

MDHE | Truman survives state-wide program cuts to public universities

Continued from Page 1
Masters in music, as well as the three programs that will face re-evaluation.

Paino said program cuts made in 1985 were part of the reason Truman was successful in surviving cuts made during this program review. In the 1985-86 school year 140 undergraduate programs were offered, while today only 48 programs are offered.

"I don't think any University can compete with us on what we did in terms of evaluating our programs, closing programs, making tough decisions and then staying true to our mission and not having a proliferation of new programs over the course of 25 years," Paino said. "So we've stayed true. We're really an example of someone who was given a state charge, a state mission and staying true to that."

The MDHE program review deleted 73 programs at the four-year level, or 18 percent of the 438 programs identified for review. A little more than 36 percent of the programs identified for review will face reevaluation in three years. At two-year schools 46 programs were cut, 23.5 percent of

the two-year programs the MDHE originally reviewed.

The program review recommended that "high-priority" programs like science, foreign language and teacher education courses improve productivity, something Clifton Kreps, classical and modern language chair, said helped save the classics and Russian programs from immediate elimination.

Kreps said the Russian major, which has graduated one to two majors for the past three years, often has approximately 30 students in entry-level classes. Kreps said that although Russian, which began in 1993, will never meet the Academic Program Review's definition of a productive program, which should graduate at least 10 students per year. Russian said supports minors, double majors (approximately 50 percent of Russian majors are double majors) and students fulfilling for-

eign language requirements.

Kreps said there have been preliminary discussions to possibly collaborate the Russian program with Mizzou.

But the department, Kreps said, is looking at other possible solutions. Kreps said the entry level class, which usually has approximately 30 students, could be split into two to give more personal attention to students and would increase retention. Another solution would be to require study abroad, which would require fewer on-campus Russian courses.

The classics program has graduated three to five students in the past three years. Classics students study Latin, ancient Greek and ancient mythology and literature. There often are approximately

120 students in elementary Latin classes and 15 students in upper-level Latin courses, but the level of attrition is much higher in Greek courses.

Kreps said splitting these courses up could lead to higher retention and therefore higher student rates in the upper-level classes, but would cause professors to teach overload. More than 50 percent of classics majors are double majors.

Kreps said he couldn't imagine a liberal arts school without a classics degree.

"Classics is pretty much at the heart, foundation of liberal arts," Kreps said. "So what I hear, not just from my own people but from people aware that the program is under review by the state, 'How could you have a liberal arts university without a classics program?' It just seems like it needs to be there."

In the four-year universities, there were 27 foreign language, literature or linguistics programs below the productivity threshold.

Justifications used to defend the Master's in biology program were that the program supported others, shared faculty with other divisions, had a high demand and was a unique need, according to the program report.

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Troy Paino
University President

DENTAL | R-III

Kirkville schools make pledge in exchange for the use of dental labs

Continued from Page 1
University. However, he said there have been discussions between the two institutions to possibly start a 3-2 program for Truman's pre-dental students. Those Truman students possibly would be eligible for the Still scholarship. Truman and A.T. Still currently do not have any official academic collaboration.

This program would allow Truman's pre-dental students to stay in Kirkville for dental school rather than having to go to the University of Missouri-Kansas City or out of state.

"I think it brings some economic development to the community," Paino said. "They'll have to hire faculty and staff to support the dental school. So that's new people coming to Kirkville with presumably pretty good paying jobs."

While Student Senate has not voted on a resolution to officially support the dental school, President Isaac Robinson said Faculty Senate has passed such a resolution and Student Senate is "on board."

"I think it really establishes Kirkville and Northeast Missouri as a hub for education and health care," Robinson said. "I think that bringing [the dental school] in here is a huge benefit to the entire region."

A.T. Still has applied to receive grant money from other institutions such as the Missouri Institution for Health, said Representative Zach Wyatt (R-2nd District). He said that although the money has not yet been granted, the institution likely would give A.T. Still more money than they usually give to other universities.

Wyatt introduced a concurrent resolution, bill HCR-13, in the Missouri General Assembly "showing our strong support for ATSU to pick Kirkville as their campus."

