

Some majors see problems with registration

BY KAITLIN DAVIS
Staff Reporter

This year, students have found it more difficult to get into classes for certain majors than in years past.

Department chairpersons said this is due to understaffing, insufficient space for larger classes and an increased number of students majoring in particular areas.

Chemistry department chair Dana Delaware said he thinks faculty changes have a lot to do with these problems.

"It's a domino effect," Delaware said. "We have less faculty, and because of this, we're offering less selection, which ultimately leads to larger classes. But we don't have adequate room space for larger classes."

Delaware said some problems come from the students themselves. He said students do not always know how to prioritize courses Delaware said most students have a four-year or two-year plan and will not diverge from it.

Delaware said another way to improve registration would be to enhance communication between faculty and departments.

"When somebody in [one] department changes their schedule, this creates conflict with something in another department," Delaware said. "Since sufficient communication is not there, we don't see this issue until students are already registering."

Psychology department chairwoman Teresa Heckert said that while psychology majors are not having much difficulty getting into the classes they need, she worries that psychology minors are.

At the last psychology five-year program review, Heckert said the department noticed

majors were having trouble getting into courses they needed. She said that while tracking registration, the department found some classes would fill up during senior registration.

Heckert said that upon the discovery, they put a temporary restriction — one that applies even to psychology majors — on all 300- and 400-level psychology courses. The restriction is placed during the first several days of registration then lifted after students with at least 40 credit hours have registered.

"I was talking to my students in class the other day, and I asked them what they thought about registration," Heckert said. "They were all very happy and said they love this system. The thing that troubles me is that I do not think we provided enough seats to our minors. The demand is so great because we have 543 majors. That number has never been this high before."

Heckert said if a minor feels he or she is falling behind, the department offers a wide variety of online summer courses. A student could complete his entire psychology minor online, Heckert said.

Another problem associated with registration is limited faculty, Heckert said. Throughout the years, the department has lost faculty members and has been unable to replace those members because of budget problems. She said this leads to limited class size and selections.

Biology department chair Jose Herrera said this is one of the most difficult registration cycles he has seen in his 14 years at Truman. He said biology majors were having a hard time getting into classes they need.

"Ultimately, the number of faculty and staff necessary to run these courses is lower than I have seen," Herrera said.



Amy Vicars/Index
Sophomores Maddie Smith and Hashina Shrestha work on a titration lab with grapefruit juices chemistry lab. Students had trouble getting into lab classes during registration because of the limited amount of space in Magruder.

"Funding from the state of Missouri is not what it was in previous years and has been one of the key elements in these budgetary challenges."

The plan to deal with registration issues is to assign seats as efficiently as possible, Herrera said. He said that a lab can seat only a certain number of students, and allowing additional students into the lab would be a disservice to the students and the faculty. Because of this, several faculty members have agreed to teach more than their usual number of classes to help create a solution, Herrera said.

He said this means these faculty members are giving up time they would usually devote to scientific research with Truman students.

Herrera said his best advice is to be patient but realistic in understanding that a student might not get the instructor he or she wanted. Herrera said he hopes to accommodate as many students as possible.

Nursing department chairwoman Stephanie Powelson

said that nursing majors are not having the trouble other disciplines on campus are having with registration.

"If students plan ahead, we have a suggested program for eight semesters," Powelson said. "If students stick to the plan, I feel we have an adequate number of seats in prerequisites."

One of the reasons nursing is not having the difficulty other departments are having, Powelson said, is because of the three-year "Caring for Missourians" grant the department received. She said the grant allowed for the nursing department to hire several part-time faculty members.

The department is halfway through the time allotted by the grant and hopes to receive more funding when the grant is up, Powelson said. She said the department continues to submit other grant proposals for additional faculty members in the meantime, so they can accept more students into the selective program.

NEWS IN BRIEF

International Club teaches origami

Instructors will teach origami and other cultural crafts from 1:30 to 4 p.m. today in the Student Union Building. The event is sponsored by the International Club as part of International Education Week.

Flash mob to text for Pakistan

A flash mob will take place at 11:55 a.m. today on the Quad to benefit Pakistani refugees affected by flooding. The mob will gather and participants will text "SWAT" on their personal phones to 50555, which will donate \$10 to the UN Refugee Agency. A group celebration will follow. Anyone is welcome to join and donations can be submitted from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the group's table on the Quad. The event is sponsored by the Muslim Student Association.

Colloquium addresses globalization

The Global Issues Colloquium will discuss globalization from 7 to 9 tonight in Magruder Hall 2001. Political science professor Jaekwon Suh will present on the issue. The event is sponsored by the Global Issues Committee.

