

TEACHER | In the future, professors could be teaching more classes to reduce faculty cuts, which might result in larger class sizes

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mester, Cupelli said. Faculty overloads were given instead of finding "last-minute replacements," he said. The department chair distributes faculty overloads.

"[Budget cuts] have some influence because, for example, you don't have maybe the flexibility that you had before [with salaries]," Cupelli said.

The majority of reductions at Truman have been with the staff, he said. Positions that have been terminated include secretarial positions and administrators like faculty development and faculty assessment, or support staff, Cupelli said.

Some faculty, approximately 12 currently, have chosen phased retirement, he said. This means they will teach about half of their usual full-time classes, approximately three or four, for approximately half of their full-time salary. This helps

reduce faculty overloads, Cupelli said. Phased retirees still receive benefits.

The leftover classes from the 12 phased retirees should not result in faculty overloads because they were planned and schedules are adjusted accordingly, he said. Some new faculty probably will be hired as well. But class sizes will probably increase, he said.

James Guffey, Faculty Senate president and professor of mathematics, said no faculty has been laid off thus far.

Guffey said faculty overloads are a result of the increase in enrollment and decrease in faculty.

Faculty Senate has not been involved directly with making plans of reducing faculty, but helped create a committee whose goal is to maintain the 16 to one student to faculty ratio.

"[The committee] has met ac-

tively in the fall to help understand what the staffing needs are throughout the University and how do we approach [it] in a systematic, thoughtful way to properly achieve the 16-to-one ratio, Guffey said.

"What's always central in the middle of anything we do concerning decisions of staffing, budget issues and so on, is to make every effort that is absolutely humanly possible to protect the primary and number one thing we do here, and that is to produce student learning," he said.

Kristi Scholten, director of forensics and professor of communication, said she has been teaching an extra class at Truman since she was hired three years ago. After becoming director of forensics two years ago, her workload isn't light, she said.

"When I signed the contract ... it was [with] the assumption or

understanding that when you direct a student organization, like the speech and debate team, you get a course release," Scholten said.

She said she originally was supposed to teach two courses per semester, but consistently has taught three because of the understaffed communication department. Budgetary restrictions make it difficult to hire replacements, she said.

"Everybody in the department is taking on more," she said.

The extra work mostly interferes with the forensics team, not her classes, Scholten said.

"What slacks, I think for me or what the tradeoff [is] for me, is that I don't put as much effort into coaching the team, and I have to sort of let them do things on their own, so it's more of a self-directed kind of learning for them," she said.

Because Scholten is the director of forensics, she said she works

many weekends.

She said she doesn't think she'll ever teach less than three classes, and other communication professors probably will take on extra classes in the future because of budgetary restrictions.

"We would either have to lighten the load on students or be able to hire more faculty, and I think that at Truman neither of those things are ever going to happen because we do have high academic standards, but we don't have the money," Scholten said.

She said some professors enjoy keeping busy, but it can affect students' education.

"When you have more to do and less time to do it, you don't necessarily take the same amount of time to go through that [student's] paper and thoroughly analyze the critical thinking and make sure that you're providing feedback that the student really needs to improve," she said.

K-12 | Kirksville R-III plans for \$500,000 in budget cuts next fiscal year

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assumed it would have approximately an 8 to 10 percent reduction from the state, or approximately \$700,000.

An 8 percent reduction from the state would translate to approximately a 4 percent reduction for Kirksville R-III, as approximately 40 percent of its budget comes from state funding. In 2009, prior to a jump in federal stimulus money, the district received 50 percent of its funding locally and 9 percent from the federal government, according to the Missouri Department of Education website.

Compared to other Missouri schools, Kirksville will take a larger hit if Nixon's flat funding does not pass through the General Assembly. In 2009, Missouri schools averaged 58 percent locally, 34 percent from the state and 8 percent from the federal government, according to the website.

Ron Lankford, deputy commissioner for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said he is fine with any decisions Kirksville R-III makes in regard to future budgets.

Lankford said that without federal stimulus dollars for the next fiscal year, the state was looking at a cut of approximately \$250 million — or approximately 10 percent. If level funding passes, that hole in the K-12 budget will be delayed for another year, he said.

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BUDGET | Paino said the 7 percent budget cut to higher education is better than expected

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education. Paino will testify Feb. 2 in Jefferson City about how a 10 or 15 percent cut would affect the University. Because Nixon's 7 percent is only a recommendation, the General Assembly still has to pass legislation in support or opposition of that number.

"We are hopeful that 7 percent will stick," Paino said. "For planning purposes we still are going to plan for somewhere between 7 and 10 percent."

This also means the University might have less to cut than originally estimated. All administrative divisions have set budget reduction goals. The goal of academics, the largest division, is to cut \$2 million from the budget, Rector said. Most divisions are close to their goals.

Nixon is emphasizing that tuition should remain low because of the lower-than-anticipated cuts. Paino said he would support Nixon's fight for higher education and try to keep tuition increases modest. Rates will be discussed at the Feb. 5 Board

of Governors meeting but probably will not be finalized until late spring.