Wyatt said Missouri ranks 47th in trips to the dentist. He said he wants to see Missouri rise to the top 20 or 10 in this category — a process he estimated to take 15 to 20 years as the average age of dentists in Missouri is 55. Wyatt said Missouri had three dental schools in the 70s and 80s but now the only remaining institution is the University of Missouri-Kansas City. With an initial graduating class of approximately 35 and an expected class of more than 50 in coming years, this dental school would be instrumental in serving rural areas. Approximately 70 dental student graduate from UMKC every year.

SENATE | Students

lobby for Gov. Nixon's 7 percent cut to higher education

Continued from Page 1
Cline said Student Senate prepared for the lobbying day by drafting a resolution in support of the proposed 7 percent cut.

"We sent the resolution [to the legislators] a couple days after Student Senate passed it, so they've already had time to look over the resolution and we're just coming down here to reinforce it, and put a face on Truman," he said.

One of the legislators the students met with was Representative Jerry Nolte from Missouri's 33rd district in North Kansas City. "Essentially what we talked about was what their backgrounds were just to get an idea of what it is they wanted to say and to get an idea what their thoughts were on the 7 percent reduction," Nolte said.

He said this is a good time for students to talk to their legislators.

"The fact is whenever you're trying to appropriate money for any organization or agency, it's a lot easier when you're familiar with what they're spending money on and what their resources are."

To prepare for lobbying, students were required to attend an informational session that included information about the proposed budget cuts, Robinson said.

Freshman Student Senator Deanna Barger said this was her first year attending Truman at the Capitol.



Freshman Deanna Barger (left) and junior Michele Oberkrom attended the event Truman at the Capitol on Tuesday. Both are members of Student Senate.

"Don't talk about party lines, only talk about what we came here to do, stay on topic, and know where they stand on the issues," Barger said. It was also junior Student Senator

Michele Oberkrom's first year to attend the event.

"[The main objectives of the trip are] to keep funding cuts as low as possible and also to make [senators]

more aware of our University and how much we like the University, and to make sure they know that college students are aware of the decisions they are making," Oberkrom said.

STUDENTS | Paino wants to increase out-of-state enrollment by 3 percent as a way to make up for cuts in funding

Continued from Page 1
"As we get fewer and fewer dollars from the state, and public funding becomes a smaller portion of our budget, I think that lawmakers and the people of Missouri need to recognize that in order for us to still offer a high-quality education to Missourians and non-Missourians alike, we have to think about other ways of generating revenue," Paino said.

Along with fiscal incentives, increasing the number of out-of-state students enhances the experience of all Truman students, Paino said.

"We think that the educational experience is enriched when you have diversity of all kinds on campus, so we look to get a mix of students in terms of minority and majority students, international students, and also within domestic students, having some kind of geographic diversity," Paino said.

Melody Chambers, director of Admissions, said diversity has been and continues to be a priority for the University.

"It's an effort on the admissions office's part always to try to attract people from

diverse backgrounds," Chambers said. "One piece of that certainly is students from out of state."

Chambers said another reason to look at out-of-state recruitment is data indicates the number of Missouri students graduating high school is declining. For that reason out-of-state students are an attractive option for maintaining current enrollment levels without lowering admission standards, Chambers said.

Chambers said admissions is working to attract more students both within

and outside of Missouri. "We've looked at our staffing and how we can ensure we're doing everything we need to do in Missouri, but also do a little more outreach out of state," she said. "We did some restructuring so that we had a little bit stronger presence in Iowa, and also covering more of Illinois, with a concentrated effort in the Chicago metropolitan area."

Rachel Davis, the international admissions coordinator, said the International Student Affairs Office also is working to increase enrollment of in-

ternational students. "The number of international students has steadily been growing," Davis said. "The past two semesters we've been over 300 total international students. We were in the 200's for a long time. The goal is to eventually get to 400 international students."

Much like domestic efforts, Davis said the main strategies for recruiting international students is making personal connections with students, and explaining the Truman experience to them.

Katie Hamel, a freshman from Omaha, Neb., chose Truman instead of state schools in Nebraska.

"I decided to come to Truman because I didn't want to stay in state, and I wanted to go far away but not so far that it would be really hard to get home," she said.

Along with the location, Hamel said her decision was influenced by Truman's small size, low cost and academics.

"One of the main things was that it's so cheap, even for out of state students," Hamel said.

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