

ZOMBIE | The Truman Institute is hosting a Zombie Walk to benefit the United Way campaign

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Zombie Walks in other cities. She said the Truman Institute is targeting participants from the Kirksville community, Truman community and Kirksville High School students.

The theater and the drama teachers were enthusiastic about the Zombie Walk, graduate David Bulen, Truman Institute intern, said.

The Zombie Walk, which is expected to attract 30-100 participants, is a charity event for the United Way, but it also advertises the new Zombie Scholars Academy, Kluba said.

The Academy is one of the programs put on by the Truman Institute, including Joseph Baldwin Academy.

"The Truman Institute is Truman State University's incubator for innovative and entrepreneurial educational opportunities," Kevin Minch, Truman Institute director, said in an email. "Our office aims to elevate the Truman brand profile, increase enrollment and enhance revenues for the University."

The Academy is a week-long camp during which high school student participants will live on campus and attend zombie-themed disaster preparation classes, Bulen said. He said the participants will be educated in the subjects of biology, epidemiology, psychology and disaster ethics.

The curriculum that will be taught was formed by an advisory board of nationally-prominent figures including a Harvard psychology professor, a medical examiner and Max Brooks, author of World War Z and the Zombie Survival Guide, Minch said.

"I think if the Zombie Scholars Academy goes really well, which we're anticipating it to, we might as well [make it an annual event]," Bulen said.

The Academy is expected to have about 50 participants, he said.

Visit zombie.truman.edu for more information about the Zombie Walk, the Zombie Scholars Academy and other events put on by the Institute. To preregister for the Zombie Walk, visit their Truman Zombie Charity Walk Facebook page.

Campus celebrates sustainability day



Ashley Jost/Index

Left to right, President's Sustainability Action Committee chair Donna Liss, PSAC member Nancy Asher and junior Rachel Marler, president of the Environmental Campus Organization, discuss composting during Campus Sustainability Day Wednesday afternoon on The Mall. The organizations celebrated with free candy and information hand-outs.

INSURANCE | University employees could see boosted costs in their health insurance packages by January 2013, depending on their benefits

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employee and spouse, employee and children, and family. The \$20 per month charge would only apply to the employee only category within the Plan A.

Paino said this was a decision that no one wanted to make, but compared to the overall insurance packages available at other institutions of higher learning and businesses, he expects Truman will continue to remain competitive.

What plan each employee chooses is based on the individual.

The idea for changing the benefits package came after the University's benefits consultants from Gallagher Benefits told them about the 20 to 21 percent increase in costs, Paino said.

"Basically, the University has been shouldering the burden of

these cost increases for a long time," he said. "Unfortunately, 20 to 21 percent was too high so we had to ask some of the employees to help shoulder the burden as well."

Paino said the University still is covering 10 percent of the estimated 20 percent increase. He said between insurance and an increase in the Missouri State Retirement program, the University is seeing an additional \$1.5 million increase in costs next year.

The effects of the benefit changes on the other categories are more complicated to assess, said Sally Herleth, executive director of Human Resources. She said the increases for the other plans depend on the dependents of the person who the employee's plan is covering, though

most likely the cost increase will be greater than the \$20 for employee only plan.

"We also implemented, as part of a wellness program, a surcharge of \$20 per month [for employees who are] tobacco users," Herleth said.

The \$20 for the tobacco users is independent from the \$20 increase for employee only benefits, she said.

Currently, of the roundabout 750 employees at the University, Herleth said she expects 75 to 100 of them smoke. She said employees who participate in smoking cessation classes on campus will not have to pay the surcharge.

This is a long-term problem, which is why we're trying to help employees to quit smoking and encourage them to lead a health-

ier lifestyle," Paino said. "In the long haul it's going to lower our cost if we have a healthier workforce. It's not the only answer to the problem, but it's part of it."

History professor David Robinson said this is the first time during 22 years that his benefits have been changed, and though it's a small amount now, he expects it could grow throughout the future.

"It doesn't deter me from carrying on with my job," he said. "But it worries me about the morale of the faculty and ability to attract anyone to come to Truman in the future."

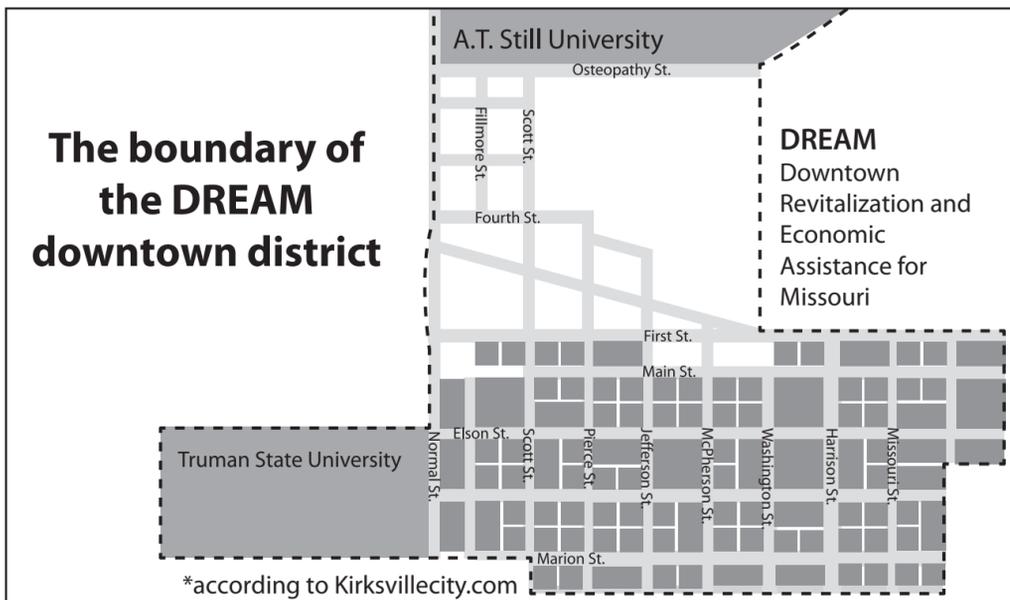
He said that Truman already has one of the lowest salary rates across the state, and has lower benefits than other universities, but now it could make the benefit package seem even

less appealing.

Robinson said that during the last few years he has worked with several selection committees for potential new employees and has seen several interested people end up not taking the position because of the benefits package, causing the selection committee to have to choose candidates that weren't their first choice.

During the last few months, Herleth said the administration has been working to minimize the financial impact on employees as much as possible.

"Our premiums are a result of our claims, and our claims and premiums are going up pretty dramatically every year," she said. "This is just the way the industry is, and our claims in general."



*according to Kirksvillecity.com

DREAM | DREAM presents their research and suggestions during a public forum Tuesday

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District, which could generate \$80,000 annually with a .5 percent sales tax.

During the meeting, A.T. Still University President Craig Phelps and Truman State University President Troy Paino agreed they would enjoy working with the community as it begins to work on the different suggestions as the connection between the students and downtown is beneficial for both parties.

For the current downtown organization, the Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee, there are representatives from A.T. Still and Truman

on the committee, said Sarah Halstead, Kirksville's community services coordinator. She said while students can't be on the KDIC board, they can be a member and participate in meetings.

Residents and business owners had the chance during the meeting to discuss the areas of opportunity the DREAM group found. The draft of the most recent goals and suggestions is available in a bound book inside City Hall. Residents, business owners and anyone else interested in downtown betterment is encouraged to read it and suggest changes, Hemmer said.

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Interviews will be conducted Oct. 22-23-24-29-30. Applications are available online at career.truman.edu/Internships/mogovBrochure.asp.

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