

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
GENERAL MEETING  
February 17, 2013**

**I. Preliminary Items**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Approval of minutes
- c. Changes to the Agenda
- d. Gallery Introductions/Business
  - i. Paige- Index
  - ii. Michael Baharaeen
  - iii. GNH- 10 members
  - iv. Dean Gilchrist
  - v. Dr. Paino- our lovely President
  - vi. John Gardner- Director of ResLife
- e. Membership Appointments/Resignations
- f. Oath of Office
- g. Speaker's Item
  - i. Polwort- presented ceremonial gavel to Nely for his beautiful service, and the blood sweat and tears he gave to the body



**ii.**  
**II. New Business**

- a. Gender-Neutral Housing Resolution (Van Genderen) [First Read]
  - i. Brandon Eichner: President of Prism, and has lots of exposure to our community. Had just come out before coming to Truman, and had an awkward experience with his roommate, who he didn't know. When living with friends who were also males, there was often awkward moments when he had his boyfriend over. He felt uncomfortable knowing that his roommates were uncomfortable with his presence. He felt his roommates were uncomfortable with sharing a roommate with a gay male. Coming to terms with your sexuality is an often scary and sensitive, and having to deal with it
  - ii. Monica Nelson: randomly assigned a female roommate. had concerns because of the hall's communal bathrooms. felt judged every time she used the bathrooms. gender nonconformist- has many "more masculine" standards. Had to move off campus because of the current

housing policy. Some people don't have the option to move off campus because of the financial aspect

- iii. Stephanie Dummerth: straight, but uncomfortable sitting back and watching students/friends placed in uncomfortable living situations. While her living situation has been lucky, she doesn't think that these situations should be allowed to happen if we have steps we can go through to avoid it
- iv. Lucas Jewell: transgender living in a girls dorm. referred to with female pronouns. doesn't make him happy or feel safe. presumptions about what he should be based only on who he happens to be living with
- v. Noah Edwards: lost a roommate because roommate didn't feel comfortable living with someone who was gay. Moved off campus to live with a female friend and to avoid on campus situation. May not have automatically picked on-campus GNH, but
- vi. Sherri Palmer: visited with a prospective family this past Thursday with a lesbian daughter. The parents noted that their view of Truman would absolutely be at the top of their list if the school even *offered* GNH, even if their daughter didn't take the option. They felt that a school that supported GNH was a better fit than a school that didn't.
- vii. Missi Stone: has lived off campus for 2 years with a male roommate. GNH would have been a nice option, because she is also physically handicapped.
- viii. Van Genderen: we live in a community that is heteronormative, which ignores the varied sexual orientations that actually exist.
- ix. Malin: the reasons we heard from the students are exactly why we need to adopt this resolution- our campus needs to be open
  1. competitiveness is definitely a factor- in a state where this option is being offered at more and more universities
- x. Gott: completely supports the resolution—we can do a lot of good for the students. Worried about the legitimacy of the passage of the resolution. The petitions were sent out because of an executive order, and doesn't allow for negative feedback. May want to open up a forum to allow people to discuss all views, either before passage, or after for people to have their questions
- xi. Poole: fielded some questions/concerns, mainly dealing with bathrooms
- xii. John Gardner: how do you feel about GNH, and could it be implemented?
  1. Had communal bathrooms in college
  2. Potential for a way to roll out this program on campus while meeting the needs and answering the questions, including starting with a limited options in the apartments, and allow people who don't agree with it can still have excellent housing options
  3. BUT there needs to be a lot of education about the policy

