



TCU Senate votes to reject religious liberty resolution

BY LAINA PIERA
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate at a meeting last month rejected a resolution (7-14-2) that would have encouraged the university and campus groups to “interpret the University’s non-discrimination policy in a way that does not bar religious groups from choosing leaders who reflect their views.”

The resolution was submitted by Senior Senators Tim Lesinski and Ben Richards.

“I think it’s very important that as student leaders we take a stand on this issue,” Richards said at the meeting. “Religious organizations are very prominent on this campus.”

The resolution included clauses affirming the right of all Tufts students to practice their religion as they wish, even if their beliefs do not align with the majority opinion on campus and that all groups should adhere to the university’s non-discrimination policy.

“The TCU affirms the principle

that all groups should follow the University’s non-discrimination policy in opening their public group meetings to all members of the TCU, and that no group should discriminate in membership on the basis of background, religious belief, moral values, political views, or other opinions,” the resolution stated.

The resolution was based on the idea that in order for a religious group to function efficiently and keep its identity, it must have leaders that share the core values of the group, according to Lesinski.

“The resolution said that the non-discrimination policy should not be interpreted in a way that prevents groups from selecting leaders who share their views,” he said. “We tried to protect the right of religious groups to do that while still affirming the non-discrimination policy and the importance of keeping all group meetings open to everyone.”

Members of the Senate believed that the resolution was proposed in response to recent controversy surrounding the Tufts Christian Fellowship

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Mass. legislature to consider paid sick days for employees

BY BRIONNA JIMERSON
Daily Editorial Board

The Labor and Workforce Development Committee of the Massachusetts State Senate in mid-March supported the Earned Paid Sick Time Act which would grant paid sick leave to Massachusetts employees.

The act would provide a minimum of seven paid sick days to all non-seasonal Massachusetts workers, according to Steve Crawford, a representative from the Massachusetts Paid Leave Coalition, a group that advocates for paid sick days for workers statewide.

With public political support from both Governor Deval Patrick and Massachusetts State Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Middlesex), the act has the potential to become law in the coming weeks.

The goal of the bill, according to its literature, is to require businesses in Massachusetts to provide employees with paid sick leave based on the number of hours they have worked, regardless of part-time or full-time employment. Such a bill does not cover seasonal employees, according to Jehlen.

Vice President of Tufts Human

Resources Kathe Cronin, said it is unclear whether the act would apply to temporary and student employees.

“Much legislation regarding employment does not [apply to temporary and student] employees; an example of that would be the federal Family [and] Medical Leave Act, which applies to full time ‘regular’ employees only,” Cronin told the Daily in an email. “Tufts current sick time policies for regular staff employees is already richer than what is being proposed in the bill, and we would continue offering these benefits.”

“Tufts believes in the benefit of paid sick time and offers very good paid sick time benefits to staff employees; this practice has been in effect for many, many years,” she added.

According to the Tufts Employee Handbook, after three months of employment, non-exempt employees are eligible for 13 paid sick days per year, with a total of 91 hours each year. Exempt employees are eligible for up to six months of paid sick days. Non-exempt employees, according to the handbook, are paid on an hourly

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App Store > Navigation > Jake Jarvis

JoeyTracker

Description

Tired of just missing the Joey? Sick of waiting outside J.P. Licks in the cold for twenty minutes? The Tufts JoeyTracker app for iPhone is finally here!

Free App

Category: Navigation
Updated: Feb 21, 2012
Version: 1.0.1
Size: 0.4 MB
Language: English
Seller: Jake Jarvis
© 2012 Jake Jarvis

Rated 4+

Requirements: Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.

iPhone Screenshots

JoeyTracker allows students to pinpoint the Joey shuttle's location and calculate when it will arrive at a stop.

Student designs iPhone JoeyTracker app

Jake Jarvis, a sophomore, has created an iPhone application based on the online JoeyTracker that allows students to determine the location of the closest Joey shuttle and the time left until it arrives at their current location.

The free application, listed as “JoeyTracker” in the Apple Application Store, locates the shuttle’s position on its Medford/Somerville route and calculates the minutes left for the bus to arrive at each of its numerous stops. It includes a map of the area as well as the Joey schedule.

“I just found that this was something I really needed myself,” Jarvis said. “The schedule is so hard to find online.”

Jarvis said he recognized how unsettling it can be to be stuck in

Davis Square or the Mayer Campus Center on a cold day with no idea as to when the next shuttle bus will arrive.

“People should be able to quickly access this type of information,” he said. “The JoeyTracker will allow them to do so.”

Jarvis said he has experience creating similar electronic applications, including one that he created in high school that allows classmates to compare schedules and plan study sessions accordingly.

“Making apps like this one has always been a passion of mine,” he said.

Using Apple’s design tools, Jarvis was able to create an application that iPhone users can find to be a quicker, more reliable alternative

to searching for the Joey’s location online.

The application is not affiliated with Tufts University or with TuftsLife, where the online JoeyTracker is available.

TuftsLife has been working with Jarvis to ensure that he gives credit to students who have contributed to creation of the service on TuftsLife, according to sophomore Taylor Lentz, a leader of the TuftsLife team.

Several students have expressed interest in the application.

“I really like the idea of this application,” Zach Johnson, a junior, said. “As an iPhone user, I think it is something that would be really convenient for me.”

—by Josh Weiner

DIVING

How Johann Schmidt became a champion

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ
Daily Editorial Board

A clear head and a positive attitude. To win the biggest meet of his life, Johann Schmidt was going to need those two things. Well, those, and an almost perfect final dive.

Before his last attempt at nationals, Schmidt knew what he had to do. By the sophomore’s calculations, he was going to need at least 47 points to become the Div. III one-meter national champion.

“You’re not supposed to look up at the scoreboard at all, but I always do because I want to see where I am,” Schmidt said. “I’m kind of a math guy.”

The math was simple, but the task was daunting. Junior Gabe Dixon of Denison had just moved into first place by beautifully executing the same dive Schmidt was about to attempt, a dive that had given him problems all season long. Now, he had one chance to get it right. What if he messed up?

“I pictured myself doing my hurdle and then just falling off the board,” Schmidt said, mimicking the gasp that would have emanated from the crowd. In the most important moment of his career, Schmidt’s mind was betraying him.

He knew he had to improve his attitude before taking the leap, and to do it, he thought

back to the story Amherst coach Mary Ellen Clark had told him when he first arrived at nationals, about her own experience diving under immense pressure in Indianapolis.

“She dove at Indianapolis during the Olympic trials,” Schmidt said, “and before her last dive, she pictured her name on the wall with the other champions. She said, ‘Visualization is the most important thing you can have.’”

And so, to bring his mind back to a positive place, Schmidt visualized. He visualized himself standing on the podium. He visualized himself soaring through the air, nailing the dive from takeoff to entry. And then he jumped.

‘I didn’t really want to train’

At the NESCAC Championships in late February, Schmidt won both the one-meter and three-meter diving competitions for a second straight year. Four career tries, four conference titles. The possibilities seemed endless.

And yet, with just a few weeks remaining before the national meet beginning on March 21, the motivation simply wasn’t there. Schmidt had almost a month to train between NESCACs and NAAs, and as Tufts’ only diver making the trip, that meant almost a month of training alone.

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The found footage technique used in ‘The River’ holds promise for the show’s future.



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