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EDITORIAL

Our View

Student Senate should approve athletic fee as is

Students deserve a say in how their money is spent. It's only fair. However, when the popular student choice is in conflict with what is best for the University, should the school suffer to preserve student liberties? Because half a million dollars is on the line, and if the University loses it, there is no getting it back. However, when students are paying a fee created by students, they absolutely should have more say in how the fee is spent.

We don't think the University can risk losing that money. Student Senate will vote Sunday on whether to put the athletic fee on the ballot for the student government elections in April (see story, page 1). If the fee is on the ballot, there is a real possibility it will not pass. In 2007 when the fee first was enacted, it only passed by a narrow 54.5 percent margin. And, a recent Organizational Activities Fee poll proved that half of the student body disagreed with the fee, but when informed about what it goes toward, 75 percent of those who originally disagreed changed their minds.

Maybe the reason many don't support the fee, then, is out of ignorance. So to fill you in, the athletic fee, which is per student per semester has paid for new Stokes Stadium lights and turf, new weight room equipment and renovations to the tennis courts and batting cages on campus during the last three years. While these facilities are used primarily for athletes, other students can take advantage of them. For example, the ROTC and club sports use the football field for practice.

With only approximately 8 percent of the student population being athletes, it is obvious why most students are not in favor of the fee — they do not want to spend \$50 per semester on something that will not affect them. However, the fee has the potential to help everyone, especially with the proposed future project of a multi-purpose field that the athletic fee would pay for. The athletic fee provides students with many things other Universities do not offer, such as free admission to games with a student ID, and we take that for granted.

Also, we must consider everything the athletic fee provides to the University as a whole and not just the athletics. The fee has paid for numerous renovations on campus, which, aesthetically speaking, enhance the appeal of the University. No one wants to go to a university that has ugly or dated athletic facilities, regardless of whether they intend to become athletes.

University President Troy Paino said the athletic department already is underfunded. So, if the athletic fee were to be abolished, the athletic department would lose a main source of revenue, limiting its ability to improve sports in the future.

The \$50 per student per semester provides the University with more than \$500,000 each year, which is the same as paying the salaries of approximately 10 head coaches or, if you would prefer, 10 professors. Imagine what the athletic fee can do for this University if continued. Without it, the University might not be able to make up that \$500,000 hole. In a year when the University was more secure financially, the student body absolutely decide whether they fee stays or goes.

While we think it is important for the University to take student opinions into consideration, but the wellbeing of the campus as a whole must remain a top priority. Due to the lack of student knowledge surrounding the athletic fee, senators need to fulfill their duties as the most informed students on campus and consider the interests of the University as a whole. Because maintaining and also improving the quality of the University also maintains the quality of the degrees we receive as Truman graduates.

Those who do want a say shouldn't be afraid to speak up, though. Go to a Student Senate meeting, tell them what the athletic fee should be spent on. Because it is your money.

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 Allison Bannister



Letter to the Editor

PSAC plans to monitor campus recycling

In response to the March 17 article "The Recycling Center faces cuts," the President's Sustainability Action Committee has investigated various real possibilities for increasing Truman's revenue from recycled material, and several opportunities were identified. Such increased revenue could not only contribute to offsetting the costs of operating the recycling program but might conceivably fund some sustainability projects on the committee's drawing board. To improve handling and market the recycled material more effectively, a staff member to succeed Howard Worcester as coordinator of recycling makes sense — however, the University is presently unable to provide that staff support.

The PSAC will continue to monitor the recycling situation, and committee members hope future options for implementing more comprehensive and cost effective recycling can be maintained so that we can move forward on our recycling program as soon as staffing arrangements can support it. The PSAC fully appreciates that an effective recycling program is essential to sustainability. More details about recycling possibilities can be discussed tonight at 7 p.m. in SUB Georgian Room during "Toward a Sustainable Truman: The 2011 Action Plan for our Campus and Community."

Jim Turner
 PSAC Member

Resident upset by misinformed comments

As the local council election campaign resumes into its grand final climax stage of April, 5, can I remind people as a mere observer and UK loyal participant of its exhaustive process to examine policies as much as four personalities. I have, you see, bothered to read KTVO TV comment section March 17, and of the tiny responses, I note that three negatives only one of which has passable name decency besides the winning campaign opener. One emptily focuses on chauvinist, ideological McCarthyite abuse of my spouse. Who is herself the sole female candidate running and a factually incorrect misidentified "Trumanite... history professor" who, actually, you silly nuts is no myself not so running.

So yes, Betty is proudly a progressive or a "liberal" person in the all-American, Midwesterner Chicago-born sense, too. And since she has never hidden this, why are you "mad cows" abusing that fine heritage? John F. Kennedy, may I remind such so-called conservatives or patriots, called himself, unapologetically, a tough-minded liberal crusader. In his addresses in 1960 he boldly made to the labor-oriented New York Liberal Party in the course of the

early stages of his second successful presidential primary campaign, he approved the evils of the selfish rich to the L.A. nominating Democratic. He again affirmed progress, not conservative inertia, at his creed basis personally, too.

As for charges, FOX TV cliché vapid style of Betty today accused of her being "vague" or "big" government over-favoring that's all-star, hollow coming from presumable supporters of guy rivals for this election. All of them have yet to even issue detailed policies. We have all aided Betty responsibly by her in her election address. Where were you, anonymous nothings? Lastly, in such careful policies we have all been careful to, solely, propose or stand by workable present KTC ones that are fiscally prudent. But, where they do, honestly, involve additional money outflow, they can and must be undertaken for any community, not just the "Trumanite" future as the many non-college, young, first-time electors of both sexes have come up to praise Betty or even me to my own delighted surprise.

So KTVO unrepresentative comment grouse, grow up! You might even learn some foresight from Betty.

Larry Iles
 Kirksville resident

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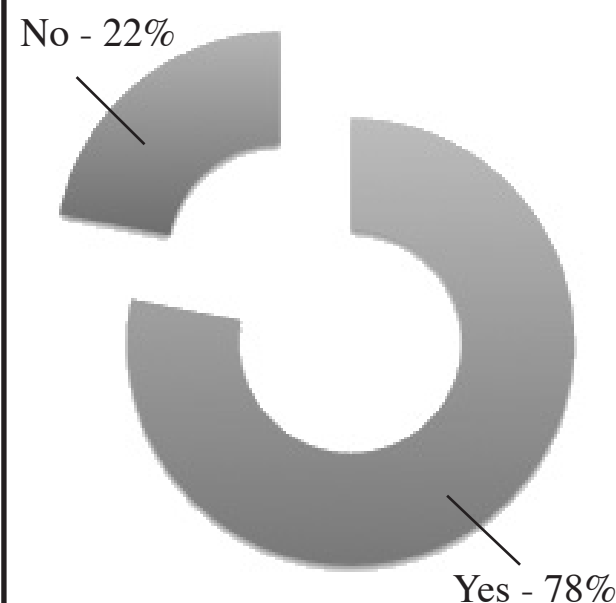
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