- 4. A lot of concerns are about misunderstandings of what the system would like
  - 5. Want to make sure that all the pros and cons are understood
- xiii. Brandon E: promiscuity- having GNH make it easier to be promiscuous, people coming to college know that they are over 18, have no parental guidance. If people are going to have sex, they will have sex. Having GNH isn't a means to an end. As an option, there would be no problems because no one would be forced to participate. Having the option only in the apartments, it may feel like they are being pushed away.
- xiv. Dean Gilchrist: has this issue come up before, and what were challenges faced?
  - 1. Only dealt with it on a case by case basis for students with a variety of issues that would require different living situations
- xv. Schuchardt: decent idea, but before trying to flip the system. has there been an attempt to change the rooming request forms?
  - 1. Zach- providing an "LGBT friendly" box?
- xvi. Palmer: students that are not out/scared to be out would ALSO benefit from this policy. These students will not come speak at a meeting like this. She has tons of students who have come to her and have expressed that they are afraid to be out, because of living situations. it would help them feel less socially/emotionally isolated. Gender identity—there are lots of students in between being straight and transgender, who don't have a voice either.
- xvii. Nely: from an institutional standpoint, whenever you do anything major/policy changes, there are boat rocking. you have to choose what situations you want to shake things up, so you don't make the wrong people angry. It seems we've gone about this in a good way. Let's shake things up now! Lived in a 3 person room, and his 2 roommates hated each other. One was a closeted gay man. He imagines from his perspective, it must have been the worst living situation for his (then closeted) gay man. Where do we draw the line? We don't have to deal with these specifics—it will be the administration working out the fine lines. Supports the idea of a forum. Because of the sensitivity of the subject and the impact it can have on people's lives, this is a very important topic to get moving on. Using the apartments first allows it to be presented without it being a big scary changeover in the dorms. Cautious about changing the reslife roommate survey questions, because you may wind up with someone who has the opposite feelings that you do simply because of the process of roommate selection. Most compelling argument is the suicide rate statistic—we don't want to make it seem like our current situation is horrible and needs to change at this exact moment.
- xviii. Overfelt: what kinds of conversations would happen over the technicalities

1. John Gardner: large cultural changes, you want to start in a limited way and show success in order to expand it and make it larger
  2. After showing that it is successful and doesn't provide more problems, then you move on and expand it to more locations
  3. Long time from having first year students involved
- xix.** Gott: while we aren't responsible for the technicalities of the programs we support. We should be aware of problems—how do we distinguish between a transgender student and a girl who wants to live with her boyfriend. Great resolution- it's not the University's job to judge someone based on their living preferences
- xx.** Michael Baharaeen: have you seen how other schools have dealt with issues we are bringing up?
1. Problems presented: sure, there were issues with couples/relationships. but ResLife has plenty of other issues to deal with. And schools view on students living with their gf/bf, then they're 18 and they get to make that choice.
- xxi.** Dr. Paino: this could help the LGBT community, but there is NO gay/straight test- it would be open for everyone
- xxii.** Malin: moved off campus after one year to live with a female roommate. he's not part of the gay community.
1. repeated research on promiscuity: every study comes back to say that GNH doesn't lead students to be more promiscuous
  2. looks forward to hosting a forum
  3. will send out an all student body email to explain what it would look at
  4. HAVE to change word choice: it's an OPTION (gender neutral housing OPTION) in order to help answer problems
  5. Implementation: follow the footsteps of different schools who have already done this, who haven't seen the problems that have been brought up
  6. Against a survey, because it was close to a situation where the majority voting on minority rights
- xxiii.** Brandon: huge closeted population here—people who do not feel safe with where they are. also freshman shouldn't be excluded from this option, because they are just out of high school and are looking forward to the freedom of college. would be willing to help with the implementation process.
- xxiv.** Smith: this is an option for everyone. It's a way for the university to say- you are an adult, and it's not our choice to tell you who to live with
- xxv.** Simek: agrees with Kelsey 100% (YEAH MAN) Earlier this semester, he gave a tour to someone who he mentioned to they were working on a GNH option, and they became much more excited about Truman State University

