**Student Affairs Committee End of Year Report**

Submitted by Keaton Leppanen: 2016-2017 Committee Chair

**Members:**

Lucasana Barker (Voting Senator)

##### Adam Childers-Arnold (Voting Senator)

##### Jake Harris (Voting Senator)

**The Year in Review and Some General Notes**

*General Committee Notes*

This academic year has, overall, been a very successful one for the Student Affairs Committee. We sponsored three resolutions, which all passed, organized and hosted several campus-wide events, and headed-up multiple major projects. That being said, with regards to Student Senate, there is always room to improve and explore new territory. Contained in the following report you will find the details of everything this year’s committee has accomplished, as well as commentary and suggestions meant to benefit future Student Affairs Committee members and chairs. However, before continuing, I would like to thank the members of my committee this year. It is because of their passion and dedication that, despite being a smaller committee than normal, we were able to achieve so much.

**Projects**

*Commentary*

Student Affairs has never been, nor ever will be, a committee that has to look for projects and issues to pursue. Our range of topics is never-ending. That being said, it is not possible to actually pursue them all. It is the task of each year’s committee to select and prioritize projects that are the most beneficial to the Student Association and can be reasonably accomplished in the time and with the resources Senate can muster.

**Roommate Matching Program**

Status: Completed

Description: This project was initially embarked upon in the 2015-2016 school year and was my first personal, pet project as a Senator. Seeing that many students were unhappy with their roommate pairings, the Committee investigated ways to improve their living situation. The solution we arrived at was the refining/overhaul of the Roommate Matching Program, which had been created by a student Computer Science major quite some years ago. Specifically, we advocated for the implementation of an online roommate pairing program that would allow social media integration, more and more in depth questions, as well as the ability for students to communicate with prospective roommates and select their own roommate. Upon approaching the Director of Residence Life, John Gardner, concerning our proposed changes, we found him more than agreeable, in fact, he had already been exploring such programs himself. From there the committee encouraged him to pursue this avenue of thinking as well as provided input as to what characteristics of a program would be most beneficial to the students. Starting mid-way through the 2016-2017 school year Truman adopted the use of ‘StarRez,’ an online roommate matching program which incorporated all of the committee’s desired utilities, as its primary way to pair roommates.

**Improving Communication with the Residential Housing Association**

Status: Ongoing

Description: Over the past several years communication between Student Senate and RHA, the student legislative body of ResLife, had dropped off. As RHA and Student Senate, specifically Student Affairs, have a lot of shared overlap when it comes to the on-campus living and ResLife in general, this was quite counterproductive. Several times in the past we were working at cross purposes or duplicating work because of this lack of communication. In an attempt to remedy this, I exercised the Student Affairs Committee Chair’s power to appoint a Student Senate Representative to the RHA, a position that had previously been vacant for several years. Similarly, RHA sent a representative to Student Senate. Although this was a step in the right direction, communication is still lacking between the two of us. Thus, I encourage future committee chairs to continue my efforts, by appointing an RHA representative each year, as well as making a point to meet with the RHA President several times through the semester as well as consult and work with RHA on any projects or issues that we both have vested interests in.

**Installation of a Student Accessible Printer in Magruder Hall**

Status: Ongoing

Description: This project has received tremendous support from the Student Body. The original idea originated from a concerned student who came to a Senate meeting and proceeded to explain to use, over the course of 20 some minutes, why this printer was absolutely essential to the academic success of students with majors based out of Magruder. Taking up the cause Student Affairs proceeded to enter into talks with Dean Gooch, Interim Dean of Science and Mathematics, about placing one in Magruder. She was initially not in support of the idea and citing concerns concerning staffing, funding, and environmental impact. The next step we took was distributing a petition, which acquired over 500 student signatures, in support of the printer. Next, we passed a resolution expressing Student Senate’s support for the project. Armed with this documentation of student support we meet with Dean Gooch again, who took us more seriously and talked to Donna Liss, the Chief Information Officer here. Donna Liss reported that it is the norm for other colleges to have a student accessible printer in each academic building, Liss also has plans to restructure the way that printing at Truman is funded/handled in the upcoming year. What this means is that next year is the prime opportunity to fight for the installation of the Magruder Printer. Unfortunatly, we ran out of time this year to see this project completed. A lot of effort went into the printer this year and that I strongly believe this Committee needs to make a priority this coming year (see future project section).

