

Student tries to oust Board Chair

After a dispute about a dog park, McDonnell asks Nixon to take action

BY KAITLYN DANIELS
Staff Reporter

A Truman student started a letter writing campaign to Gov. Jay Nixon last week, urging him to remove the Chair of the Truman Board of Governors from his position for behavior she said is detrimental to the welfare of the student body.

Junior Meghan McDonnell started the campaign to remove Ken Read, who owns Heritage House Realty, from his seat after Kirksville City Council allowed Read to use a grassy alleyway between Heritage House property instead of supporting a petition cosponsored by McDonnell to turn the space into a public dog park.

She had 75 copies of the letter signed by students as of Tuesday night.

McDonnell said she was concerned Read was not preserving green space and historical

buildings that she thinks are important to the community, which indicates that Read is not concerned with what is best for the community or the students because it creates a division between the two groups.

McDonnell said the community members see historical buildings being torn down, trees being uprooted and green space being paved over to make way for student housing and blame the students.

"It creates animosity between the students and community because of the way he is destroying green space and potential historic buildings," McDonnell said.

McDonnell said the historical buildings Read is planning to tear down are the two buildings on either side of the alleyway on the 400 block of South Franklin Street that were built during the late 1800s.

There are no more specific grievances against Read in the letter.

Read said he is upset and shocked by the accusations against him in the letter.

He said he has students' best interests in mind by trying to provide safe housing through his real estate company.

He said it's in the best interest of the college to not respond further on this issue.

City Manager Mari Macomber said no one has filed any formal complaints to the city about Read destroying green areas or historical buildings.

She said sometimes property owners use vacant alleyways because that land is not formally being claimed by anyone else.

"The alleyway was never designated as a green space," Macomber said.

Karl Hildebrand, Rinehart's Music and Video owner, said he thinks there is a lot of antagonism between the community and the campus.

"This is based on people that are developers and business men that come into town and make claims that everything they're doing is to benefit the students when it isn't," Hildebrand said.

He said he doesn't think developers care about the Univer-



Lindsey Gillam/Index
Junior Meghan McDonnell explains her letter campaign to citizens at the Kirksville Post Office on Wednesday. She is attempting to remove Ken Read from the Board of Governors.

sity and the community.

"I think they're business men engaged in turning the maxi-

mum amount of profit with the least amount of investment," Hildebrand said.

Senate approves birth control bill

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS
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Two bills going through the Missouri general assembly could change the way Missouri health care deals with birth control.

Missouri Senate Bill 749 deals directly with contraception, abortion and sterilization in regards to moral beliefs. House Bill 1541 deals with moral beliefs for all medical practices.

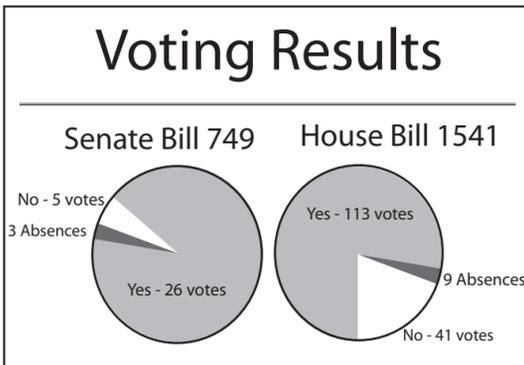
Senate Bill 729 passed last Thursday with a 26-5 vote. It states that no employer or employee can be forced enable birth control if that coverage goes against their moral beliefs, according to the Senate website, Missouri Senator Brian Munzlinger, R-18, voted in favor of the bill.

House Bill 1541 also passed last Thursday. Rep. Zachary Wyatt said the bill states no medical professional can be discriminated against for refusing to participate in a medical act that goes against their moral, ethical or religious beliefs. Any medical professional has the right to decline participation.

Wyatt said he voted for the passing of the bill. He said he thinks this expands the rights of health care providers and does not infringe on women's health care rights.

"I really believe that if a doctor or a pharmacist didn't believe in and want to prescribe the morning after pill or certain medications, they have that right," Wyatt said.

He said this principle applies to all types of medical issues, not only those related to contraception and abortion.



Despite the ability to refuse to provide services, the bill still requires medical professionals to act in the case of an emergency, Wyatt said.

If the bills are passed into law, birth control options will decrease for many women across the state, said Alison Gee, Public Policy Vice President for the St. Louis and Southwest Missouri Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood offers birth control at no cost or on a sliding scale to women who do not have insurance coverage for it, but that is not always easily accessible for all women, Gee said.

