

Inches of snow cover campus



Joyce Wong/Index
Junior Sara Arnold clears her vehicle Jan. 10. The National Weather Service issued a Winter Weather Advisory for the snow storm that brought more than 5 inches of snow to Kirksville on Jan. 10 and 11.

Two exhibits open at art gallery



Joyce Wong/Index
Freshman Emma Roeder sets up for two art exhibitions opening at the University Art Gallery on Monday. One exhibition features Renaissance-era prints and the other features artwork from self-taught artists and academically trained artists. Both exhibits will be open through Feb. 18.

16-to-1 has yet to make final decisions

BY REBECCA SMITH
Staff Reporter

The 16-to-1 task force passed its original deadline of Dec. 15 to make suggestions on how to reach the desired student to faculty ratio to the University President.

Richard Coughlin, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs and co-chair of the 16-to-1 task force, said the committee "hopes to reach a conclusion within the next week or two."

The committee has been meeting for some time, but still is analyzing various departments and discussing what is the more pressing for the president to consider about university efficiency, Coughlin said.

"We are looking at aggregate numbers by department and how many faculty, students and classes there are in a department," Coughlin said. "We look at how many credit hours are being generated and what the ideal amount of hours is in that department."

It is expected that approximately 25 faculty positions will be eliminated in the next two years through normal attrition, Coughlin told the Index in an article in the Nov. 4 edition of the Index.

Coughlin said the committee is reviewing historical data in terms of the number of credit hours generated by faculty and department over time.

Another portion of this analysis is discussing the namesake of the committee, the 16 students to 1 faculty ratio.

State funding will be less in the next fiscal year, so it will be even more important to reach this goal because there will be fewer resources, Coughlin said.

The University has been below

this ideal ratio for a while and they now are looking at information pertaining to department staffing, he said.

"Truman rises above and falls behind that ratio as student enrollment increases and as faculty is hired and leaves the University," Coughlin said.

Northwest Missouri State University has adopted a similar way of assessing their university with the Northwest Leadership team that involves people throughout campus, said Mark Hornickel, Northwest's media rela-

tions specialist.

Hornickel said Northwest also is still in the discussion stages and is looking at how each department is operating and how it could be

more efficient.

"We are taking a look at our organization as a whole and how we can be more efficient as a university," Hornickel said. "We are trying to find some ways to work more efficiently and also weigh what is necessary and not so necessary."

Northwest is not looking at any personnel cuts and will continue assessing throughout the year and identifying what they can do better, Hornickel said.

The state, whose budget cuts were a catalyst for this committee and analysis of university efficiency, also has requested that some programs be reviewed.

Of all of Truman's programs, it was requested by the state that nine programs be reviewed, Coughlin said.

Decisions have been made to keep six of the programs, but two or three still are waiting for a decision: Master's in biology, Russian language and classics, he said.

"I think that every program has

merit," freshman Russian major Michael Corey-Yares said. "We should be trying to obtain quality over quantity here."

Corey-Yares said he thinks the ideal ratio of 16-to-1 would provide a good learning environment because professors would be able to interact with everyone in a class.

His Russian Elementary 2 class this semester has approximately 18 students, and his Russian Elementary 1 class last semester had approximately 26. Corey-Yares said that because of this he thinks the Russian classes are pretty full.

"There is a definite uniqueness in being able to learn another language, especially one like Russian," Corey-Yares said. "I feel like Truman would lose something if Russian was no longer offered."

Coughlin said that these programs still are being reviewed, but he does not anticipate a problem.

The state only has the power to offer suggestions and cannot cancel a program, Coughlin said.



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