**Opening of the Library’s ‘Pit’**

Status: Ongoing

Description: As you probably are aware, the Library’s ‘Pit’ has been closed to students since time in memorium. This year the Student Affairs Committee and the External Affairs Committee teamed up to try and open it. The ‘Pit’ is controlled both by the Library and the Physical Plant, so to do anything with it you must consult both of them. Multiple meetings were had with both entities and it came to light that the reason why the ‘Pit’ is closed because of the fact it has such poor drainage, when it rains it essentially becomes a swamp. Both entities are on board with doing something with the ‘Pit.’ As such, we are in the middle of pursuing to avenues: 1. Have the ‘Pit’ open during times when it is not in danger of being destroyed from rain (based on the Physical Plant’s disecression) 2: turing the ‘Pit’ into a Zen Garden, this would hopefully eliminate the problem of swamping, however the main concern with this is, of course, money, both from the initial renovation and from ongoing maintenance. This is an interesting and relevant project that I think would be a great jumping off point for next year’s Committee to tackle (see the future projects suggestions sections).

**Placement of a Suicide Prevention Hotline on Student I.D.’s**

Status: Completed

Description: This past year has been a tragic one for the Truman Community at large, we lost three of our members to suicide. As such, Student Senate, as well as many other organizations and the administration in general, have made Mental Health a priority. In order to aid in this effort to help mend our community and prevent further tragic events from occurring, this committee decided to take advantage of the fact that our student I.D.’s have ceased operating as debit cards, meaning that we now have more control over the material printed on them, as an opportunity to pursue having a suicide prevention hotline phone number placed on the back of all newly printed Student I.D.’s. Through multiple discussions with the Director of Residence Life, John Gardner, and the passing of a resolution, the University has agreed to print a national suicide prevention hotline number on all new student i.d.’s moving forward.

**Events**

*Commentary*

For most intents and purposes, the Student Affairs Committee is the ‘face’ of Student Senate. By this I mean that our committee, by its very nature, must interact with the Student Body a lot, and is often the most visible of the committees. As such, it is not only your job to portray Senate well in your interactions with the campus at large, but also, seek out ways to improve Senate’s relationship with other students and increase knowledge of and interest in what Student Senate does. Events are a great way of accomplishing this and serve as a great opportunity to collect suggestions/feedback from the Student Body, thus we do quite a few of them!

**Paino Proud**

Date: April 20th 2016

Location: SUB DU

Description: Although this event took place before my tenure as Committee Chair began, I am including it because it didn’t make it into last year’s Committee Report because it took place at the end of the year, nevertheless I believe it was a very successful, creative event from the Student Government perspective and deserves to be included in this report. Upon learning of the departure of Truman’s former President, Troy Paino, Student Senate was asked to participate in the ‘Paino Proud’ event, which served to not only commemorate Paino’s impact here at Truman, but also to raise funds for an Emergency Student Relief Fund in his name. Senator Elizabeth Condon and myself were charged with Senate’s involvement. We manufactured over 500 paino buttons and ‘flat Painos’, ordered 100 cupcakes from Sodexo, created a ‘Pin the Tail on the Paino’ game, and requisitioned Purple Friday’s Paino themed T-Shirts. All of which we distributed, to great success, at the event.

**Voter Registration Drive/Get Out the Vote Drive**

Date: September 21st-23rd and 28th-30th

Location: Magruder, McClain, and Quad

Description: This being a presidential election year, it was very important to our committee to make sure that Truman students’ voices were heard. We teamed up with the College Republicans, College Democrats, Students for a Democratic Society, and Young Americans for Liberty in holding a voter registration drive. Making sure to maintain neutrality, we created posters and hung them up around campus to not only advertise the registration drive, but also to emphasize the importance of voting in general. We also created and distributed information packets about how/when to go vote, and where to find information on candidates/issues. As for the drive itself, we printed out voter registration forms and from tables in both Magruder and McClain we helped students fill them out and collected them. Upon the ending of the drive we took the completed forms to the Courthouse for them to be processed. Over the course of the drive we registered over 300 students. Then, on the day of elections, we printed out Get the Vote Out fliers and passed them and candy out while providing directions to local polling places to students passing in the Quad. Later in the year, we also passed a resolution commemorating this event, as detailed in the Resolutions section.

