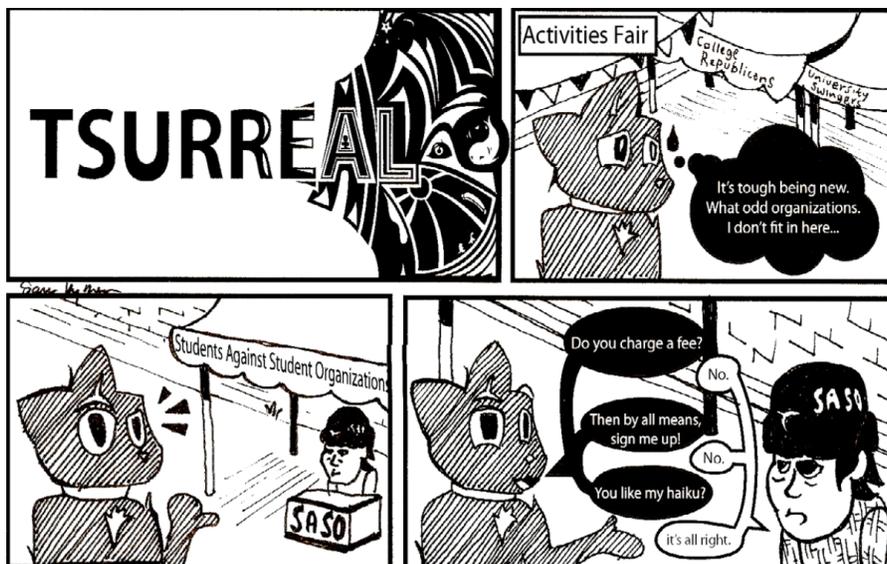
The Provost search needs to begin. Now.

CORRECTIONS

To submit corrections or to contact the editor, please e-mail 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 Sam Kyker



Letters to the Editor

Editor in Chief welcomes freshmen

I'd like to talk to you today about passion. Hopefully, as you freshmen start your collegiate journey here at Truman you will find one. Art, history, Greek life, sports or reading good books. It doesn't matter so much what you are passionate about, but that you are passionate about something.

Luckily, for you, here at the Index we've already found our passion.

Our passion is putting together an award-winning newspaper every week which brings you the latest news in University and community goings-on. We put ourselves into these 20 pages of newsprint every week, sacrificing sleep, a social life and sometimes even grades. But we're excited about what we do.

What makes us even more excited is the thought of you, our fellow students, picking up the Index every week and reading it. There truly is something for everyone.

Do you want to read about the Index staffers picks for best late-night eatery? Yep, you'll find it here. Want to know about the expansion of Truman's athletic conference, the MIAA? It's in here. Are you curious about what a Provost is and why the hiring of a new one affects you? We've got it. You've entered a new world here at Truman. Let us show it to you.

Because we're dedicated to bringing the free press to the campus community and the Kirksville community, we strive to improve every single week. Maybe you won't care for a story you read in the next issue of the Index. You don't just have to complain to your friends about it.

Let us know. Please. We want to know what you love, what you hate and what bores you to tears. We want to know if you have an amazing story idea or an angry letter to the editor. You can e-mail us at index@truman.edu or e-mail me personally at bmm5242@truman.edu.

So, every Thursday, pick up a hot-off-the-presses issue of the Index or check us out online at trumanindex.com. Both are free. We're in the process of launching our new website.

On it, you'll find all kinds of bonus features. We've got the Index Sports show, hosted by Managing Editor

Jack Nicholl. We've got multimedia slideshows, a podcast and additional features you won't find inside our pages. Subscribe for free to our online edition — so that when you wake up Thursday morning, a fresh copy of all the Index coverage will be sitting in your inbox.

Start your first year of college off with some passion. Be passionate about knowing what is going on in your community and on your campus. About understanding the issues that will affect the next four years of your life. And turn to us to help you fulfill that passion. Nothing, not midterms, breakups, breakdowns or budget cuts will stop us from bringing you up to speed on what's going on at Truman.

Welcome to the best four years of your life. We'll be there, right along with you.

Brenna McDermott
Editor in Chief

University should decrease spending

I am not in favor of the proposed course fees and parking sticker price increases. But if those fees will spare a job or staff position from being cut, then by all means Board of Governors, approve the fees.

Other state funded universities in Missouri have a plethora of fees compared to what Truman has.

I do not think that the 'Budget Task Force' has exhausted all the possibilities to decrease spending, while increasing revenue. Here are a few examples.

Establish a visitors only parking lot, and work with the City of Kirksville to erect parking meters in order to generate income from vehicles that are parked in areas on campus that do not require parking stickers.

Many Truman students and faculty consume smoking and non-smoking tobacco products. Why not sell these items in the C-Store and in the Student Union Building? Truman could even increase the price slightly and the convenience factor would still make them highly marketable.

As for limiting spending, Truman's Department of Public Safety recently added a shiny, new Crown Victoria

police car to their inventory. Was this necessary to patrol a campus that is only 550 acres in size, including the University Farm? Truman also can implement renewable energy resources on campus to help offset the cost of conventional energy and to help the environment. By placing solar panels and wind generators on the rooftops of the buildings on campus, not only would energy dependence decrease, the campus as a whole would portray a positive, forward-thinking and environmentally friendly appearance.

These are just a few suggestions that could go a long way to keep the high level of education provided here at a low cost to all.

Calvin Van O'Linda
alumnus

Student feels unsafe on campus

Granted, I probably should have figured out how this works on my own before now. But for me, a student who doesn't frequently study the intricacies of Truman's Department of Public Safety, recent events were confusing.

At 10 p.m. one evening I was leaving through a back door of Barnett Hall. A man slowly pedaled his bicycle (equipped with a milk crate on the back) past me and continued to look at me over his shoulder as I walked to my car. He pedaled on to the lot behind Barnett.

As I found this odd, I called Truman's DPS. The man that answered the phone there explained that he would transfer me to the Kirksville Police Department, because he couldn't send an officer out. Well, sure. Okay.

I told my same story to the dispatcher at KPD, who listened politely and made note of my contact information ... and said she'd call Truman DPS to have an officer sent out to check on the situation.

Is this how the system works? Really? I'm no officer of the law or anything, but that doesn't seem like the most efficient way to handle such situations. Hopefully this was an aberration, rather than the norm.

Susan Presley,
senior

INDEX

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Editorial Policy

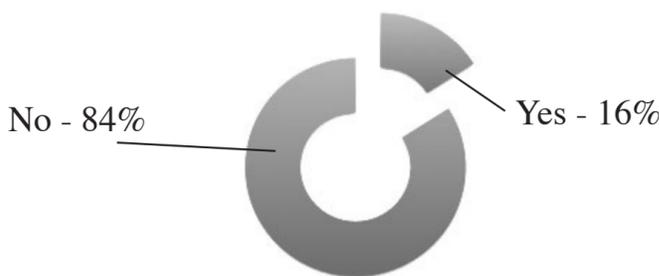
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