



Student Government Resolution 116.010
A Resolution Endorsing The Inclusion Of A Medical Amnesty Clause In The University
Student Conduct Code
Sponsored by the Student Government Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee:
Zach Hollstrom, Chair, Korbin Keller, Elisabeth Condon, Lucasana Barker

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The purpose of medical amnesty policies is to remove the fear of conduct violations and sanctions for students seeking potentially life-saving medical attention for themselves or for another individual; and
- It is the view of The Student Government that a medical amnesty policy at Truman State University would directly and significantly improve the safety of the students; and
- The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse reports that over 5,000 people under the age of 21 die in incidents related to underage drinking annually¹; and
- Hospitalizations due to alcohol use alone increased by 25% among people ages 18-24 from 1999 to 2008, while rates of hospitalization for combined use of drugs and alcohol increased by 75% during the same time period²; and
- At Truman State University, 26.7% of students reported having experienced a memory loss or “blackout” as a result of drinking alcohol in 2015³; and
- At Truman State University, 4% of students reported experiencing symptoms of alcohol poisoning in 2015, and only 3.6% of these students who experienced these symptoms reported receiving medical attention³; and
- Currently in the Student Conduct Code for the University, the Responsible Action Policy reads, “The University will take into consideration the positive impact of reporting an incident on the welfare of students when determining the appropriate response for policy violations by the reporter of the incident”, and, “If charged and found responsible for a violation of the Code, sanctions imposed, if any, will be less severe when students or

¹ National Institute for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism | <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/AA67/AA67.htm>

² National Institute for Alcohol and Alcoholism |
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3357438/>

³ Missouri College Health Behavior |
<http://trumanpip.truman.edu/files/2011/10/2015-MCHBS-Results.pdf>

student organizations appropriately report dangerous circumstances than if students or student organizations fail to report.”; and

- A complete medical amnesty policy would improve upon the current policy because it would be proactive rather than reactive by removing barriers the minute a student recognizes they need to seek help, instead of lessening repercussions after a student has already decided to seek help; and
- A complete medical amnesty policy greatly increases the chances that college students will seek medical attention when it is necessary for themselves or for peers, which has the potential to protect students and save lives; and
- A medical amnesty policy in the Student Conduct Code would only grant immunity for alcohol and drug related violations, and not for any other offenses occurring while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and
- Over 200 colleges and universities nationwide have some version of a medical amnesty policy⁴; and
- A Cornell University Study on their own medical amnesty protocol, showed that in a student survey before the protocol’s implementation, 19% of students thought about calling for help for an individual they were concerned about, but only 4% actually made the call⁵; and
- A study in the Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice showed that when students were informed about a medical amnesty policy, they were 2.5 times more likely to seek help in an emergency situation related to alcohol⁶; and
- A medical amnesty policy at Truman State University would demonstrate that the health and safety of our students is of the utmost importance and a top priority on our campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- Acknowledges that Truman State University’s current Responsible Action Policy in the Student Conduct Code is written to take students’ responsible decisions into account when evaluating conduct code violations such as underage drinking or drug use and recognizes the intent of such a policy; and
- Believes that while this is a stronger policy than many universities have, a complete medical amnesty policy for alcohol and drug use would be more effective and foster a significantly safer campus environment than the current Responsible Action Policy; and
- Stands in full support of the implementation of a medical amnesty policy in the Responsible Action Policy of the Student Conduct Code, similar to that currently provided to victims of violent crime; and

⁴ Students For Sensible Drug Policy | https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tBGXOknGAv4j-vHD45f5rhc0Bjexpv3Mc_032GPK484/edit#gid=1864343150

⁵ Safety First: a Medical Amnesty Approach to Alcohol Poisoning at a U.S. University | <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/cms/pdf/aod/upload/Safety1stcornellMedamnesty.pdf>

⁶ Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice | https://learn.uvm.edu/wordpress_3_4b/wp-content/uploads/Impact-of-Online-Ed-Video-and-Med-Am-Pol.pdf

- Urges the inclusion of a medical amnesty policy at the next review of the Truman State University Student Conduct Code.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to the Board of Governors; University President, Troy Paino; Vice President of Academic Affairs, Susan Thomas; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Director of Student Health Center and University Counseling Services, Brenda Higgins; Director of Department of Public Safety, Sara Holzmeier; Director of the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards, Michelle Horvath; Director of Student Support Services, Michelle Blakely; Chair of the Health and Exercise Science Department, Roberta Donahue; Chairman of the Board of the Northeast Regional Medical Center; the Kirksville Police Department; Missouri Representative, Steve Lynch; Missouri Representative, Nate Walker; and the Truman Media Network.

Passed on November 16, 2015



Molly Ann Turner

President of the Student Association