**Sponsorship of Truman National Spirit Day**

Date: October 6th

Location: SUB HUB

Description: This was not an event that we put on, but Senate did contribute, and there is always the possibility of us playing a larger role in this event in the future, thus its inclusion in the report. Truman National Spirit Day is an event put on annually by the Office of Alumni Relations here at Truman in order to promote school spirit, not only on campus but across the country. It included several activities as well as a photo contest, and guest appearance from Spike himself. This year, due to us having a small body at the time, Senate merely helped to promote/sponsor the event, but ideally we would have had a table at it to distribute promotional materials, food, and information about Senate. If this is something that future committees would be interested in doing, I suggest contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at the beginning of the school year, as it does happen fairly early.

**Tabling at Homecoming Tailgate**

Date: October 22nd

Location: Centennial Hall Parking Lot

Description: If executed successfully this event can be a terrific opportunity, early enough in the year, for Senate to introduce and promote itself to the Student Body. I ordered a few hundred pairs of purple sunglasses with Senate’s name on them as promotional items for the event. At the event itself, the sunglasses, Senate’s recycling bins, and various other promotional materials were distributed. The Suggestion Box was also stationed there and names/emails were taken down of those people possibly interested in joining Senate.

**Shining Star Award**

Date: February 17th/April 12th

Location: N/A

Description: The Shining Star Award is part of the CSI’s Leadership Recognition Program, but the individual award is promoted and the winner (who receives $250) is selected by the Student Affairs Committee. This award has had a rocky history, last year it only received 1 nomination. This being the case, it is important to not become complacent and simply expect participation in this award. Thus, during my tenure as Chair I made it a point to actively promote the award and seek out individuals to nominate people. I printed out posters and hung them up around campus (a given), but I also placed fliers in all the CSI Organization mailboxes, contacted each of the schools’ secretaries to hang up a poster in their faculty areas/send out an email to professors to nominate students, had the President include it in an email to the entire Student Body, and also plugged it via social media and by word of mouth. These methods proved very successful, we received 13 quality nominations, not only a record for the Shining Star Award, but also on the high end for the amount of nominations for any award in the CSI LRP.

**Student Appreciation Week**

*Commentary*

Here it is, the most important and most stressful part of being a member of the Student Affairs Committee! Each year, the committee is bound by the Standing Rules of Student Senate to hold a ‘Student Appreciation Week’ event which lasts for a minimum of 3 days (although you should strive for more if possible). This is a very large undertaking and should be started well in advance of the dates you are planning on holding it, traditionally it has taken place in the later half the second semester, but can be held at anytime you wish. Below are the details of each individual event we put on as well as suggestions for improvements, if you so choose to replicate any of them.

**General Preparation and Advertising**

Description: Many individuals would argue that giving away free stuff doesn’t need a lot of advertising, the people will come on their own. They would be correct! However, it is important to note that when you are advertising for S.A.W. you are not only promoting the events, you are promoting Senate itself. This is one of the few opportunities that Senate really gets to be visible and interact with the whole of campus for an extended period of time. Therefore, it is important that you make sure that there is a clear connection drawn between the free stuff and Student Senate. This year we not only informed people that the events were Senate sponsored, but we also distributed information about upcoming Senate elections and took suggestions. This year’s advertising consisted of posters that I created, fliers which were handed out at each event, and social media posts/word of mouth. In the future, I hope this committee does a lot better in this regard!

*Suggestions:*Make sure that if you order posters from publications you give them at least a month, they take forever (this is one of the reasons why I made the posters this year), a quicker and cheaper alternative is to make the posters yourself and then use the color copier in the CSI Complex. Also, I would suggest that you pursue getting table tents for the dining halls, something that also takes a lot of time and forethought, the places are often reserved months in advance. The fliers worked extremely well and I would suggest that future committees continue them. In addition, we have a special banner for S.A.W. ,USE IT! Also, I HIGHLY suggest that you have music playing at any event you can, it really helps to attract people and adds to the atmosphere! Finally, I would suggest getting the President to include the events in an email to the whole Student Body.

