

Advisory board could upset international studies program

The board, included in a federal bill that has passed the House, would monitor international programs

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

A proposed federal bill that could create an advisory board to monitor international studies programs at universities has some faculty worried about the implications of government influence.

The bill, which passed the House in October and now awaits Senate consideration, includes a provision seeking to establish an advisory board of political appointees to analyze the way international studies are taught and make recommendations to the administration if a problem is perceived.

The provision could affect any university and college program funded under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, which provides financial support for such programs. The overall bill is part of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

International Studies Assistant Professor Stephen Wooten said the board was proposed last summer when certain political leaders raised concerns that some programs taught anti-American sentiments and did not serve the interests of the Bush administration.

"It's certainly not true, but that's what they were perceiving," Wooten said.

In October, Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, said the bill is important for maintaining "critical international and foreign language programs," according to a press release from the Office of Governmental Affairs.



Eric Bishoff Freelance Photographer

Assistant Professor Stephen Wooten's International Studies classes could be impacted by the federal bill if it is approved by the U.S. Senate.

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Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee

curity concerns within an international context," he said. "We do not live in a vacuum, and our higher education system must reflect this."

Wooten said the purpose of an

international studies program is to increase international understanding.

"By design, that's what the program is supposed to do," he said. "Our goal is really to enrich the American perspective."

He added that those who support implementing the board likely do not support international studies in general.

"The people who are the most reactionary are people who don't want other perspectives," he said.

Although the University's International Studies Program is not funded under Title VI, a portion of it could be soon.

Wooten said he has applied for a grant under Title VI, which would be used to enhance African studies at the University.

But Wooten said the advisory board, if it is created, will have limited power, and therefore he is not worried about his grant being approved or future studies being

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Totally Cellular's EMU location closes

The cell phone company will continue to pay \$1,100 in rent until their lease expires in about two years

By Caron Alarab
Senior News Reporter

Although she never needed to use the services at the Totally Cellular store in the EMU, freshman Kathleen Martin said she wasn't surprised when she recently noticed an empty room in its place.

"I know a lot of the time they sent my friends to the mall because they couldn't fix certain phones," she said.

After less than a year on campus, local cell phone retailer Totally Cellular closed its EMU location last month in an effort to regain the profits it lost while serving the University community.

Despite a high-traffic location between the Fishbowl and the Ticket Office, the company decided to pull out of the building following fall term final exams, EMU Director Dusty Miller said.

"Doing retail on campus is very different from doing it on the street," he said. "About five months out of 12, campus retailers need to make a profit to sustain their businesses, and some barely break even."

Miller said he will consult recent market research and solicit new "entities" to take up the space before making a presentation to the EMU Board. In the meantime, Totally Cellular will pay monthly rent until its lease is up



Eric Bishoff Freelance Photographer

Totally Cellular's store on the first floor of the EMU closed its doors at the end of fall term.

in about two years.

"I believe this was (Totally Cellular's) first attempt at working on a college campus," Miller said.

A Totally Cellular employee who did not want to be identified said the cell phone retailer first decided to relocate the EMU store in mid-December. The company then moved the store to a prior location in Springfield while keeping the same employees and the same look.

Located at 107 W. Q St., the new and improved Totally Cellular store is open for business, and the company hopes the change will help it make a better profit, the employee said.

According to <http://www.totallycellular.net>, the Springfield location is just one of nine current branches statewide. Established in 1996, the privately owned company went

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