

**The 2015-2016 term of the Student Affairs Committee End of the Year Report to the  
Student Government Body  
Composed by the Chair: Jeremy "JJ" Dorrell**

This academic year has been a successful year for the Student Affairs committee in advocating for the student body's voice in activities and resolutions. Events and important activities put on by this year's committee include the fourth annual, and the best, Student Appreciation Weekend, as well as awarding the Shining Star Award. Goals for this year's committee consisted of promoting awareness of Student Government within the Student Body at large through organizing an extremely successful Student Appreciation Weekend, as well as working to address student concerns in general. Before offering recommendations to the body and for the next Student Affairs committee, I would like to thank the members of my committee: Keaton Leppanen, Houston Roberts, Matthew Cooper, Jesus Dias, Chester Pelsang IV, and Henrio Thelemaque. These members' dedication to this committee is a large reason why it was such a successful year. I like to refer to them as THE DREAM TEAM III!

Below are recommendations that we as a committee would like to pass on to the Student Government body as a whole and also to the future Student Affairs committee.

**Committee Recommendations to Student Senate body:**

- Throughout this semester, the Communication Director provided invaluable assistance to the Student Affairs committee, as well as Student Government as a whole, in disseminating information and updates to the Student Body regarding our events as well as aiding in our goal of increasing overall awareness of Student Government and the services we provide. This included the implementation of a new SAW banner, which should be used to promote SAW and Student Senate as much as possible during that time.
- The Student Affairs committee personally contacts and maintains a direct line of communication with the student body. Given this role, we advise Student Senate to utilize the committee as a public relations element to publicize the body and consult students on recent resolutions.
- The Student Affairs committee received only one student applicant and no faculty applicants for the Shining Star Award, at these current levels of participation this award is unsustainable. However, if participation and interest increase for this award, we view it as a rewarding way to give back to the Student Body at large as well as promote awareness for Student Government.
- Similar to the last point, it is important for all members of Student Senate to know that every member has the privilege of creating resolutions. It is the belief of this for the Senate that all members (not just chairs) should take on the responsibility of bettering Truman's campus, and that begins by effectively communicating members' abilities to them. It is the contention of this committee that future committees head the charge for more legislation and productivity.

- In order to more effectively recognize student opinions regarding student government resolutions, this committee recommends increased polling and face to face interactions with students.

**Committee Recommendations to the Future Student Affairs Committee:**

- The most important piece of advice that can be passed to the next committee is that communication is key. Be sure that any mode of communication chosen is one that everyone is aware of and will receive instant updates whenever a message is sent out (i.e. a group text).
- As a committee make sure to set realistic, attainable goals. Don't expect to change Truman in one day. Rome wasn't built in a day.
- Make sure to plan enough in advance to effectively obtain a room for any event you want to put on.
- As committee chair, be understanding of the member's schedules. Meetings usually lasted about one hour. We felt like it was necessary to meet longer in the days leading up to Student Appreciation Weekend.
- In regards to the Shining Star Award, if the award is continued, we would recommend heavily focusing on advertising, through all outlets available, the reason being the extremely low participation rates this and previous years.
- An idea for future attention: This year, we attempted to address updating the roommate matching system to be more efficient and accurate. Specifically, we talked to John Gardner and explored possible alternatives. This issue is now before the Board of Governors and it will be paramount for the Student Affairs committee to take a leadership role in this process and ensure that this issue is addressed and a solution which benefits the Student Body is arrived at.
- In regards to events you are charged to accomplish, Student Appreciation Weekend is the biggest. In years past, the Student Appreciation event was a full week long. This year, we continued previous years' suggestions to only do a weekend of events; we found this to be optimal. Below are our recommendations for Student Appreciation Weekend:

Ø The most popular events found for this week were free pizza, free kettle corn on the Quad, free hotdogs, and giveaways.

Ø Continuing to partner with Big Event by giving away free hot dogs, in order to further promote the Student Senate and SAW

Ø We purchased 64 pizzas from Sodexo and gave up to two pieces per student. The event lasted around an hour due to the amount of pizza we purchased and the demand. Due to the amount of pizza purchased we received the pizza in two rounds due to Sodexo's capacity to prepare it, because of this there was an awkward down time between rounds in which we lost some interest and participants. In light of this, we recommend that the pizza be ordered to arrive

at least 15 minutes before the event starts as to aid in the bridging of the gaps between rounds. We also recommend not placing an end time on this event, as the pizza runs out very quickly.

∅ We utilized posters and web outreach to publicize this event. Facebook posters were found to be very effective in this year's SAW. We did not, but we strongly recommend the printing of table tents. If the committee hopes to print table tents, provide a sufficient amount of time prior to your reservation date. The availability of table tent set-up is limited close to the date in question. When creating advertisements for SAW, include the specific dates and times of the individual events.

∅ For the Friday event the committee partnered with Fireside Friday donating 100 dollars for additional food for the event. We gave away a lot of our prizes at this event and saved some for Saturday.

∅ In regards to prizes, we purchased an iPad Mini II, Apple Watch, Cards Against Humanity, Keurig, BB-8 Remote Controlled Droid, LED mood light, wireless speaker, GoPro, Amazon Fire TV stick, mugs, and three 50 dollar University Bookstore Gift Cards donated by Laura Bates. These prizes went over well with the students, and we recommend similar ventures for next year.

∅ This year's cost of Student Appreciation Weekend exceeded the 2000 dollar committee spending limit and a resolution permitting these expenses was required to be passed by the body as a whole. If this limit is exceeded in the future, be aware that this resolution is required and is brought to the body in a timely fashion before SAW takes place.

∅ The contact established in Sodexo for the pizza buffet is William Wilbur. The contact for Sweet Expressions (kettle corn) is the owner, Sarah M., and can be reached at their main line: (660) 665-3224. We paid her 500 dollars.

- Finally, this committee suggests you allot funds to do random small food/drink giveaways on the quad.

The 2015-2016 Student Affairs committee of Student Government is very proud of their accomplishments this year!

Ask not what Student Affairs can do for you, but what you can do for Student Affairs!