

Board of Governors bans smoking and plans budget

BY PAIGE YUNGERMANN
Staff Reporter

The Truman State Board of Governors met Feb. 9 in the Student Union Building.

University President Troy Paino and Student Senate representatives sophomore Matt Cooper and senior Katherine Scheidt were among the people to give reports at the meeting.

During the meeting, the Board voted to instate a campus-wide smoking and tobacco ban. This will go into effect July 1, 2015.

Paino gave an update about the state legislature during the meeting. He said Governor Jay Nixon has proposed a funding plan that could bring Truman more than an 8 percent funding increase from the state.

Paino said one aspect of this plan is a 5 percent funding increase based on performance. Paino said Truman met all the

performance indicators for being considered by the state, so if legislative body approves the funding plan, Truman will receive the full 5 percent increase and possibly additional revenue if other universities do not meet the indicators.

Paino said another aspect of this plan is a 3 percent funding increase for science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs.

However, Paino said the legislative body is not certain whether there will be as much money available for higher education as Nixon is predicting. This could affect how much money Truman receives if Nixon's plan is approved.

When planning the budget, Paino said Truman is planning for a 4 percent increase of state funds for fiscal year 2015 and no increase of tuition revenue.

"It's early, and we don't know

where this is going to go," Paino said. "If we can get more than that, great."

The Missouri legislature also is considering a bill that would affect Bright Flight, Paino said. The bill would allow Bright Flight recipients to take out a \$5,000 per year loan that is forgivable if the student stays in Missouri after graduation, Paino said.

Paino also gave an update about enrollment at Truman. He said applications are have decreased 5 percent from last year, partially because high school graduation is down state-wide.

Paino said Truman's goal is to enroll 1,300 students in the class of 2018. He said this is about 30 students fewer than the class of 2017.

He also said Truman is re-launching the truman.edu website Feb. 28. Paino said the new

website hopefully will help with recruitment during the future.

Paino also said Truman's ranking as number nine by the Princeton Review's list of best value public universities hopefully will help with future enrollment.

"On the Today Show, they described us as a 'hidden gem,'" Paino said. "We're trying to get rid of the hidden part."

Paino also said the search for the new Vice President of Academic Affairs is underway. There are six people on the search committee, including a search consultant.

"I'm not looking for quantity," Paino said. "I want this to be focused on individuals who will fit well here."

Cooper, Student Body President, also gave a report at the meeting. Cooper reported about student opinions of a campus-wide smoking ban. While 60

percent of students surveyed reported that they support revising the smoking policy, Cooper said he thinks the administration would receive strong opposition from some students if a campus-wide smoking ban is put in place.

Scheidt, Student Body Vice President, also gave a report. She said the Student Senate is looking into the University providing more amnesty for students when reporting alcohol related incidents.

Board Vice President Jim O'Donnell also reported. He said the Centennial Hall updates almost are complete, and construction will begin on the Magruder Hall planetarium during May or June 2014.

Board Chair Susan Plassmeyer presented former Chair Karen Haber with an honorary gavel during the meeting to thank her for her work as Chair.

ASSAULT | Part one of a series about mental health at Truman — an in-depth look at procedures and factors surrounding sexual assault.

Continued from page 1

an administrative hearing or by sending the case to the University Conduct Board, Gilchrist said. She said the University system is different because if a police department investigates a sexual assault case, the police must relinquish the evidence to a prosecutor, who then must prove the defendant to have committed the crime beyond the shadow of a doubt to seek prison time or fines.

"[Our standard is] 51 percent or more of the likelihood ... that the person is responsible for violating the Student Conduct Code," Gilchrist said.

She said expulsion is the most severe punishment the University can impose.

Gilchrist said there are barriers in the system that might prevent a victim from reporting a sexual assault. For example, a rumor spread throughout campus many years ago stated if a woman reported to the Kirksville Police Department she had been sexually assaulted while drinking underage, the Department would pursue the victim on alcohol charges rather than investigate her alleged assault, Gilchrist said. She said she never saw evidence that this is true.

Gilchrist said another major reason stu-

dents decline to report their assault is because they want to keep it private. She said some victims think sharing details of the assault with authorities or close friends and family could lead to the information being spread to the public and lead to the victim being judged. She said the Student Affairs Office does its best to keep the investigative process from intruding in victims' lives, but they cannot coerce them into reporting the assault.

"We want to stop rape," Gilchrist said. "But at the same time, we have to respect a person's decision to handle what has happened to them and the way they want to do it."

Students who are sexually assaulted can report their crime to the Kirksville Police Department if they wish to pursue criminal charges against their assailant.

KPD Detective Nathan Selby said sexual assaults often are reported to the Department from hospital emergency rooms. Officers then are dispatched to speak with

the victim and work with doctors to collect information about the case, Selby said. He said KPD officers collect statements from any possible witnesses and gather evidence from the scene. Officers usually collect bed-sheets or pillows if the assault occurred on a bed or couch, Selby said.

He said officers can even cut out a carpet sample to look for physical evidence to compare with what was collected with the rape kit if the assault happened on the floor.

Selby said in most cases he sees, the victim knows their assailant's name. He said if the victim names a suspect, officers will bring the suspect to the station and question them while using a Computer Voice Stress Analyzer, a program that searches for tremors in the suspect's voice. While the CVSA test is inadmissible in court, it still can help officers determine the validity of statements and lead to a conviction.

"If she can say 'he raped me' and we can put him there, that's a slam dunk case," Selby said.

Selby said KPD often works with Victim Support Services to put the victim at ease during the investigation. He said even the sight of a male doctor can scare female victims into refusing to cooperate, so they ask VSS to send a female counselor to female victims to help encourage cooperation.

Selby said above all, KPD's job is to be as thorough as possible with their investigation.

"Sometimes people get irritated with some of the questions we ask, but it's just part of our job," Selby said. "It helps us eliminate suspects and obtain suspects."

Truman is home to the Women's Resource Center, a student-run organization that offers support to victims, said freshman WRC volunteer staffer Trista Sullivan. Sullivan said if a student comes to the Center saying they were sexually assaulted, the staffers can offer comfort and point the student to other organizations that can help them. However, Sullivan said they are not authorized to provide counseling or investigate crimes. She said there are misconceptions about sexual assault that make it seem much narrower in scope.

"Any words or feelings of discomfort from someone sexually can be considered sexual assault," Sullivan said. "It's not just rape."

"We have to respect a person's decision to handle what has happened to them and the way they want to do it."
-Lou Ann Gilchrist

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