



Student Government Resolution 117.0022

A Resolution Opposing Department Budget Cuts to Student Media and Disproportionate Budget Cuts to the *Index*

Sponsored by Kyra Cooper, Student Government President; Joe Slama, Health Wellness and Safety Committee Chair and Voting Senator; and Emily Davenport, PR Director

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
- Quality student media are crucial both to vocational training and to the liberal arts experience; and
- Learning to engage with news media and salient current events promotes active democratic engagement; and
- The Communication Department's website¹ states that the "communication curriculum integrates theory and practice" and "Truman State University's journalism community is committed to news reporting and production practices in the emergent and dynamic environment of cross-platform media;" and
- In the contemporary technological and socio-political environment, developing quality journalists is particularly essential; and
- Students, faculty, administration, multiple organizations, (including but not limited to the Student Government, Student Ambassadors, and Faculty Senate), and the surrounding community rely on weekly print distribution of the Truman Media Network's materials for up-to-date information on campus events and news; and
- The Truman Media Network distributes around 1,000 copies of the *Index* around campus every week and around 700 throughout the local Kirksville community, all of which are nearly always taken from the stands by distribution the following week; and
- By comparison, the online *Detours* magazine maintains a reach of around 1,300 per year, showing the effects of digitization on readership; and
- The Truman Media Network's value is attested by its readers not only around the Kirksville community but also in the State Capitol; and
- The Truman Media Network has won a number of awards, including Best in State for College Newspapers in 2015;² and

¹ <http://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/academic-departments/about-the-communication-department/>

² <http://tmn.truman.edu/awards/>

- Print remains a vital means of communication, particularly in rural communities; and
- Previous decisions to distribute the *Index* less than every week have hurt the paper's ability to aptly and timely cover relevant stories; and
- The Communications special course fee assessed to students exists to fund student media; and
- The Communications Department has proposed severe budget cuts to the Truman Media Network, in particular the weekly *Index*, totalling thousands of dollars, which would constitute a significant detriment to continuing their current operations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the work of the Truman Media Network, in particular the *Index*; and
- Recognizes the importance of quality campus media both for the sake of the University's day-to-day functioning and its liberal arts mission; and
- In particular, recognizes the importance of a weekly print newspaper covering campus issues, both for campus and for the local and wider community; and
- In agreement with the statements on the Communications Department's website, recognizes the importance of "cross-platform media,"³ including print and online formats, neither to the exclusion of the other; and
- Opposes disproportionate budget cuts to the Truman Media Network which would impede the weekly print publication of the *Index* during the course of the academic year; and
- Urges the Communications Department and the Truman Media Network to maintain their current standards of excellence.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Missouri State Representative Nate Walker; Truman State University Board of Governors; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Janet Gooch; Vice President of Student Affairs, Janna Stoskopf; Communication Department Chair, Dr. Jay Self; *Index* Adviser, Dr. Don Krause; Detours Adviser, Dr. Marilyn Yaquinto; KTRM Adviser, Dr. Mark Smith; TMN TV Adviser, Dr. David Price; Editor-in-Chief of the *Index*, Brently Snead; the Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by a Vote of 7-3-1, 4/8/2018



President of the Student Association, Kyra Cooper

³ <http://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/academic-departments/about-the-communication-department/>.