- xxvi.** Ray: this is something that is “right” to do—Truman is a university that is prided to being open to diversity. has run into a lot of things he never saw in his home town. Has enjoyed all the views that he has come into, and thinks this is the right thing to do
- xxvii.** Polwort: Line 20 may be seen as too strong of language
- xxviii.** Dr. Paino: BOG doesn’t need to approve these policy decisions, but he would definitely let the BOG know
- xxix.** Nely: lives in the apartments right next to Ryle. Never feels excluded, and feels very much a part of ResLife community on campus. Change comes more slowly than we would like. don’t feel discouraged if it doesn’t come out the way you’d like. Applauds Laura’s use of other schools, because it’s such a touchy issue. Right now the resolution mainly focuses on LGBT students
- xxx.** Sherri Palmer: NEMO PFLAG—strongly urges the inclusion of freshman because she deals with parents calling her who are at a breaking point. “It gets better” but it doesn’t get better at college? They need this more than anyone else. People will NEVER pretend to be transgender for ANYTHING. The way to know if someone is transgender is if they say “I’m transgender”
- xxxi.** Dean Gilchrist: complaint system in place for ResLife, support for a forum: hear both sides passionately
- xxxii.** John Gardner: actually changing the policy would bring more people to a forum
- xxxiii.** (there was some discussion in the gallery but the Coffeehouse was so loud that I honestly have no idea what was said)
- xxxiv.** Smith: people are living with this 24/7. you really think we can’t sit down and fix this right now? 20 minutes?
- xxxv.** Gott: concern on Line 20 that’s demonizing to the current administration. Polwort addressed Dr. Paino’s concern to be more inclusive, and our current resolution only discusses LGBT rights
  - 1.** Point of Information: there are 11 bullet points that do not discuss anything related to LGBT
- xxxvi.** Nely: we can make it better by next week
- xxxvii.** Phillip: a lot of work went into this. looks good right now, it would be reckless to do this now. even just one week.
- xxxviii.** Laura: there are 11 lines that have nothing to do with LGBT information, also already added an amendment to state that GNH helps
- xxxix.** Malin: you better come back with changes
  - xl.** Gott: what friendly amendments have occurred? (review of line 20—very demonizing) would the gallery be opposed if the resolution was tabled for a week?
    - 1.** Brandon: let’s do it now!
  - xli.** David: we normally take two weeks

- xlii. Polwort: 2 schools of thought: symbolism, let's make a statement vs. having the best resolution possible. Thinks that there will be changes to this resolution, put more faith in the body.
  - xliii. Schroeder: the rule is so that we don't pass things rashly- let's spend time to make this the best thing possible
  - xliv. **During this time, a motion was placed to suspend the standing rules and vote on the resolution tonight. After discussion, the motion was removed and the resolution has been considered first read**
- b. Student Appreciation Week Funding Resolution (Cooper) [First Read]
    - i. will help fund the variety of events going on during Student Appreciation Week
  - c. MM for Painting Supplies for \$65(Dobson) [Approved]
    - i. for recycling bins—lots of requests!!!

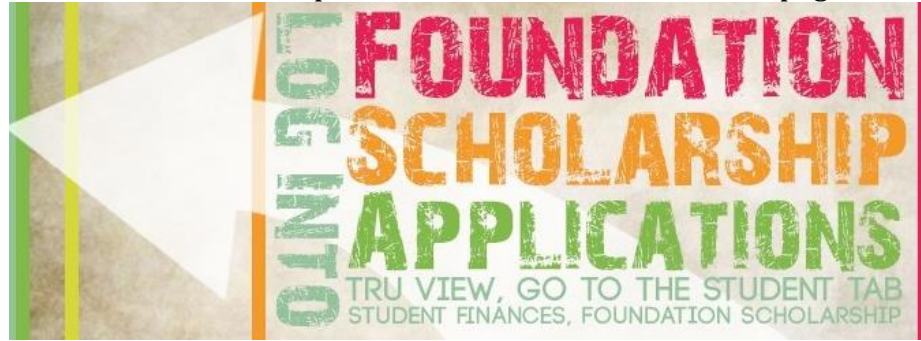
### III. Other Reports

- a. Dimonique Magruder
  - i. Athletic fee accountability committee met this week
  - ii. 2 projects came from Dr. Paino and Jerry Wollmering
  - iii. Add rubber to the turf in Stoke's stadium (helps with flooding) (\$20,000)
  - iv. irrigation/draining, redoing infields for baseball and softball fields, and new batting cages for baseball fields (\$200-300,000)
  - v. Polwort: for new members, we pay money every semester that goes for improvements of all kinds in the athletic department