Planned Parenthood has taken an active role in opposing the bills by writing letters to senators and newspapers across the state.

"Those bills really are an attempt to make it harder for women to access birth control," Gee said. "By taking that benefit away, for some women it really is a decision to buy birth control or pay the rent."

Wyatt said the next step for both bills is to be read in the opposite house within the next week. Changes might then be made to the bills, and

they will be voted on. He said if Senate Bill 749 remains as is, he most likely will vote for it to pass in the House. If the bills pass in the opposite house, they will be given to Gov. Jay Nixon for him to sign or veto.

Randy Hagerty, political science department chair said the current Supreme Court case debating the legality of the Obama's health care law will have the final say in whether or not bills such as the ones in the Missouri General Assembly are constitutional. He said the Missouri legislature cannot pass a bill that would invalidate a federal mandate. However, voting on these bills at this time allows state politicians to say that they took a stand on this issue.

"Sometimes politicians and elected officials will pass things for symbolic reasons," Hagerty said.

He said Missouri politicians will use this as a way to show their constituents that they are responding to their desires. He said this issue will continue to play a role in campaigns at every level of government this year.

Proposed fund may not help Truman

BY PHILIP ZAHND
Staff Reporter

In a tight budget year, Missouri legislators are discussing establishing a matching fund to aid construction projects at state colleges and universities, but even if bills pass in both chambers — it is unlikely to help Truman State.

If passed in both chambers, Senate Bill 655 and House Bill 1502, will create the Higher Education Capital Fund to give schools half the money for construction, maintenance and renovation if the school raises the other half through private fund raising.

Christopher Polley, a research associate for the department of Higher Education, said the legislation was introduced as a "companion bill" in both the House and Senate, because it gives the bill a greater chance of passing.

He said Senate passed their bill Tuesday and referred it to the House. The House bill will likely not progress because of that, he said.

Paul Wagner, Higher Education deputy commissioner, said the bill does not allow schools to use public money, such as tuition, to match the grant. He said because of that, the University of Missouri-Columbia is the only school that supports the bill because it has a large number of alumni to rely on for private donations.

Some colleges and universities may choose not to use this fund, depending upon their specific capital improvement needs.

Janson Thomas, chief of staff for Senator Timothy Green, who sponsored the SB 655, said the commissioner for Higher Education should establish a grant application that ensures that all of the state schools benefit from the fund.

Thomas said the bill requires schools to raise money through private donations to ensure that tuition does not increase to pay for capital projects.

Budget Director Dave Rector, said Truman State would struggle to raise enough private donations to benefit from the fund.

"Our next priority is to renovate Baldwin Hall and [McClain Hall] — \$40 million," he said. "How in the world would

we come up with \$20 million?"

Rector said Truman recently completed the 5-year Bright Minds Bright Futures campaign, which raised \$30 million. He said most private donations, like those received during the campaign, are intended for scholarships — not facility projects.

Truman's latest big construction project, the Health and Exercise Sciences Building, was completed last year with \$11 million coming from the state and \$3 million from Truman. He said projects like this could be difficult to fund during the future if the bill is passed.

He said even smaller projects like replacing roofing on Violette Hall, Pershing Arena and Baldwin Hall at a cost of \$2 million would be difficult to raise private money for.

"Most donors either want to see something built or they want to see their name on something," Rector said.

Wagner said even if the legislation is passed, schools still can apply for state grants that do not follow the bill's guidelines.

"It doesn't necessarily do anything," he said. "It doesn't require anything to happen. If it passes it doesn't make anything happen."

Wagner said the bill would not be included in Missouri's operating budget. He said the state treasurer has the power to approve or deny the grants on a case-by-case basis.

"It doesn't require any money to be put in it," he said. "It just has an account that would create a fund, which is different than creating money."

Wagner said the motivation for the bill is to approve more construction projects on campuses, which have been a rarity during recent years because of the tight state budget. He said he thinks the bill has about a 50-50 percent chance of passing.

Thomas said the fund will not be included in the operating budget, because Missouri's budget for 2013 was passed last month. He said if the fund is established, the General Assembly will be able to appropriate money to the fund for 2014.

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Free tickets may be picked up at the Student Union's Information Desk, the Public Relations Office, McClain Hall 202, or Edna Campbells on the Kirksville Square.

For more information call (660) 785-4016, or visit
calendar.truman.edu