

Student Government Resolution xxx
A Resolution Encouraging Faculty Senate to Postpone Voting on Curriculum Changes
Sponsored by Kyra Cooper, Student Government President; Sarah Holtmeyer, Student
Government Vice-President; Deanna Schmidt, Academic Affairs Committee Chair; Joe
Slama, Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee Chair; Lauren Hogan, Voting Senator

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
- Every undergraduate student at Truman engages in a broad scope of inquiry through the Liberal Studies Program, the foundation of Truman’s well-rounded education¹; and
- In June 2016, Missouri State Governor Jay Nixon signed Senate Bill 997, including the Missouri Higher Education Core Curriculum Transfer Act, to establish a common course numbering system and a standard core curriculum comprising at least 42 semester credit hours²; and
- Senate Bill 997 mandates that “Each community college and public four-year institution must adopt a core curriculum of no less than 42 credit hours. Such curriculum must include specific courses and be based on the core curriculum recommended by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education”³; and
- The Coordinating Board for Higher Education was charged to work with the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee beginning in 2016 to develop the following: (1) “Develop a recommended lower division core curriculum of forty-two semester credit hours, including a statement of the content, component areas, and objectives of the core curriculum”; (2) “Develop a common course numbering equivalency matrix for the forty-two credit hour block at all institutions of higher education in the state to facilitate the transfer of those courses among institutions of higher education by promoting consistency in course designation and course identification. Each community college and four-year institution of higher education shall include in its course listings the applicable course numbers from the common course numbering equivalency matrix approved by the coordinating board under this subsection”; (3) “Develop criteria to evaluate the transfer practices of each public institution of higher education in this state and evaluate the transfer practices of each institution based on this criteria”⁴; and

¹ <http://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/requirements-at-a-glance/>

² http://www.senate.mo.gov/16info/BTS_Web/Bill.aspx?SessionType=R&BillID=26334489

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⁴ <http://dhe.mo.gov/documents/CommonCurriculumTimeline.pdf>

- In 2015, Action Team 1 and Blueprint Team 1 made recommendations to improve student learning and institutional distinctiveness through changes to the Liberal Studies Program⁵ ⁶; and
- In 2016, Next Step Team 6 developed recommendations for curriculum revision and ultimately presented a bill to significantly revise the Liberal Studies Program to Undergraduate Council in November⁷; and
- In Spring 2017, Undergraduate Council passed a revised version of the Liberal Studies Program bill⁸; and
- In May 2017, SB 5516 (Bill to Revise the Liberal Studies Program) was brought to the floor as a discussion item at Faculty Senate; and
- Faculty Senate ultimately decided to postpone further discussion on the proposed bill and form a committee to review proposed bill⁹; and
- Senate Bill 5516 Review Committee was formed and convened during Summer 2017 to review the bill¹⁰; and
- A limited number of students had the opportunity to be involved in these processes over several years as changes to the Liberal Studies Program were being proposed; and
- Student Government has actively pursued information concerning the proposed legislation and university curriculum changes by attending faculty workshops and discussions, as well as inviting multiple faculty speakers to Student Government general body meetings to discuss various curriculum proposals; and
- Although current students' academic plans will not be directly affected by the proposed curriculum changes, the current student body best represents the interests of future students who will be impacted; and
- Current students are interested in participating in discussions concerning potential changes to the Liberal Studies Program that distinguishes Truman from other Missouri public institutions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Requests that Faculty Senate continue to postpone any voting that concerns changes to the Liberal Studies Program, apart from core curriculum elements necessary for compliance to Senate Bill 997 (after the extent of its implementation has been determined), until the student body has been invited to learn more about the proposed changes and provide feedback; and

⁵ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/actionteams/files/2015/08/Action-Team-1-Final-Report.pdf>

⁶ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/blueprint-teams/final-reports/team-1-final-report/>

⁷ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/ugc/files/2015/06/Bill-to-Revise-the-LSP-2016-Final.pdf>

⁸ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/ugc/files/2015/06/Bill-to-Revise-the-LSP-2016-with-amendments-Mar-2017.pdf>

⁹ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/strategicplan/files/2017/07/LSP-Review-Committee-Report.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/provost/files/2015/01/Motion-to-Postpone-Discussion-of-SB-5516-Bill-to-Revise-the-LSP-3.pdf>

- Will work with the faculty to coordinate student forums that will take place prior to the end of the Fall 2017 semester in order to receive student feedback on the proposed curriculum changes; and
- Will encourage other alternative means, including campus-wide surveys, to increase student feedback; and
- Will work with the faculty to utilize student feedback accordingly in any proposed changes to curriculum.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Janet Gooch; Executive Secretary to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, DeeDee Moore; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Faculty Senate Executive Committee; each current member of the Truman State University Faculty Senate, with specific attention to Dr. Bridget Thomas, Dr. Jay Bulen, Dr. Candy Young, and Dr. Debra Cartwright; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.