### IV. Auxiliary Reports

- a. Speaker of the Student Senate
  - i. **As senators, you are committed to being here from 6-8. Unless there is an emergency you should be here for that full time**
- b. Student Representative to the Board of Governors
- c. Faculty Advisor
  - i. Nothing to report
- d. Staff Advisor
  - i. Tomorrow at 3pm budget meeting led by Dr. Paino in the Georgian Rooms
  - ii. Thursday is conference day- go to one session!!!!
  - iii. **YOU HAVE NO REASON NOT TO GIVE SUGGESTIONS TO LAURA BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO CLASS THURSDAY**

- iv. Foundation scholarships are available on the main homepage



- v. Career week is at the end of the month- go!
- e. Academic Affairs
  - i. Nominations end FRIDAY!
- f. External Affairs
  - i. no report
  - ii. Lot's of discussion on the intelligent design bill
  - iii. 28 person bus so get some people signed up to go!
- g. Environmental Affairs
- h. Student Affairs
  - i. Funding for student appreciation week!!
- i. Diversity Chair
  - i. If you have amendments to the resolution, let her know!!!
  - ii. committee meeting is Tuesday at 3:30
- j. Purple Friday
  - i. School record for SO MANY THINGS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
  - ii. Currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in swimming
  - iii. who is this man!?!?!?!?!? certainly makes me feel like I need to be doing something else with my life!
- k. Comm Director
  - i. Facebook is going great!
  - ii. special election posters should be out Monday!
- l. Webmaster
  - i. Word press is a blogging site—so announcements serve as posts, and the title doesn't actually take you anywhere.
  - ii. going to make a new homepage!
  - iii. make a new banner so it is not exactly the same
- m. Grants and Sponsorships
  - i. 4 applications
  - ii. email vote- revisions of email voting because it wasn't a smooth process
    1. if you do not call a veto, you are showing support
    2. lots of inconsistencies
    3. Nely: need priorities, and need to reorganize them, AND need to be less petty. 4 obligations: office hour, committee meetings, attend meetings, and read the standing rules and constitution. if you're voting without doing those, you are causing us a lot of

problems. OAF will be auditing student government that will analyze how they have done spending money. Currently, it doesn't seem like this group is working well with the \$2/student we currently receive

4. habitat for humanity [Confirmed]: spring break trip for 10-15 kids march 13-17 to Mobile, Alabama for \$1000
5. long awkward pause will Mike searches for information for information for his report
6. Phi Beta Lambda [Confirmed]: trip to Columbia \$625 to cover registration costs for business competition. have already received funding from FAC
7. Student Health Association[Confirmed]: 4 kids to NC for competition for \$400 for airline tickets
8. Get Fit Week: \$1000 [Confirmed]: \$555 for sunglasses to be handed out on the quad (student senate logo will be on the side) \$445 for fruit (experimented last year and were very successful so they want to expand it)
9. Bates: worst thing from OAF is NOT filing a report (way worse than not spending money) keep OAF as a reminder, not a threat. Looking to see if the student government spends money WISELY rather than just using the money. Need to use it in the right manner.

## **V. Executive Reports**

### **a. Treasurer**

- i. new FRF form: Senate.Truman.Edu/FRF
- ii. budget next week!

### **b. Secretary**

- i. No Report

### **c. VP of the Student Association**

### **d. President of the Student Association**

- i. ECO- read OAF. the language is threatening, they were very unhappy with Senate.
  1. people show true colors in emails—share comments in meetings and not just via emails
  2. saying that Eco's trip was a vacation was disingenuous and dangerous, as it is the student's money to spend it. we've been rolling over money for years
- ii. Executive order to include voting records, because we need to be transparent for people that we
- iii. It was cool to have students attend a meeting to share views meant a lot. fine with not pushing the vote through—if you want to make amendments DO IT.
- iv. it's going to be a nasty meeting next week if there are no amendments
- v. Thanks for dressing up two weeks in a row!