**Popcorn Primer**

Date/Time: March 30th, 11:30-1:30

Location: SUB HUB (originally the Library ‘Pit’)

Description: To kick off this year’s S.A.W. we decided to hold a smaller event to break the ice and get people informed about the larger events coming up. The event was originally intended to take place in the library’s ‘pit’, but due to excessive amounts of rain we had to resort to moving the event inside, shout out to Laura Bates who was gracious enough to let us use the SUB HUB on such short notice! (let this be a lesson as well, always plan for a rain site!). The CSI was also gracious enough to allow us to use their popcorn machine. For the event itself we set up the popcorn machine at a table in the SUB HUB and proceeded to hand out free bags of popcorn, each with a flyer for the week’s upcoming events stapled to it, to any student who walked by. We also passed out scented bubbles, StuGov stickers, and stress bones (courtesy of the Health Wellness and Safety Committee).

*Suggestions:* I really liked this event and think that future committees should continue it or hold something like it. Improvements I suggest would be to hold it outside like we originally intended, in order to be more visible. If not the library pit, I would suggest the Quad or the SUB Courtyard.

**Kettle Corn on the Quad**

Date/Time: March 31st, 10:00-4:00

Location: McClain’s Mall (originally the Quad)

Description: This was our most popular event this year by far. We hired Sarah M., a member of the Kirksville community who has done this event for several years now. We contracted her for 6 hours of distributing as much kettle corn as possible in exchange for $500. She can be contacted at (660)-341-0926. Since this event involved a food vendor who is not Sodexo, we had to request a food waiver from Sodexo. Over the course of the event we distributed, to our best estimate, in excess of 2500 bags of kettle corn. In addition to the kettle corn we distributed StuGov sunglasses, stress bones, stickers, scented bubbles, and whiteboards.

*Suggestions:* This event has been a constant for the past several S.A.W.’s and I would strongly encourage future committees to continue it as it is by far the most visible and long running event of the week as well as a student favorite. I think it is also worth noting that Sarah mentioned that she has a cotton candy machine that could be used to much the same effect, if you are interested in changing things up a bit.

**BBQ Outside the SUB/Volunteering at the Big Event**

Date/Time: April 1st, 11:00-2:00

Location: SUB Courtyard

Description: In case you are not aware, each year the SERVE Center here at Truman hold the Big Event, an opportunity for students to give back to the Kirksville community through volunteering. A very significant portion of the Student Body attends this event, which makes it perfect as the site for a S.A.W. event! This year, members of the Student Affairs Committee actually volunteered in the setting up and running of the event the morning of, helping with registration, checkout, cleanup etc. After the volunteers had departed to their various worksites, we set up the grill(available through the CSI) and began cooking hotdogs. Upon returning from their worksites, we greeted volunteers, and any students who came/happened to walk by, by giving them free food, StuGov stickers, whiteboards, earbuds, cups, and stress bones until we ran out of hotdogs. On a logistical note, we ordered 300 frozen hotdogs (with buns and condiments) from Sodexo.

*Suggestions:* Again, we found this event to be very successful. As with anything major from Sodexo, make sure that you place your order at least 2 weeks in advance of the event! Also, I would encourage you purchase more hotdogs if you can afford them, as I said we ran out of hotdogs before people to feed!

**Free Pizza**

Date/Time: April 2nd, 5:00-6:00

Location: SUB HUB

Description: For the conclusion of S.A.W. we went all out by handing out free pizza in the SUB HUB! We set out four tables, three for pizza one for information and various giveaways in the archways and proceeded to hand out 2 pieces per person until we ran out. We also gave away the last of the stress bones, whiteboards, stickers, and cups! On a logistical note, we ordered 10 cheese, 15 sausage, and 15 pepperoni pizzas from Sodexo. These were all gone in under 45 minutes.

