

Task force talks tailgating

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Junior Michael Baharaeen, a Student Senator, gave a presentation at the weekly Senate meeting Sunday in support of allowing alcohol at tailgating events before football games.

Baharaeen encouraged future pilot events and a permanent wet tailgate policy to be put in place hopefully by the 2013 season. He was appointed as the chair of a tailgating research task force last month by junior Ryan Nely, president of the Student Association. During his presentation, Baharaeen discussed the task force's findings following the Sept. 10 wet tailgate pilot.

University President Troy Paino said he was approached by parents of football players early on in his tenure encouraging a wet tailgating policy.

"I told them in my first of presidency I'm not going to take this on. I need a year to assess the situation," he said. "When anything has been a certain way for a long time, I think you have to be really sensitive to making a change."

Paino has until next season to make a final decision on future pilots because Truman's last home football game of the season was Saturday.

Paino said Truman's current dry campus policy allows for exceptions like the one-day event in September. However, a permanent policy change would have to be approved by the board of governors, which could change significantly during the next year, he said.

"We have one vacancy on the board at the end of this year, and there will be three more terms that expire," Paino said. "It would be speculative to how that [new] board would respond to a change in policy."

Baharaeen said a survey sent out by Senate indicated 91.3 percent of respondents were in favor of having a wet tailgate for the final home game and 91.8 percent supported a permanent wet tailgate policy.

The survey received 1331 responses Baharaeen said Senate will vote on a res-

olution in support of wet tailgating, and he thinks it will pass with a near unanimous vote.

He said the resolution would recommend allowing drinking alcohol three hours prior to the game and would stop at the end of the first quarter.

The Sept. 10 tailgate was in the parking lot behind Centennial Hall, but Baharaeen said he wants to move the location to the Stokes Stadium parking lot.

Baharaeen said a list of guidelines would be posted at the event's entrance.

To address the concern of those who are uncomfortable around people drinking alcohol, Baharaeen said part of the parking lot would be designated as a non-alcoholic section where people who have been drinking are prohibited. He also said Department of Public Safety officers could confiscate alcohol or remove people from the parking lot or stadium if they are heavily intoxicated or belligerent.

Baharaeen recommended prohibiting hard liquor or distilled alcohol at the tailgates.

"People would know you're limited to beer, wine coolers, hard cider and stuff like that," he said.

He also suggested requiring participants to drink from clear plastic cups, which must be bought at the event for a fee between \$1 and \$2. The clear cups would assist DPS officers to determine what tailgaters are consuming. He said the fee would make wet tailgating a self-sustaining event by paying for extra DPS officers to monitor the event and other expenses such as portable outhouses.

To regulate underage drinking, participants would be stamped or be given an adhesive bracelet, which can only be removed by cutting, he said.

"People would have to go through a lot of trouble to transfer those [bracelets] from person to person," he said.

Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering said he likes the idea of bringing the tailgate closer to the game, but he is concerned people would be able to drink during the game more easily.

"What if we have issues with people at halftime going outside the stadium, walking across stadium drive, opening

Some of the tailgating taskforce's recommended guidelines for wet tailgates

- Lift the University ban on alcohol for tailgating events prior to home football games
- Designate the parking lot behind Stokes Stadium for tailgating events
- Designate a section of the parking lot "alcohol-free" for those who wish to remain apart from individuals consuming alcohol
- Tailgating until the first quarter is complete
- Tailgating 3 hours prior to game
- Those with alcohol will be properly identified (by stamps or bracelets)

up their trunk and pulling out beers?" he said.

Non-alcoholic tailgating currently is permitted in the Stokes Stadium parking lot, he said.

Wollmering said that most of the positive input that he gets about tailgating comes from Truman alumni and parents. He said the most positive response about the Sept. 10 game came from parents of the Showgirls, who had a tent set up.

"One of the parents said, 'We had a chance to meet some of the parents of the football players where we've never really done that before. We've never really had an environment to co-mingle,'" he said.

Wollmering said he and Paino chose Sept. 10 for the pilot event because the game didn't have the significance of a Homecoming, parent's day game or a

home opener or closer. He said he is in favor of having wet tailgates on one or more of those days next year. Wollmering said he is interested in having an alumni tent with a wet tailgate next year.

"I think a lot of alumni would be supportive of a wet tailgate during Homecoming," he said.

Wollmering said having a wet tailgate policy would help promote school spirit.

"I think it's part of our society, whether it's right or wrong, whether people like it or don't like it," he said. "From the college level to the professional level, I don't think by us doing it we would create something new. I think when done the right way, it can be a very positive thing for a college campus in terms of bringing people together in the community."

Code revision looks for student input

BY ASHLEY JOST
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The Conduct Code Revision Committee is requesting input from students on revisions to the Student Conduct Code as part of its three year review.

The revision committee, led by University Conduct Officer Beth Kral, is looking for input from students regarding what they would like to see changed within the Code. So far they haven't been successful in getting responses.

