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UNIVERSITY

STUDENT GROUP CREATES ONLINE PETITION TO STOP OLIN MOVE

By Meredith Skrzypczak
THE STATE NEWS

Students against moving Olin Health Center's services will make their point heard during the Board of Trustees meeting Friday.

MSU's Student Health Advisory Council, or SHAC, is sponsoring an online petition launched last month to keep Olin services in their current location.

SHAC is a group of students who offer suggestions on how Olin can be improved and discuss student views of the health center.

University officials have said they are considering moving the university's health services to the MSU Clinical Center on Service Road, which currently houses clinics, classrooms and various medical departments, including a radiology department. Olin is being reviewed as part of a university effort to deal with budget cuts.

"(We want) to show the administration when we go to the next board meeting... not just SHAC is concerned about health care on campus," said Jay Thaker, an economics and public health junior. "It's the student population at large."

The petition had 148 signatures as of Tuesday. The group's goal is to reach 1,000 signatures.

Student engagement, even in the form of a petition, shows students care about student health services, said James Hillard, associate provost for human health affairs.

"I'm really happy that people care about student health," he said.

Hillard said Olin probably will not move anywhere next year. "Form follows function," he said. "We really have the time to figure out the function... Think about it in terms of locations, rather than location."

MSU Trustee Donald Nugent said the board usually considers student concerns such as those embodied in the petition. Proposals that back up their argument with logic have more of an impact, he said.

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Cuts impact graduate TAs



American studies doctoral student Jesse Draper holds his 3-month-old son Wesley, while reading a book to his daughter Harley, 5, as his son Jack, 3, listens Tuesday evening at his Lansing home. Draper is a student teaching assistant whose job would be affected by MSU's proposed budget cuts.

ANGELI WRIGHT/THE STATE NEWS

"First and second year doctoral students are looking at other schools. I personally don't have the choice to do that because I have a family. I have a house. I have three kids."

Jesse Draper, American Studies doctoral student

By Heather Guenther
THE STATE NEWS

Jesse Draper is trapped. Unlike other doctoral students in MSU's American Studies Program, Draper said his options for dealing with the program's possible elimination are limited.

In October, MSU Provost Kim Wilcox recommended that more than 20 graduate programs and specializations, including the American Studies Program, will be eliminated as part of an effort to trim operating budgets university wide. Students enrolled in the programs would be given an opportunity to complete their degree or apply for admission to another graduate program, but Draper said the title of the degree that might

appear on his diploma isn't what has him worried.

Draper, a second-year American studies doctoral student, is one of many graduate students now left wondering how — or if — they will finish their degree at MSU as departments look to cut graduate teaching assistantships, leaving graduate students without the



Draper

MSU as departments look to cut graduate teaching assistantships, leaving graduate students without the

health benefits, tuition waivers and monthly stipends they depend upon to pay for living expenses.

"If they don't find an answer about supplementary funding, I know most of the first and second year doctoral students are looking at other schools," the 35-year-old Draper said. "I personally don't have the choice to do that because I have a family. I have a house. I have three kids."

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For a video of Jesse Draper and his family discussing his financial and academic future, visit stateneews.com/multimedia.

CITY COUNCIL

E.L. considers raising parking prices

By Kate Jacobson
THE STATE NEWS

Revenues raised by a proposal to increase prices in East Lansing's parking lots and structures would go toward repairs and various other improvements to the structures.

At the East Lansing City Council work session Tuesday at City Hall, 410 Abbott Road, parking administrator Dan O'Connor presented an analysis of what revenue the increased prices would bring in for East Lansing, and what the Parking Task Force — a group comprised of city staff and downtown business owners — plans to do in the future.

Under the proposal, parking fees would go from 50 cents per half hour in the structures to 60 cents, and 55 cents per half hour in lots to 65 cents

The maximum amount a driver would have to pay in any city-owned parking spot would be \$10. Director of Planning and Community Development Tim Dempsey said, if approved, the new rates could go into effect as early as January.

In the immediate future, O'Connor said there are plans to repair the staircases in the Division Street parking ramp and remove graffiti from the Grove Street parking ramp. The improvements for Division Street would cost about \$72,000 and the improvements for Grove Street would be about \$10,000.

Overall, the long-term improvements are expected to cost a total of about \$1.8 million. The Parking Task Force will continue to meet and assess how the price increases will affect city revenues in the

next 18 months. They also will consider East Lansing's parking permit rates and how they compare to surrounding areas, as well as examining the possibility of scheduled periodic rate changes.

"Right now we do rate changes when we get in (financial) trouble," O'Connor said. "What we're going to have to do here is start to look at programmed rate changes that are keeping up with inflation, so we have the money in advance, and not coming back when we get in trouble."

Mike Wiley, owner of Student Book Store, 421 E. Grand River Ave., and a member of the task force, said the last time parking rates were increased was in 2004. He said the group's goal was to figure out an inflation-adjusted rate that worked for

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Spartans set to face another top-10 opponent

By Matt Bishop
THE STATE NEWS

The hits keep coming for the MSU women's basketball team.

The No. 21 Spartans will meet their third top-10 opponent this season when they play No. 8 Xavier 7 p.m. tonight at Breslin Center.



Merchant

MSU is 1-1 against top-10 teams this season, losing 68-67 to then-No. 5 Notre Dame on Nov. 19, but beating then-No. 4 North Carolina 72-66 last Thursday.

"Our schedule's crazy," head coach Suzy Merchant said following practice Tuesday. "I don't know why I did

this. It's almost too much. Every time you turn around, it's like one top-10 team is coming in here. But at the end of the day, you kind of want to be exposed to what you don't do well and obviously be able to fix that."

The Spartans are looking to rebound — literally — from Sunday's listless 68-65 loss to Indiana. MSU grabbed only eight defensive rebounds in the second half and was outscored 39-24.

"We've talked about what happened and it's a group that's old enough to understand it," Merchant said. "They just didn't perform and kind of played on their heels a little bit and it showed. It's one lesson you don't want to learn too many times."

Sophomore forward Lykendra Johnson said coming into the game against Indiana, the team was emotionally drained from the 72-66 win last Thurs-

day against North Carolina at Breslin Center.

"It showed," she said. "We were just trying to get going... but we couldn't get going. I think the most important thing is to, in practice, keep our intensity up and we have to get some more shots up and focus."

Junior Cetera Washington said the coaching staff has emphasized rebounding this week in practice, especially from the guards. It's going to be important to keep the 7-0 Musketeers off the glass, because they have four players averaging double-digit scoring and a fifth averaging 9.4 points.

A big team — nine players are 6 feet or taller — Xavier is special, Merchant said, because of how the team combines strength with height.

"Xavier is one of the best teams we've played to this year. We'll be on page 2

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