*Suggestions:*  This was a very successful event and I would suggest that future committees continue it. As with the hotdogs, be sure to order the pizzas at least two weeks in advance of the event. I would also suggest, budget allowing, for you to purchase more pizzas, again we ran out of free food before mouths to feed!

**Giveaway**

Description: At all the above mentioned events we accepted entries to the S.A.W. giveaway. Prizes included: an iPad mini, wireless speaker, Keurig, LED mood light, giant gummy bear, and a Cards Against Humanity Game. We printed out slips with spaces for participants’ names, email, and phone number. Only students were allowed to enter, and they could enter once per event. At the end of the week, the committee drew the winners, informing them via email and phone calls. As for distribution, the CSI facilitated this, Laura kept the prizes in her office and winners were sent to the CSI to claim their prizes. If not claimed within one week, we redrew the winners.

*Suggestions:* The most popular/interesting prizes were oddly enough the Keurig and the Giant gummy bear. Out of all of the events, I think that this event was the least successful as it was more of an add on then an event in and of itself. I would suggest cutting down the number of prizes to only one or two big ones and then using the rest of the money to finance another event. Again, make sure that you work with the Treasurer to order the prizes early, as they take time to ship. Also, shop around for the lowest prices you can find.

**Resolutions**

*Commentary*

Resolutions are important to document what you do, but they do not do anything themselves. They are tools to aid you in your projects, not projects themselves. As such, I would encourage you to only embark on passing a resolution when it is beneficial to a project you are working on, or you wish to document something that you have accomplished. You should find copies of these resolutions attached.

**Suicide Prevention Hotline Number**

Discussion: Initial discussions with ResLife concerning the placement of a suicide hotline on the back of I.D.’s were very successful, they appeared to be very in support of the project and willing to work with us. That being said, after a time, forward momentum seemed to cease and no progress on the project had really been made. In a response, we passed this resolution to bring new energy and a sense of urgency to the project. A move which was ultimately successful, as the project was completed.

**Magruder Printer**

Discussion: Similar to the suicide prevention hotline project, after initial discussions with the Dean in charge of Magruder did not progress anywhere, she was not in support of the installation of a printer, we tried to seek out ways to convince her otherwise. Thus, we assembled a petition and resolution to show the support of the Student Senate and the Student Body at large for the project.

**Voter Registration Drive**

Discussion: Since the Voter Registration Drive this year was so successful, this committee wanted to pass a resolution documenting the success, as well as to encourage the continued sponsorship of the event each year. Upon discussion it was decided that the more appropriate committee to sponsor the drive in the future was External Affairs. Nevertheless, I would encourage future Student Affairs committees to aid in the planning/execution of the drive if necessary!

**Future Project Suggestions**

*Commentary*

As mentioned previously, there is a plethora of projects for each SA committee to select from, here are some projects that I thought of or were suggested to us, but we did not get to tackle. I ask you to simply take them into consideration when charting the course for the future committee. And add any ideas you may have to this list for future committees and their chairs!

**Student Appreciation Days:** Student Appreciation Week is a terrific event for Senate to increase its visibility and better its perception with the Student Body. What could be better? In addition to the Week, having smaller, less extravagant, Student Appreciation Days throughout the entire year! Such as Hot chocolate and cookies during finals, lemonade and popsicles when it is hot, really anything which gets Senate in the eyes of students and allows us to interact with and receive suggestions from the body. Make sure to have the suggestion box, info pamphlets, and StuGov Banner at each event!

**Opening of the Library ‘Pit’:** As mentioned above, lots of the leg work for this project has already been completed. Talk to Kyra Cooper or Jake Harris to learn more about the actual discussions. I would suggest that you offer to pay for the renovation, pending the Body’s approval, but shy away from continual maintenance. If you are interested in pursuing this project meet with the head of the Physical Plant and the Dean of the Library.

