

# New organizations receive charters

BY DAN ROMINE  
Staff Reporter

Six potential student organizations were selected to continue the process of applying for charters through the Center for Student Involvement during the last two weeks.

Seventeen organizations applied for charters at the beginning of the application process this fall, said Matthew Kennedy, CSI Program Advisor for Service and Leadership. He said six met the minimum criteria and continued the process: the Badminton Club, Students for Reproductive Rights, the Association of Computing Machinery, TruSlam (slam poetry), the Pre-Engineering Society and the West Campus Suites Hall Council.

For a potential student organization to be recognized by the University and receive all of the resulting privileges, such as reserving rooms on campus and posting publicity throughout campus, it must obtain an organization charter from the CSI, according to the CSI website.

The process involved in attaining this charter requires the organization to have a particular purpose, to have at least 10 interested students, to have a faculty or staff advisor, and to complete the New Student Organizational Proposal. Any full-time Truman State student can start an organization on campus, according to the website.

About a third of the organizations applying for a charter usually receive one, Kennedy said. He said many of the organizations fail to meet the minimum criteria, and don't make it past the first step of the process.


Although risk management, such as the potential for injury, is the largest concern for the CSI when considering organization proposals, distinctiveness more commonly is the cause of an organization failing to pass the first step of the process, said David Hotop-Brown, a CSI Organizational Development Team member.

"Truman has a really high amount of student organizations compared to our student population, so we stress uniqueness quite a bit," Hotop-Brown said.

The next step of the chartering process, which occurred during the last two weeks of October, involved hearings and interviews that served to supplement the paper proposals, Hotop-Brown said. He said the interviews are a way for the organizations to clarify issues that aren't easily written on paper and to explain in further detail what they can offer the students on campus.


After the hearings, organizations are given a chartering packet to complete,

## The new student organizations: who they are and what they plan to do




### Association for Computing Machinery

The chapter seeks to promote an increased knowledge of the science, design, development, construction, languages, and applications of modern computing machinery, and to promote a greater interest in computing machinery.




### Badminton Club

The purpose of the club is to gather people who have interest in playing/ learning to play badminton; or simply having interest in badminton in general; and to contribute to a diverse sporting environment on school campus.




### Pre-Engineering Club

The mission of this organization is to educate and engage people in the field of engineering; a field that is rarely explored at liberal arts institutions. It is designed to build the skills; gather the necessary information; and help students explore the fields in engineering




### Students for Reproductive Rights

The objective of this group is to provide a place for pro-choice students to meet with one another and to assist the student body in becoming more aware of reproductive



### West Campus Suites Hall Council

The Senate shall work to maintain an orderly and efficient representative government for the residents of West Campus Suites and provide for them a regular forum where their grievances and concerns may be brought forth and addressed.



### TruSlam

TruSlam seeks to introduce, instruct, and encourage new poets who wish to be involved in the great cultural and intellectual performance based art that is Slam and Spoken Word Poetry.

\*according to each organization's chartering constitution

Kennedy said. He said if all deadlines are met and the CSI approves the constitution, the organization will be given a provisional charter for the next semester. Currently all six of the organizations have submitted the first drafts of their constitution, and they will likely all receive their provisional charters by the end of the semester, Kennedy said. He said the provisional charter is a trial run for the organization to ensure it will be a successful and sustainable addition to campus.

"With the groups that have gotten to the provisional charter stage thus far, we haven't had any that have failed," Kennedy said.

This new chartering process was implemented last year during fall 2011 due to a very low retention rate of new student organizations, Kennedy said. He said the new chartering process was drawn up during the spring semester during a hiatus in adding new organizations. Before

2011, students needed only three potential members and a completed application to receive a charter, and, he said, typically after a few years, the handful of students that started the organization would graduate or lose interest and the organization would fold.

"This new system is set up with the hope that when we're deliberate, we're chartering groups that are going to be around for a long time and are going to be able to really be successful and have really great opportunities for Truman students to get involved in," Kennedy said.

The new chartering process has had promising results so far, with the resulting organizations being more sustainable than many of the organizations chartered through the old system, Hotop-Brown said.

"I think it works fairly well. We have a lot of organizations on campus, which is great, but at some point you have to

find a way to make it feasible for the University and the students," Hotop-Brown said.

Junior Hope Benefield, co-president of the prospective organization TruSlam, said working with the CSI was straightforward and her CSI contact was helpful.

TruSlam is a slam poetry team whose members compose and perform short poems for an audience, Benefield said. She said the club currently has about 10 prospective members, but that number fluctuates between meetings.

Benefield said the first draft of TruSlam's constitution currently is being revised, but she feels confident TruSlam will receive its charter.

