

Brother Jed Returns to the Quad



Joyce Wong/Index

Brother Jed preaches on the Quad Monday, surrounded by students. Brother Jed travels to college campuses nationwide to spread his message.

Grad school enrollment on the rise

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

Enrollment in Truman's graduate programs has risen 17 percent in the past fiscal year.

Truman's graduate program leaders have been actively recruiting students, and the School of Graduate Studies has added new programs.

"The graduate program directors and faculty have been working hard at recruiting students and trying to increase enrollment in their programs," said Maria Di Stefano, dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "Each program has different strategies."

Di Stefano said there has been an effort to raise enrollment while maintaining the integrity of the program and the students' experiences.

In the last fiscal year, Truman had 327 students enrolled in various graduate programs, Di Stefano said.

New programs have been offered this past year, including the Master's in Leadership and the Master's in School Counseling, Faculty Senate President James Guffey said.

"We have students currently enrolled in the programs," University President Troy Paino said. "We are also in the process of getting the new Professional Science Master's program approved."

The program is in its final stage before potential approval and is anticipated to be on the Missouri Department of Higher Education's agenda at

their June meeting, Di Stefano said.

Paino said he wants to have the new program approved in June so Truman can start recruiting students for the fall semester.

Guffey said an important reason behind increased enrollment is that Truman staff is trying to make more people aware of the graduate programs Truman offers because they are not as well known as the undergraduate programs.

"The graduate program directors and faculty have been working hard to increase enrollment in their programs."

Maria Di Stefano
Dean of the School of Graduate Studies

Truman currently offers eight Master's programs: accounting, biology, communication disorders, counseling, education, English, leadership and music.

Di Stefano said Truman's tuition costs for graduate credits are competitive in-state.

A Truman graduate credit for in-state residents costs \$305 compared to University of Missouri-Columbia's \$306.80 and Northwest Missouri State University's \$312.69. For out-of-state residents, a Truman graduate credit is \$523, an additional fee of \$485.20 at Mizzou and \$540.38 at NWMSU, according to universities' websites.

Guffey said the trajectory of student enrollment is looking up, but there are no numbers for next year.

Paino said that while graduate school enrollment is not a major factor, it is helping offset the likely budget cuts from the state.

"We will continue with the strategies that have been successful," Di Stefano said.

BOG drops Barnes and Noble for Follett contract

BY PHILIP ZAHND
Staff Reporter

Follett, the nation's largest college bookstore operator, will succeed Barnes and Noble's more than 26 years of business with the Truman State University Bookstore.

The Board of Governors unanimously passed a resolution last Saturday to sign a five-year contract with Follett, which operates more than 880 college bookstores nationwide.

The decision was based on the findings of the bookstore contract selection committee that University President Troy Paino appointed after Barnes and Noble's five-year contract which will expire this year.

Unlike Barnes and Noble, Follett only provides services to educational institutions and focuses on online bookstores and pre-owned textbooks and workbooks, according to the company's website.

"It was the sense of the committee that Follett was better positioned to really go through that transition and to help keep us on the cutting edge of the change in the textbook industry," Paino said.

The members of the committee thought Follett might also be able to provide cheaper and more options for merchandise and apparel in addition to cheaper and a larger variety of textbooks, Paino said.

"We've been with Barnes and Noble a long time," Paino said. "I think they've served the University very well. This isn't meant as an expression of sincere unhappiness, but I think that we were at a point in time in our history where we were going

to move forward in this very changing industry."

Budget Director Dave Rector said the changing textbook industry influenced the decision to switch to Follett.

"One part about the bookstore contract I think is important is the industry we're in right now and how it's dynamic and changing," Rector said. "It's really switching from traditional bookstores where perhaps you focused on selling new books with some rentals, to the market [that] is really shifting more to the focus on rental books and online sales."

The committee consisted of a Board member, a faculty member, an academic dean, an Information Technology Services representative and a student. The committee evaluated three companies for the new contract — Barnes and Noble, Follett and Nebraska Book Store — and reviewed their contracts with various college bookstores.

"We were looking at fair [financial] return for Truman and we're trying to save some money for students," committee co-chair Judy Mullins said.

After initial research, the committee eliminated Nebraska Book Store from the bidding process, Mullins said. The committee then asked Barnes and Noble and Follett about their visions for the future and plans for the University Bookstore. The committee unanimously voted to recommend Follett for the contract, Mullins said.

Board member Matthew Potter said Follett emerged from the bidding process as the best fitting candidate.

"The analysis the committee did

is primarily looking ahead that Follett seems to be better positioned with online sales and their focus on rentals and also the recommendations from references from campuses currently being served by Follett," Potter said.

Arizona State University also made the decision to contract Follett for their bookstore in February after operating an independent, "in-house" bookstore for years, said ASU communications manager Michael Hegarty. ASU also evaluated Barnes and Noble.

"We took a three to four-month bid process to look at other ways to see if we would be in a better position to have [the bookstore] basically outsourced to a bookstore operating company, and so it was determined that Follett was the best candidate for that," Hegarty said.

Hegarty said Follett's alignment with the changing textbook industry would allow the company to provide more variety at potentially lower prices.

"We just realized that ... in the changing evolution of technology of college campus bookstores that Follett was the best one that allowed us to go that next step by having a group that operates almost 900 college campus bookstores out there," Hegarty said. "The technology aspects they have through their e-books and also through their rental book program ... we thought it would be a better way to offer more services for our students as well as services for our staff."

Paino said that although the bookstore's three employees currently work for Barnes and Noble, Follett indicated they would offer them job interviews.

"It would be our sincere hope that they would transfer to Follett in the process, but that is completely up to Follett," Paino said. "We can't tell another company what to do in terms of who to hire and who not to hire."

Steve Pennington, Truman State University bookstore man-

"We were looking at fair [financial] return for Truman and we're trying to save some money for students."

Judy Mullins
Bookstore contract selection committee co-chair

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