

## SENATE | Freshmen running for president and vice president of the Student Association said they want more interaction between Senate and the student body

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Malin, the presidential candidate, said he thinks Senate sometimes can be distant from students' needs, and he wants to make sure the \$4 each student contributes to Senate through the Student Activities Fee is spent to benefit students.

"I just really don't like the idea that the average student right now knows nothing about Senate, but also feel like what Senate does sometimes, in their opinions, [is] frivolous," Malin said.

If elected, Malin and Gordon plan to host monthly steering meetings for students to bring ideas and concerns to senators and to increase transparency for Senate decisions.

There already are a couple of issues from this school year that have student support which Malin said he knows he wants to continue next year.

For one, the wet tailgating resolution introduced by current president Ryan Nely and passed by Senate this year has not come up for a

vote by the Board of Governors, the University's highest decision-making body, Malin said.

He said Senate survey results show the majority of students support revising Truman's dry-campus policy to allow regulated alcohol consumption before some athletic events, and he would pursue the issue with administration.

"We're going to make sure that goes somewhere because that was a really good idea, and the student body overwhelmingly supported it," he said.

A second issue Malin personally addressed this year is advocating gay rights by extending employee benefits to the same-sex partners of Truman State employees, and including "sexual orientation" in the Board of Governors non-discrimination policy. He said he expects the Board to take a vote regarding the issues within the next year. He said he would continue to push for progress on the issue as president.

Renovating the fountain on The

Mall and working with administration to extend Pickler Memorial Library hours also are priorities, Malin said.

Gordon said another leg of their campaign is strengthening the relationship between Truman and Kirksville, a task he said he's well-suited for as a Kirksville native.

Gordon said they want to work with local businesses to offer discounts to Truman students in exchange for on-campus publicity.

Ryan Nely, who is declining to run for a second term, said he isn't aware of anyone else considering running for president, but there still is time for other tickets to emerge.

"The only people I've heard mention it, I'm pretty sure were joking," he said. "No one has publicly done anything about it."

Nely said he's running for a senior senator spot next year, and wants to continue addressing the wet tailgating issue, extending library hours and lobbying the Parents Council to earmark funds to



Andrea Hewitt/Index  
Ryan Nely, president of the Student Association, addressed members of the student body Tuesday afternoon.

renovate the fountain, which could cost about \$300,000 to replace.

Students interested in running for a Student Senate position can pick up an election packet from the Student Senate office in the Center for Student

Involvement Complex in the SUB Down Under, collect the required number of signatures for the position and turn in the completed packet by 5 p.m. March 30 in the CSI office, according to the election packet.

## CAUCUS | Adair County chooses nine delegates who will help choose Missouri's national delegates at the caucus Saturday

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Hensley said he expects a higher turnout this year because the Missouri primary vote was non-binding because of Missouri's failure to comply with new requirements from the Republican National Committee, and the county-level caucus will determine how the state votes at the national convention.

Even after all 142 caucuses in the state wrap up next Saturday, the country will not know for weeks which of the presidential hopefuls will carry Missouri's 52 delegates at the Republican National Convention on Aug. 27-30, where the party will choose its official nominee.

Of the 52 national delegates, 24 are chosen at Congressional District Conventions on April 21, said Jonathan Prouty, Missouri Republican Party communications director. There are eight congressional districts, and county-level delegates from each district choose three national delegates, he said.

Adair County's nine delegates will travel to Chillicothe for the District 6 convention. While the county-level delegates do not have an official allegiance, according to the state party rules, the delegates they select must identify their candidate before they are selected.

The same county-level delegates choose the remaining 28 of the 52 national delegates at the state convention June 2, Prouty said. Those delegates also must identify a candidate before they're selected, and are bound to that candidate at the National Convention from Aug. 27-30 in Tampa, Fla.

Although Missouri's caucus is late in the primary season and lacks the caucus-night suspense of states that immediately tally results, it still is significant, said Randy Hagerty, political science department chair.

Some expected a clear front-runner by mid-March and feared Missouri's caucus would be irrelevant by the time it rolled around, he said.

On the contrary, the race for the Republican presidential nominee is competitive, with four candidates still in the running.

"In fact, participation in the caucus could have a significant effect in who the nominee might be," Hagerty said.

Senior Stuart Murray, a political science major, plans to caucus in Adair County this Saturday. He's not convinced Missouri's caucus will have a large national impact, but he said he thinks it's important to participate in the political process regardless.

"You get a whole bunch of people thinking, 'Oh my vote's not going to count, but that's when their vote is going to count most,'" he said. "It's the voter's paradox."

Murray plans to support Mitt Romney at the caucus. He said as a graduating senior, electing a president who can help fix the economy is his priority.

"Normally I would pay more attention to social issues but this year it's just not worth it," he said. "The economy is front and center and that's what drove me to support Mitt Romney."

Murray encouraged Republicans to attend Saturday's caucus.

## LOBBY | President of the Student Association asks students to lobby state legislators for reduced cuts to Higher Education

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The idea came from when University of Missouri-Columbia students sent 6,200 letters to the governor last month, he said.

The effort comprised about 20 percent of the school's student body, which would be the equivalent of about 1,200 [check] Truman students participating. Nely said that would be a lofty, but exciting goal if achieved.

Zach Toombs, student communication director for the Missouri Students Association in Columbia, said he originally had a goal of sending 1,000 letters. He said the goal was surpassed with 1,700 letters received the first day of the MoreForLess campaign, which supports the idea students are discontent about paying more tuition and receiving less state funding.

Toombs said that with Nixon's initial 12.5 percent budget cut proposal, the school was going to lose 25 percent of their state appropriation during a three-year period.

"In the last three years, there hadn't been much of a push back from students," he said. "There hadn't been a campaign that said 'We're not happy with this. This is unacceptable.'"

Toombs, the MSA president, the University's Chief of Staff and several state legislators delivered the more than 6,000 letters to the mailrooms of the Missouri House of Representatives, Missouri Senate and Governor's Office on Feb. 14. He said the response from state legislators has been overwhelmingly positive as they're willing to work with public schools on the issue.

Nely said students should make their letters as personal as possible and give specific examples of how they are being affected by the budget cuts and what they are doing to make Truman more efficient.

During the question and answer portion of the All-Student Body meeting, freshman Drew Templeton expressed skepticism about the letter writing campaign.

"Basically, the only thing letter writing is going to do is make it so the governor is more hesitant to cut from Higher Education," Templeton said. "It's not really going to remedy the situation."

Templeton said he would like to see more effort to express discontent to decision makers in Jefferson City. However, Templeton said the effort, if well-advertised among students, could help make a difference.

"I think the letter writing campaign in many ways might not have any effect on what happens to our fiscal year '13 budget, but [Nely is] exactly right in that year in, year out when politicians are faced with where to cut, they're going to cut where it's easiest," Paino said.

He said politicians recently have learned Higher Education tends to be an easier cut because of the lack of political response.

Nely said he realizes the effort might not be able to lower the proposed cuts, but it could prevent or minimize future cuts.

Note cards that students can use to write on are available outside the Student Senate Office located in the SUB Down Under. A videocast of the meeting will be available at senate.truman.edu

# TONIGHT!

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## EARLY-VREELAND LECTURE

THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL  
DECISION:  
TRUMAN,  
THE ATOMIC BOMBS,  
AND THE  
DEFEAT OF JAPAN

Speaker:  
**Rev. Wilson Miscamble,**  
CSC  
Department of History  
University of Notre Dame

Thursday  
March 15, 2012  
7:30 p.m.  
Activities Room, SUB

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