

# Students pack meals



Freshman Andrea Bleikamp, left, and sophomore Joshua Nastasi, right, pack meals for AIDS victims and their families Friday, April 11. The ImPackt event was sponsored by Care for AIDS, a campus service organization that fulfills needs for African AIDS patients.

## BOARD | Board of Governors hosted open meeting

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has been hit hard by the decline and has a negative impact on Truman since many students are from that area, Paino said.

Additionally, Paino said high school graduating classes are becoming more ethnically diverse and more students who enroll in college are female. He said demographic shifts were not news to anyone on the Board but needed to be addressed explicitly and prepared for accordingly. Paino also provided statistics pertaining to graduation rates in secondary and higher education, including that only 68 percent of Missouri ninth graders will graduate high school. He said only 44 percent of those students will pursue higher education and only 20 percent will finish college within six years of enrollment.

Paino stressed the importance of recognizing growing fields, such as computer science and natural sciences, as important to the higher education market. He also said it is important to recognize the competition between higher education institutions throughout the state, because the Midwest is an area with a large number of schools. He said there are 300 colleges and universities in Missouri and Illinois alone. Paino discussed the distance from home students are willing to travel to attend school, which averages at 78-112 miles for students who scored between a 24 and a 32 on their ACT. He said this only would help Truman with Columbia, Mo., but that distance does not reach St. Louis or Kansas City, Mo.

"I think we have to ask some fundamental questions," Paino said. "What do we expect our enrollment to look like in the next five years? That's loaded with a lot of sub-questions. Undergraduate versus graduate, academic profile, ACT average, high school, traditional, non-traditional, international. But also, what do we want the size of this institution to be?"

Vice Chair Jim O'Donnell gave his report for the Budget and Capital Projects committee. He discussed various projects the committee wanted to discuss, such as improvements to the baseball fields to make them more handicap-accessible and work on the interior of Kirk Memorial Building to match the improvements recently made to the building's exterior. The Board approved all the projects unanimously.

Voting member Matthew Potter said the Board Policy Review Committee wants to clean up antiquated items of policy throughout the Board's code and discuss issues that are not necessarily the responsibility of other committees and address them accordingly.

# Faculty Senate votes on grading

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN  
Staff Reporter

Truman State Faculty Senate is scheduled to vote on the plus-minus grading system proposal at the April 24 meeting. If this measure is approved, the Registrar's Office will need to make changes to implement the system.

If plus-minus grading is approved, it will go into effect as early as fall 2015. To make the transition to this system, adjustments would need to be made to transcripts, prerequisite requirements, honors requirements and DegreeWorks.

Registrar Margaret Herron said the transcript is the first thing that would have to be changed, which would be a time-consuming process. She said the Registrar's Office would program the plus-minus system in Banner, and would have to change the transcript key that is printed on the backs of students' transcripts.

Herron said the Registrar's Office would work with each of the academic departments because plus-minus grading would impact

prerequisites and departmental honors. She said prerequisite changes would be up to individual departments, and would be made in the Banner system.

The Registrar's Office would have to change the grade point average calculator, the academic standings, DegreeWorks and reports that calculate honors such as the President's List, Herron said. On DegreeWorks, Herron said the Registrar's Office would have to change the degree requirements for certain majors and minors.

Herron said she is not sure how time-consuming this process would be.

"I'm waiting to see what happens and if this actually goes through," Herron said. "At that point in time, if it is approved on up through [University Presi-

dent Troy Paino], I'll have to sit down with the [Chief Information Officer] and figure out our time frame."

Interim Associate Provost Scott Alberts said there would be no monetary cost associated with implementing plus-minus grading. He said the only cost would be to the Registrar's Office and the Information Technology staff would need to spend time implementing this system when they could be doing something else.

Alberts said if plus-minus grading is approved, professors would need to reconsider how to assign grades. For example, they would need to decide what percentage is worth an A and what percentage is worth an A-minus.

**"In a typical class, there is an understanding of what gets an A versus what gets a B."**

Interim Associate Provost Scott Alberts



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