

Student Government Resolution
A Resolution in Support of The Bear Creek Restoration Project
Sponsored by Vice President Katherine Scheidt, Environmental Affairs Chair Molly Turner, Senator Kelsie Howle, and Senator Marco Swan

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- Truman State's campus Sustainability Pledge states that Truman is committed to a reduction in waste, more responsible interactions with fellow citizens, and stewardship practices that keep future generations in mind; and
- Bear Creek runs through Truman's campus along West Campus Suites, near Barnett Hall, and through Red Barn Park; and
- Bear Creek suffers from extensive problems with erosion that has caused dangerous drop offs along the creek banks and damage to infrastructure including the Red Barn Creek Bridge; and
- The creek is extremely susceptible to flash flooding after heavy storms because of runoff from parking lots, lawns, and other impervious surfaces; and
- Runoff into bear creek has caused increased levels of pollutants in the water including gasoline, nitrogen fertilizers, herbicides, and animal waste; and
- In 2011, Dr. Cynthia Cooper found that E. Coli levels in the creek are dangerously high and 9 times over the level safe for skin contact (10,000 bacteria per 100mL, safe levels for skin contact are 1,100 per 100mL); and
- Lawn mowing along the sides of the creek has led to decreased levels of biodiversity and has prevented natural plants from slowing erosion and filtering pollutants; and
- Students August Kersten and Michele Woolbright have worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation's Stream Team to propose a cost effective plan to plant indigenous plants along the length of the creek and establish a "no-mow" zone along the creek bed; and
- This plan is expected to reduce erosion, filter contaminants, simplify creek maintenance, and beautify Truman's campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Commends August Kersten and Michele Woolbright's efforts to raise awareness about the problems with Bear Creek, and propose solutions; and
- Supports continued efforts to restore Bear Creek including planting indigenous plants along side the creek and establishing "no-mow" zones to minimize erosion, filter pollutants, and improve campus beautification; and
- Encourages future efforts by students, faculty, staff, and administrators to work towards Bear Creek clean up.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to every current member of the Truman State University Board of Governors, President Troy Paino, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, Dr. Cynthia Cooper, Director of The Physical Plant Karl Schneider, August Kersten, Michele Woolbright, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Truman Media Network.

Passed by Unanimous Consent on February 23, 2014