

Counseling services moves house

Scholarship recipients will occupy the house on Patterson Street

BY GRACE FREEMAN
Staff Reporter

Truman State's University Counseling Services is moving into the McKinney Center during May to collaborate with the Health Center and share resources to better serve students. The building will be turned into a scholarship student community.

Brenda Higgins, former Student Health Services director, is in her second year of administrative responsibilities for both the Student Health Center and University Counseling Services, said Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of Student Affairs.

"Obviously it is much easier to supervise two areas if they are in close proximity," Gilchrist said. "Many mental health problems have biological basis, so the opportunity to work together to ensure the best services for our students is a major reason."

Although the two offices will collaborate in the same building, confidentiality still will be respected. There will be separate waiting rooms and offices in the McKinney Center.

"If I am a counselor and I am working with someone who is on a certain kind of medication and I want to know if it is



Rose Sparks/Index

The current University Counseling Services building sits by Grim Hall and Pershing Building on Patterson Street. With residential space for 10 students and a student staff member, the building will house scholarship students during the coming years.

typical for someone who is on this kind of medication to experience a certain kind of a side effect, I just have to walk down the hall to find somebody to answer that kind of question," Gilchrist said.

With Counseling Services

gone, the UCS house on Patterson Street will be used as housing for full-ride scholarship students.

"Our goal was to have it be a sort of upper-division student community for either Pershing Scholars or Truman Leadership

Scholars," said John Gardner, director of the Office of Residence Life.

Some of the already existing communities like these are the pre-med house, a service house, and a "Casa," the Spanish language and conversion com-

munity in other residence halls. Before UCS used the house, home management major students lived in it.

"It will be a close-knit community, at this point an upper-classmen community, so we are going to treat it more like apartment-style living," Gardner said.

Initially, Gardner hoped Pershing scholars would be interested in the idea, however, many already have figured out their living situations for next year.

"They might want to live with a different roommate which we are willing to work with," he said. "I have been contacted by a few students at this point that are Pershing Scholars that have expressed interest, so we will go forth when we see the amount of interest we get."

Gardner said he hopes to have an idea of who will be living in the house sometime during February.

The house has 11 bed spaces for 10 students and a student staff member, a kitchen, living room, dining room, two bathrooms and a den area.

"There is a lot of public space," he said. "We started accepting [student staff member] applications in November and stopped accepting them on Jan. 20."

Gardner said positions will be filled for all student staff opportunities during the next couple of weeks.

Senate creates own guiding coalition

Student Senate president organizes board for student input about budget

BY GRACE FREEMAN
Staff Reporter

After University President Troy Paino's announcement this month about the guiding coalition he organized to find remedies to budget cuts, junior Ryan Nely, president of the Student Association, decided he would organize a student version of the coalition to strengthen the student voice on the guiding coalition. Nely's purposes include increasing student input in the process of funding cutbacks that Truman State organizations might be faced with during the future.

This coalition will be comprised of 12 to 13 undisclosed members who represent all aspects of Truman's community, including fee-based groups and groups chartered with the Center for Student Involvement, international students, Athletics, Greek Life and graduate students.

Nely's goal is to meet at least once before the March 13 University meeting of the student body and to present a draft of the coalition's findings, which will be refined based on student suggestions.

He said he wants to present a final version of the student vision document to the guiding coalition that Paino formed last week.

Following Paino's Feb. 1 University-wide speech, Nely received many emails from students giving feedback and showing concerns. He said he wants to combine the coalition's ideas, concerns, complaints and suggestions to create a student vision for Paino's coalition.

"We want to have a student's vision statement saying 'This is a list of what we feel from a student perspective is comprehensive in terms of priorities for the University, this is what we are trying

to preserve,'" Nely said. "The people who I'm asking to be on this group I have total faith in, these are people that I trust, people who have been given the trust of their peers who have proven that they can handle the pressure before."

After making his final decision about who will be part of the coalition, Nely said he hopes a process of moving forward will occur through discussion about what absolutely needs to stay and what funding can be eliminated, Nely said.

"I think that we are going to be getting something pretty good out of it," Nely said.

He is open to discussing any questions or concerns students have.

Paino and Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of Student Affairs, have been giving Nely advice about who to include in the coalition and how to go about organizing it before Nely reached out to potential members.

"I believe that President Paino is open to ideas and input from the students — not only open, I think that he will be seeking it," Gilchrist said. "I think that students can have an opportunity to kind of talk and think about what their dreams and hopes for the future of the University would be."

During the past three years, Truman has faced substantial cuts, and with students discussing their opinions about how to establish priorities for the future in support of this mission without making demands about what not to cut, the coalition can be successful and taken seriously, Gilchrist said.

"What would be very difficult to take seriously is to continue on our same path without somehow addressing the decrease in funding that we face and probably will continue to face," Gilchrist said. "We are going to have to be very, very fiscally responsible."

While Paino said that he didn't ask Nely to form this committee, he is glad to see this student initiative.





**Betty
McLane-Iles**

BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
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French professor Betty McLane-Iles is running for the open City Council seat to further serve the Kirksville community. This is Iles' second campaign for this Council position, her first being last year.

She said she hopes to represent women's perspective on the Council, which she said is lacking after Carolyn Chrisman's resignation during 2011. McLane-Iles has been a member of the Kirksville community for 30 years and said she wants to expand her service from her membership on the Planning and Zoning and Historical Preservation Commissions.

McLane-Iles' involvement with the two commissions since last spring has helped her develop a sense of the community's economic strife, she said. While canvassing for her last campaign, she said she was exposed to poor areas of the community she never had seen in Kirksville. She said she would like to organize community resources, such as local charities, to help the area's impoverished.

Vacant and neglected properties in impoverished areas also are becoming a problem, she said, because they are creating safety hazards and eyesores. She said she hopes

to help ensure older properties can be preserved and used to encourage tourism.

"We are really on the right direction in terms of historic tourism," she said. "We have been preserving more properties and promoting for tourism and I think that this could really help develop the area."

The candidate said she wants to advance the economic development of local small businesses in the area. City Council could create a position that would serve as a resource for individuals in the community who are considering creating a small business, which would help alleviate the local economy, she said.

She said she also wants to fix roads and sidewalks and encourage the creation of more extensive bike paths.

"We are doing a good job of repairing them but there are still some dangerous situations where people are falling and hurting themselves with it being a question of ice and snow," she said.

McLane-Iles said she would like to increase the frequency of recycling pickup.

In her last City Council campaign, McLane-Iles garnered 15.6 percent of the votes, according to a April 7, 2011 Index article. McLane-Iles said that regardless of who people vote for, she encourages people to register to vote in the election.



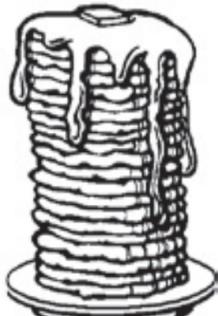
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