International students to host panel

A group of Truman's international students will form a discussion panel at 5:45 p.m. today in Baldwin Hall 176. The students will discuss their experiences entering the American educational system and host a question-and-answer segment. The event is part of International Education Week and is sponsored by Beta Alpha Psi.

Fraternity sponsors giving tree

Phi Sigma Pi national honor fraternity is sponsoring a Giving Tree to benefit children living in poverty. Students can stop by from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today in the Student Union Building to choose an ornament with the name and age of a child living in a low economic situation on it. Members of the Truman community are welcome to donate their purchased gifts from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. For more information, contact jcr3482@truman.edu.

Singer performs African epics

Morikeba Kouyate will perform from 7:30 to 9 tonight in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall. He will sing epics of the Mandé and Kaabu peoples and accompany himself on the kora.

CRIME REPORTS DPS & KPD

11/5 Sophomore Aaron Farish was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of alcohol and possession of up to 35 grams of marijuana.

11/6 Sophomore Zachary Stearns was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of alcohol.

11/6 Freshman Kasie Garcia was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of alcohol.

11/6 Freshman Lila Bertels was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of alcohol, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of up to 35 grams of marijuana.

11/9 Senior Molly Troop was issued a Missouri Complaint and Summons for a noise violation.

11/13 Senior Ryan Kulage was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

11/13 A theft of \$500 to \$25,000 was reported in the parking lot outside of Missouri Hall.

11/14 A theft of under \$500 was reported in the parking lot outside of Blanton Nason Brewer Hall.

11/15 A theft of under \$500 was reported Grim Hall.

Grant provides for portable care

BY LISA KUCHARSKI
Staff Reporter

A grant from the Center for Disease Control will help the Adair County Health Department go mobile.

Ron Stewart, Adair County Health Department planner, said the Health Department wants to invest in supplies for Points of Dispensing. The grant supplies approximately \$62,000 from the CDC that will provide the money needed to purchase these PODs. Stewart said the health department would not have to borrow supplies from local support partners such as the Kirksville Fire Department and Red Cross.

"Our idea was that we could put together a small trailer with all of the needed supplies to open up a site where we could administer and distribute these supplies, pharmaceuticals, etc.," Stewart said.

Stewart said the walk- and drive-through clinics are used in emergency preparedness exercises, but in the event of a larger emergency, the health department does not have sufficient materials for supplying the community. The purpose of having these equipped trailers is to be able to respond to a public health emergency in the case of a terrorist attack involving Anthrax, an accidental release of some hazardous product or a public health outbreak such as pandemic influenza. Stewart said having these drive- or walk-through clinics to administer

vaccinations helps to prevent the spread of disease because they keep people from congregating in places such as the health department.

With the grant money, Stewart said the health department plans to set up a POD site for the public and be able to supply upward of 25,000 people in a 24- to 48-hour period in case of an emergency.

Stewart said the grant money will be used to purchase supplies such as portable lighting, tables, portable laptops, tents and a trailer for transporting and storing the supplies.

Stewart said a POD also will be useful if there was a problem with the health department building, such as a power outage or structural damage. However, he said that in the event of a major disaster, the health department would not have to rely only on local support.

"We want the ability to go out and set up and know that we have the equipment and supplies that we'll need at the time of the incident," Stewart said.

He said the health department can have open PODs for drive-through clinics for the public or closed PODs for a specific area or community such as Truman. Stewart said closed PODs would be convenient for the campus community because many students may not have quick or easy transportation to get to the health department for vaccinations.

Jim LeBaron, Adair County Health Department administrator, said there is funding available with the Department of Health and Senior Services through the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, as well as through the H1N1 campaign, which is available to all public health agencies in the state of Missouri.

LeBaron said that once the grant application went through the state of Missouri, it was passed on to the CDC at the federal level to approve the expenditures. He said the grant application has been approved and the health department is now waiting to sign the contract.

"With the cuts that have been going on with the state right now, we're very pleased that the funds are available and that we can bring some of this equipment to Adair County," LeBaron said.

Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said the Fire Department currently supplies the Health Department with 10-by-20 foot tents for drive-through clinics.

Behrens said he thinks the Fire Department will always be involved in any drive-through clinic efforts in order to ensure everyone's safety. He said there are approximately five people from the Fire Department working with the clinics at all times, as well as personnel from the Kirksville Police Department handling traffic control.

"We're always going to have to work together to do this," Behrens said. "We're there to assist and help."

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