Students also will travel to the capital to show support for Nixon's proposed cuts. Student Senate President Isaac Robinson said the senate will devote the annual "Truman at the Capitol" campaign to lobbying in favor of the 7 percent cut — unless Robinson said, legislators have a smaller cut in mind. He said Student Senate was happy with the proposed cuts but thought strong input from student leaders would be necessary in both making cuts and debating the tuition increase.

Paino said he now wants to look to the future and begin planning how Truman will adapt to changes in funding and how Truman will look in the next five, 10 and 15 years.

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TEXTING | Missouri House bill looks to prohibit drivers of all ages from texting while driving

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bills can be merged together after getting through the House and Senate.

An amendment Shively said he wants to address is clarifying where it would be illegal to text and drive. Instead of just saying 'highway,' as in the previous definition, he would have it changed to texting while driving on all roads.

After the bill undergoes any amendments and passes both houses with no further changes, it will be sent to the governor to sign and become law.

Shively said one problem about the current ban in place is some groups are proposing that it has caused more accidents because drivers are trying to hide their phones. He said the state needs something better in place, so proposing this bill and prohibiting all ages from texting while driving might reduce the frequency of related accidents.

Deputy Chief Tim King said the Kirksville Police Department has not yet issued a ticket for those age 21 and younger texting while driving. He said unless texting was a cause of an accident, it is difficult to enforce the law because they need probable cause to pull someone over. King said it also is difficult determining drivers' ages. He said the department is not taking any proactive ac-

tions to enforce this.

Matt Wilson, Adair County prosecuting attorney, said those 21 years and younger who are found to be in violation of the current law can be fined up to \$200 for texting while driving, but the office has not signed any tickets for this yet.

Representative Zachary Wyatt, R-District 2, said he agrees the difficult part of the current ban and the new bill is the enforcement aspect.

"I think it's a great thing, but how are we going to enforce it?" Wyatt said. "It might depend on how effective it is going to be."

As laws are passed, Wyatt said the public needs to stay informed. He said this mostly is achieved through education and he expects this bill to receive ample TV coverage. Wyatt said it is the responsibility of citizens to know the laws and stay informed because ignorance of the law does not hold up in court.

Although Wyatt has no involvement with pushing the bill through, he said he supports it and would have signed onto it if he had known about it earlier. Wyatt said he probably won't have a chance to stand in support of it in a debate session on the floor because it most likely will go to a transportation or general laws committee, of which he is not a part.

BIKE | Student Senate approved a budget last Sunday that will no longer include funding for the Bike Co-op's insurance

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Robinson said that when the Senate voted to fund the insurance last year, it was under the condition that the Bike Co-op would work with a Senate-appointed chief financial officer to increase revenue and become a self-sustaining organization.

The CFO Senate appointed was Matt Schlessman who currently is the chair of the Organizational Activities Fee Review committee.

Schlessman said he worked with Kerr and Alex Tetzak, the

Co-op's faculty adviser, last spring. He said he made informal suggestions like charging a fee for mechanical services or marking up the price on parts, but he said he never filed an official report, and the Bike Co-op did not adopt his recommendations.

"There's always been a notion by the Bike Co-op that Co-op means non-for-profit which means money shouldn't be exchanged," Schlessman said. "They still need to make some kind of revenue that will cover their expenses, and they have never made any

kind of organizational shift to start doing that."

Schlessman said he does not think the Bike Co-op needs to make profits a priority, but it does need to bring in enough revenue to cover its expenses.

"The Bike Co-op is not opposed to funding its own insurance," Kerr said. "We're trying to figure out ways to fund it, but we don't want to violate what we consider to be good and ethical [according to the Co-op's principles]."

Kerr said the guiding philosophy of the Bike Co-op is to provide services to

its customers at minimal costs and to waste as few resources as possible.

"We don't want to go out and buy T-shirts that say Bike Co-op on them and sell them [to raise money]," she said. "The world has enough T-shirts."

Senior John Nolan, Senate environmental affairs chair, is acting as an intermediary between Senate and the Bike Co-op to find a solution to the funding dispute.

"I'm going to take a look at [the Co-op's] financial records from the past two years, and

we're going to see if there is a way to slightly increase cost on their sales of bikes and parts, really marginally to where you would see very little difference in the price as the consumer, keep maintenance totally free and see if we can come up with the money needed to make the program completely self-sustaining," Nolan said.

Nolan said another option could be a less expensive insurance policy that would cost \$400 annually instead of \$1,400.

"If students want the service I guess they are going

to have to tell Senate that," Kerr said.

Robinson said student input to Senate is always encouraged.

"The great thing about our Senate is any student can come in and sit in the gallery and get put on the speaker's list, and they can speak about anything at anytime," Robinson said. "Obviously they don't have a vote, but they can speak."

The next Student Senate meeting is at 6 p.m. Sunday in the SUB Activities Room on the third floor.

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