**Installation of a Student Accessible Printer in Magruder Hall:** As previously mentioned, this is a project that has massive student support behind it. I would strongly recommend that you pursue this project. To do this I suggest you meet with Donna Liss, Truman’s CIO ASAP. She is planning on restructuring how printing works here at Truman, thus it is the perfect time to pursue this. I also suggest offering that Student Senate pays for the printer/initial supplies, if it helps expedite the process (if you do this, make sure that you place a Senate plaque on it!). However, I would be cautious about picking up the tab for ongoing maintenance, this is something that Dean Gooch tried to have us do, do not agree to this! Also, you may turn to Tri-Beta and AXE (the honor BIO and CHEM fraternities) for support, both vocal/token and possibly financial/manpower varieties.

**CSI LRP Awards:** Each year the CSI administers the Leadership Recognition Program, of which the Shining Star Award is a part, but there are also many other awards for individuals and organizations. I would strongly suggest that, in addition to running the Shining Star Award, that you nominate Student Senate for any applicable awards as well as any individuals on Senate. This would help to increase our visibility, reputation, and bolster our pride!

**Organizational Visits:** One of the primary shortcomings of the past several years has been a lack of Senate visibility and communication. Through the hosting of more events, such as Student Appreciation Days, we can hope to increase visibility, but an even more effective way to accomplish this is to personally visit organization meetings, particularly around election time. Simply inform them of what Senate does, how they can get involved, ask for any ideas they may have for improvements around campus, and bring up/consult them on issues or projects Senate is working on that may pertain to them. I did a trial run of this with only two organizations and found it VERY successful, the students I talked to were passionate about and interested in what I had to say and provided excellent feedback on several of Senate’s projects.

**Athletic Fee Educational Campaign:** Another issue that arose this year was that of the Athletic Fee. Through the OAF (Organizational Activity Fee Review Committee) audit and survey it became clear that many students are unaware of what the fee does as well as unhappy with it. In addition, the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee this year has moved the fee in a new direction, passing projects that are not considered traditional athletic improvements, thus the fee’s purpose and future are in the process of evolving. It is important that the students be aware of what their money is going to as well as have a voice in what the fee is to become. I suggest you have a forum/roundtable and/or survey to accomplish these goals, as well as work with the Chair of the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee as well as the Student Government Representative to the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee in formulating a plan for the future of the fee, making sure that the voice and opinion of the Student Body is heard.

**Suicide Hotline Prevention Number Stickers:** One of our most successful projects this year was that of getting a national suicide prevention hotline number to be placed on the back of student I.D.’s. That being said, the number will only be on newly printed student I.D.’s, short of reprinting all I.D.’s, which would be far to expensive and logistically horrendous to do, the best way to get the number on all I.D.’s, as I see it, is to distribute stickers, possible in conjunction with the Health Wellness and Safety Committee, with the number on them for students to place, not only on their I.D.’s, but also anywhere that might be most useful for them.

**Tri-fold/info pamphlets:** I apologize for bringing up publicity and communication again, but it is a very important aspect of this committee and there is much room to improve! During Senate elections and publicity events, such as the activities fair, I believe it would be very beneficial to create and use a trifold and info-pamphlets(or fliers) to help communicate what Senate does and how students can get involved.

**Textbook Pricing:** This was an issue brought up to us by a professor this past year. Essentially he believes, correctly so, that textbooks are vastly overpriced and was hoping that Senate could look into ways to ease the financial burden upon students. Our control over this is fairly limited, but it is still an issue worth exploring. In the past, Senate has held a textbook swamping event, trading textbooks between students. It is also a possibility that we advertise different textbook merchants and where/how to find the cheapest price. There was also talk previously about involving the library in this by having textbooks on hand, which could not leave the library, for students who can’t afford/don’t want to purchase them to use. Talking to professors/departments about choosing less expensive textbooks could also be an avenue to pursue.

**Umbrellas outside SUB:** This was an idea submitted by a student, who suggested that we explore the possibility of installing umbrellas on the tables outside the SUB so as they can be used on sunny days.

**Fountain:** Many students often complain about the fountain outside the SUB not running continually. This has been a topic for discussion for many years, and it is not likely that future committees can do much about it, but it was suggested again to my committee this year and might be something worth looking into.

