

Student Government Resolution xxx
A Resolution Recommending That All Faculty and Staff Undergo Suicide Prevention Training

Sponsored by Joe Slama, Health Wellness and Safety Committee Chair; Elisabeth Blotevogel, Rebekah Smith, and Caroline Costello, Health Wellness and Safety Committee Members

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
- In July 2017, Missouri Governor Eric Greitens signed Senate Bill 52 to require Missouri institutions of higher education to “advise students, faculty, and staff... of the proper procedures for identifying and addressing the needs of students exhibiting suicidal tendencies or behavior, and shall provide for training, where appropriate”;¹ and
- In 2017, 14.7% of Truman students reported having seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months, compared to 10.3% of college students nationally;² and
- This previous figure for the Truman community is more than double the rate among Truman students in 2013, when 7.2% reported having seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months;³ and
- In 2017, 2.0% of Truman students (approximately 120 members of the student body) reported having attempted suicide in the previous 12 months, compared to 1.5% nationally;⁴ and
- Suicide has become a prevalent topic of discussion within the Truman community; and
- In the 2016-17 academic year, the Truman community experienced the deaths of three students by suicide; and
- University Counseling Services (UCS) is equipped to provide both online and in-person suicide prevention training sessions, known as “QPR Training” and “Ask Listen Refer” respectively, to all members of the university community, along with mental health first aid and other training programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the recently implemented policy to train all incoming students in suicide prevention via the online Ask Listen Refer program; and
- Supports current policies for the training of Student Advisors and other student Residence Life staff in mental health and suicide prevention; and

¹ <http://www.senate.mo.gov/17info/pdf-bill/tat/SB52.pdf>

² National College Health Assessment, from the American College Health Association, courtesy of University Counseling Services

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

- Recommends that in-person QPR Training be included as mandatory programming in all future new faculty/staff orientations; and
- Recommends that UCS offer face-to-face suicide prevention training sessions for faculty, staff, and students a minimum of two times per semester; and
- Recommends that all current faculty and staff be required to complete the online Ask Listen Refer programming and submit documentation of completion to their supervisor by the end of the first week of the Spring 2018 semester (January 20, 2018); and
- Recommends that all faculty and staff be required to renew their training every two years by completion of the online Ask Listen Refer training or one of the other mental health training programs offered by UCS and thereafter submit documentation to their supervisor.

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; Vice President of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Executive Director of Human Resources, Sally Herleth; Director of Academic Professional Development, Dana Vazzana; Staff Council Chair, Ryan Miller; University Counseling Services, with specific attention to Director Brenda Higgins and Assistant Director Joe Hamilton; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.