If all six of the current applicants are chartered, that will bring the total number of student organizations on campus to 254, Kennedy said. He said this is a much higher number per capita than other universities throughout the state.

## International population increases on campus

Truman State's international student population increases this semester

BY SARAH-WONDER AGBEHIA  
Staff Reporter

The Truman State population has grown in diversity as students from six continents and 54 countries are represented on campus, compared to 47 countries last semester, according an International Student Affairs Office's website.

Vietnamese, French and Chinese are a few of the nationalities of international students who attend Truman, according to a fact sheet from the International Student Affairs Office. The office assists more than 350 international students at Truman, which is about 6 percent of the undergraduate population.

"The number of international students at Truman has grown in the last two [or] three years," University budget director Dave Rector said. "Our state funding has been cut pretty dramatically and so we are having to rely more and more on student tuition to help pay the bills, so anytime we can help increase enrollment a little bit, that helps."

Rector said in light of recent budget cuts, Truman continues to strive to attain its motto to be nationally ranked, affordable and personal. This is a motto that not only appeals to the local population, but also is well received internationally, he said.

The international student population of Kirksville is not only present on Truman's campus, but also at The Language Company, an intensive English language acquisition program with locations throughout the United States.

The location of TLC on Truman's campus improves this setting for students because they interact on a daily basis with English-speakers, said Joe Sorrell, director of The Language Company in Kirksville.

"It is an engaging atmosphere filled with bright, prepared students that are energizing to be around," said Regina Morin, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management.

Morin said one of the appealing



Ashley Jost/Index  
Junior Thilini Weerawarnasuriya, a student worker for the International Student Affairs Office, checks emails for the office Wednesday afternoon. The office helps Truman's international students adjust to life in the United States and at Truman State.

aspects of Truman is its low tuition for international students compared to other state schools.

Keeping with Truman's mission of being a high quality yet still affordable university creates pressure to keep Truman's tuition low in comparison to other state schools, said Rector.

Rector said this concentration of population contributed to the increase in Truman students studying abroad throughout the last four years.

"A lot of our students may not have had a lot of interaction with international students before coming to Truman, and the fact that they can come from a big city to a small town as isolated as Kirksville and have the ability to interact with international students is definitely a positive cultural experience," said Rector. This positive cultural experience, Rector said, also adds to Truman's liberal arts mission.

### TRUMAN STATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT CHANGES

#### Fall 2012

Number of international students: 364  
Countries represented: 54

#### Spring 2012

Number of students: 322  
Countries represented: 47

#### Fall 2012

Number of students: 313  
Countries represented: 44

\*according to [www.iso.truman.edu](http://www.iso.truman.edu)

## Residents petition for secession

Missouri joins list of states with secession petitions filed at the White House for further review

BY JACCI GUTHRIE  
Staff Reporter

Missouri is among two dozen states that have started collecting signatures with the goal of seceding from the United States, according to the White House "We the People" petition site.

Missouri's petition was created Nov. 10 by an unknown source "Andrew J," after the outcome of the recent presidential election, according to petitions.whitehouse.gov.

Missouri's petition currently has 20,351 signatures, according to the "We the People" petition site. This is 4,649 away from the 25,000 signatures needed by December 10.

If Missouri's petition gets enough signatures, the White House staff reviews the request and releases an official response, according to the petitions.whitehouse.org. However, the White House is not required to accept the terms of the petition.

Petitions from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas, have all received the required amount of signatures and are waiting for a response, according to the "We the People" petition site.

The Missouri petition cites two parts of the Declaration of Independence, including "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another..."

The use of the Declaration of Independence in the petition is a "symbolic gesture to express [the people's] frustration," said Jeff Gall, Truman State history professor. People often look to the past to deal with current problems, he said.

Gall said the issue of secession was dispelled during 1865 by the Civil War and people need to invest their energies toward winning the next election.

"Lincoln believed that democracies can't survive if every election leads to anarchy," Gall said.

Gall said he thinks the issue will resolve itself and disappear. People have invested so much emotion into their candidate that they don't know how to react, he said.

Randy Hagerty, political science department chair, said the petitions signify political protest that is similar to other separatist movements across the country.

During recent years, a section of Northern California took action to become their own "State of Jefferson" because they didn't want to be dominated by the big city politics, he said. Hagerty said, other states like Texas, Alaska, and Hawaii have also had separatist movements.

"The idea of secession is one way for people to express their discontent," Hagerty said.

Hagerty said the numerous secession petitions are "hardly realistic." The petitions that do receive the required amount of signatures within the time period require a formal response from the White House, he said, and the response will most likely be a polite rejection.