Kral leads the revision committee, which consists of two students, seniors Pernita Kapila and Luke Freeland. One student attended the revision committee's public forum on November 1. The forum's purpose was for students to ask questions and express concerns about the Code to both Kapila and Freeland, as well as to two of the students who are on the University Conduct Board, which acts as the group that hears student cases.

"I wasn't really surprised that the turn out wasn't very big because things are busy

and because there aren't a lot of concerns being voiced," Kral said.

Kral said to help students that might be uncomfortable voicing their concerns, a form has been put on the conduct website that students can anonymously fill-out. She said no one has filled-out a form yet, but that they will stay available until Friday, Dec. 18.

Freeland said one thing the committee is looking to revise in the Code is the sexual misconduct policy.

In April, Governor Nixon issued a letter that Freeland said discussed how many of the public schools have sexual misconduct policies that need to be updated.

"This letter is going to be what we base a lot of our changes around," Freeland said. "They're all constructive additions, but we just haven't had a lot of issues with that or any part of our Conduct Code in the last three years since we had a revision."

Sophomore Michael Bushur sits on the University Conduct Board and was the only student who attended the forum.

Bushur said one concern brought up was in regards to the way the Code addresses alcohol.

"When people have complaints about the Conduct Code or the process, it's usually about alcohol," Bushur said. "The Code has to reflect the law and neither of them can permit underage drinking."

Freeland said that when students are caught with alcohol or while intoxicated, the Department of Public Safety's and the Kirksville Police Department's reports and responses all are filed as legal matters. After the reports have been filed, the University Conduct Board will bring up the Code and have hearings to look at the policies against students having alcohol on campus. He said that while it's frustrating for students, it's necessary for the University to run successfully.

Questions, comments or concerns about the Student Conduct Code and the revision process can be directed toward Kral in the Student Affairs office or via the anonymous online form at conduct.truman.edu.

Construction begins on health center

BY CHELSEY COFFEE
Staff Reporter

A \$3 million medical building housing pediatrics, dental and obstetrics/gynecology departments is scheduled to open during Fall 2012.

Construction began Wednesday on the project, which is funded by a grant from the Capital Development Program, administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, and submitted by the Northeast Missouri Health Council. The facilities will be located on Jefferson Street by A.T. Still University.

Deb Wheeler, Northeast Missouri Health Council director of Human Resources, said the dental and pediatrics departments currently are renting space in the Guttonson building on A.T. Still's campus.

The NEMO Health Council and A.T. Still have a good relationship, but the obstetrics/gynecology department is cramped and the new building will give adequate room for the patients, she said.

The building will be open to all patients, including those with Medicare and Medicaid. A sliding fee scale for people who own their own business and patients with insurance also will be provided as well as patients with insurance.

The building's first floor will

have the pediatric ward, and the second floor will have the dentist office. The new medical building is not affiliated with A.T. Still University's dental school.

A.T. Still has cooperated with the NEMO Health Clinic to allow them to build it on its land, but none of the university's money is being spent on the building, said Ron Gaber, A.T. Still University's vice president of Student Affairs. Some A.T. Still students will receive training at the dental clinic but the facility cannot hold all of the students. Some will be trained elsewhere, he said.

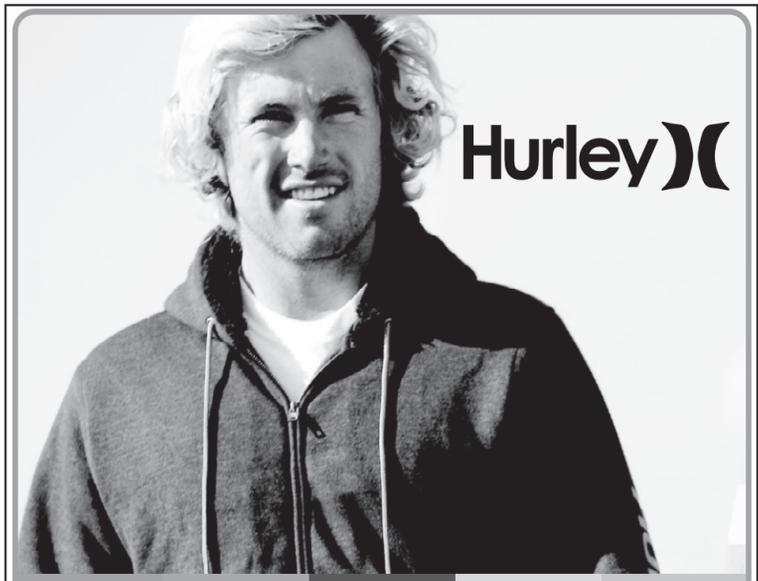
A.T. Still also is building a \$26 million dental building that is planned to be finished during the spring.

"The buildings are two separate initiatives, the Northeast Missouri Health Council is building a dental clinic, A.T. Still is building a dental school," Gaber said.

The first class is scheduled to begin classes during Fall 2013.

The Pediatrics department will handle children from birth to 18 years. It will be a family practice that deals with sick children, vaccines and checkups, Wheeler said.

The OBGYN department surgeons see women through their pregnancies and aid in the delivery, Wheeler said. They also perform exams for women who are not pregnant, she said.



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