



Student Government Resolution 117.013

A Resolution Encouraging Higher Budgetary Appropriations for Higher Education from the Missouri State Legislature

Sponsored by Kyra Cooper, Student Government President and Sarah Holtmeyer, Student Government Vice President

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
- Higher education plays a vital role in society as a cornerstone for economic development; and
- In 1985, the Missouri legislature designated Truman State University as Missouri’s only statewide public liberal arts and science university;¹ and
- Within the state of Missouri, Truman State University continues to provide a high-quality public education at an affordable price; and
- Truman State University’s reputation as a public liberal arts school has received numerous national accolades for the quality of education and strong value that it provides; and
- In the U.S. News & World Report’s Best College rankings, Truman State University has consistently maintained its listing as the No. 1 public university in the Midwest region for the last 21 years;² and
- Truman State University is the highest rated Missouri public school to be included in the 2018 Best College Values ranking conducted by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance;³ and
- Truman State University is one of only 20 public colleges profiled as a best buy in “Fiske Guide to Colleges 2018”;⁴ and
- Truman was rated as the No. 1 value in the nation among public colleges and universities in Consumers Digest;⁵ and
- Truman State University has produced over 29,000 alumni who live and work in the state of Missouri and continue to support economic sustainability; and
- Higher education, and liberal arts education in particular, is vital in meeting the demands of the 21st century; and

¹ <http://www.truman.edu/about/history/>

² <http://newsletter.truman.edu/article.asp?id=17613>

³ <http://www.truman.edu/truman-leads-missouri-public-schools-best-value-rankings/>

⁴ <http://newsletter.truman.edu/article.asp?id=17430>

⁵ <http://newsletter.truman.edu/article.asp?id=11165>

- In FY 2017, Truman State University sustained an 8% mid-year budget withholding from the state of Missouri, resulting in staff positions left vacant, delayed equipment purchases, reduced building repair budgets, and deferred maintenance on HVAC;⁶ and
- In order to compensate for this unforeseen budget withholding, a mandatory \$50 surcharge became necessary for all students during the Spring 2017 semester;⁷ and
- In FY 2018, a 9% cut in core state appropriations resulted in a tuition increase of 2.1% for Missouri residents and 3.3% for non-residents, the elimination of 15 faculty and staff positions, and reduced budgets for operation and maintenance, library operations and holdings, equipment, and academic innovation and operations;⁸ and
- While many public universities in the state of Missouri are implementing efficiency strategies, Truman State University has already been utilizing such strategies; and
- As 78% of state appropriations go to personnel, Truman State University cannot sustain another large cut to funding without losing vital personnel;⁹ and
- For FY 2019, the Governor's recommended funding for higher education results in a 17.73% cut to Truman State University's appropriations, with the option to earn back 10% if Truman State University successfully meets six performance goals;¹⁰ and
- Truman State University is projected to meet the six performance goals to earn back 10% of the funding cuts; and
- The resulting total cut of 7.73%¹¹ is still damaging to the operation of Truman State University.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Emphasizes that Truman State University serves a vital role within the state of Missouri by shaping students to evaluate complex issues and instilling valuable skills for successful employment; and
- Recognizes and respects that the state of Missouri must make difficult decisions in regards to budgetary appropriations; and
- Expresses disappointment that the suggested budget cuts continue to decrease funding to statewide higher education to such a significant degree; and
- Urges the Missouri legislature to understand the dire impact of existing and future cuts to institutions of higher education, such as Truman State University; and
- Encourages the Missouri legislature to restore the funding of core appropriations for higher education.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

⁶ <http://institutionalresearch-budgets.truman.edu/files/2015/05/Operating-Budget.pdf>

⁷ http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/notes-from-campus/truman-state-adds-mandatory-fee-to-cover-budget-withholds/article_d06e7eb0-8782-56b7-a518-3d80908f937c.html

⁸ <http://institutionalresearch-budgets.truman.edu/files/2015/05/Operating-Budget.pdf>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/state-of-the-university-addresses-budget-cuts/>

¹¹ <http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/state-of-the-university-addresses-budget-cuts/>

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to Missouri State Governor Eric Greitens; Missouri State Senator Brian Munzlinger; Missouri State Representative Nate Walker; Missouri State Representative Craig Redmon; Truman State University Board of Governors; President Susan Thomas; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Janet Gooch; Vice President of Student Affairs, Janna Stoskopf; Truman Director of Public Relations, Heidi Templeton; COPHE Executive Director, Paul Wagner; Truman Governmental Liaisons, Mike Gibbons and Tricia Workman; Kirksville Daily Express; Truman Media Network; University Archives.

Passed by Unanimous Consent on 3/4/2018

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kyra Cooper". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page.

President of the Student Association, Kyra Cooper