**Notes and Suggestions for Future Committee Chairs**

*Commentary*

I had many questions when I first became chair, I am sure my successors do as well, this section is for you! It is a steep learning curve to become an effective chair, which is why I hope to arm you with some lessons that I have learned and suggestions for running this committee. Of course, feel free to reach out to me, even if I am no longer on the body, if you have any other questions, but while it is all fresh in my head here you go.

**Committee Moral:** One of Senate’s greatest enemies has always been apathy. The level of commitment of your committee will be one of the challenges you will face as a chair**.** Senate is a lot of hard work and it is easy for members to become disenfranchised. Which is why it is VERY important for you, as the chair, to keep spirits, energy, and productivity high. Get to know your committee members will, become friends as well as colleagues, possibly even hang out outside of Senate. All of these things will help your committee feel more united and passionate about the projects you are working on. You are all a part of Senate because you feel passionate about this university, make sure to remind them of that. A happy committee is a productive one!

**Grow your Committee Members:** As chair one of your jobs should be to watch out for the future of Senate, try and encourage members of your committee to pursue leadership positions and teach them how to be an effective member of Senate. Make sure that their voices are heard, give them projects to work on that they are passionate about, and encourage them to attend non-mandatory Senate functions such as ExComm and other committees’ events.

**Visibility:** As I have brought up numerous times throughout this report, something that Senate struggles with is visibility. As such, it is important that the Student Affairs Committee makes it a priority to really publicize Senate and connect with the Student Body. To accomplish this, I would strongly suggest you commit to the Student Appreciation Days and Organizational visits I propose in future projects. Just because students may not want to join Senate does not mean they are not passionate about this University and want to be informed about what is going on.

**Cooperation Between Committees:** Student Affairs is one of the most encompassing committees of Student Senate. As such, we often have projects which overlap with other committees’ areas of interest. If you come across one such project, do not view it as having to relinquish it to another committee which more directly relates to it, view it as an opportunity to collaborate! Similarly, don’t ignore or pass on a project that you are passionate about because it doesn’t fit squarely in Student Affairs. Your job is to make truman a better place, don’t let names and details get in the way of you doing so!

**Delegation:** I alluded to this already in the Committee Moral section, but I am bring it up again because I have found that the most effective way to run this committee is to delegate. As much as you may want to, you, as the chair, can’t do everything! That is why you have a committee! Find projects that each member is passionate about and make them the point person for it. It will help them became invested in Senate as well as help them learn how to be an effective member. However, I would caution you to not throw new members entirely into the deep end. Help guide them, answer questions, maybe even sit in with them on a few meetings before letting them go at it alone.

**Budget Increase:** For the past three years, Student Affairs has made money motions or have had extra money allocated during the semester budget revision. It is clear to me that this committee needs more money allocated to it. Especially if you take my suggestions of having Student Appreciation Days! I would strongly encourage you when the Treasurer contacts you about your budget at the beginning of the year to fight for an increase in the amount allocated in the past. Not all committees spend all their money and we have excess money to spare, so why not allocate it to a committee we know will use it instead?

**Look at Other Universities:** If you are ever at a lack for what to do, you need do nothing more than look at what other colleges are doing. Specifically, each of them have Student Senate website which documents what projects they are working on/improvements they have made. If you see something somewhere else that you think would be beneficial to Truman, make sure that you bring it back and work on implementing it here!

**Learning from the Past:** One of the most valuable lessons I learned being Chair, and the primary motivating factor for this excessively long and in depth report is that you can learn a lot from past years. Thus, I made it my pet project this year to read through all the historical Senate records in the office While doing so, I realized that many projects have been with Senate for years, sometimes decades. We often forget about progress we made in the past or, as is more common, we forget failings of projects or reasons why they didn’t/won’t work out. Thus, it is important that we learn from the past in order to be a more effective and productive body.

**Maintaining Records:** In addition to learning from the past, it is important that we make sure to document what we have done and preserve it for future Senates. This is what I am attempting to do with the End of the Year Report, as well as the Student Affairs Committee Binder in general. I hope that future committee chairs will continue my efforts and make it a point to pass along the lessons they have learned to future Student Affairs Chairs through the writing of End of the Year Reports that are actually helpful and meaningful as well as maintenance and addition to the Student Affairs Committee Binder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keaton Leppanen