**External Affairs Committee Report, 2017**

Kyra Cooper, Chair

Emily Davenport

Ali Hawach

**Holiday on Campus**

This year, External Affairs partnered with Campus Pals to put on Holiday on Campus. The event was held on December 10th from 1-3 (see flyer below). We contacted the president of their organization at the end of October and attended one of their meetings to explain what we were doing. We had members sign up to indicate whether they could attend with their Pal. Parents of the Campus Pal were also invited. All Campus Pals had to do was inform their Campus Pal and attend.

We provided food, games, and crafts at the event. Games included a cake walk, and pin the nose on the snowman. We also had several holiday-oriented crafts. Approximately 25 Pals attended with their Truman partner and family. We had brownies, cookies, 7 layer dip and chips, a trail mix, rice crispies, water, lemonade, and hot chocolate. All food was from Sodexo. The event was held in the SUB down under and we purchased various decorations to put up (these are in the storage closet).

We also had coloring sheets and paper for everyone to make cards for Manor Care. We also invited different service groups to come and help make the cards.

**Truman at the Capital**

To prepare for Truman at the Capital, we needed to contact Heidi Templeton and set up a time to meet with her to discuss the details of the trip. This info needs to be passed on to the rest of the body. We created a poll to send out to members of the body to see who would be able to attend and forwarded a survey from Heidi Templeton about the food that everyone would want for the day. Dr. Thomas and Heidi attended a meeting before the trip to inform the body about issues they would need to address. It is important to encourage members to call their representative if they are registered in Missouri and to set up meetings with them.

**Half-Cent Sales Tax**

This year, there was a half-cent sales tax proposed in the city of Kirksville to fund Parks and Recreation. Since this was a big deal for the city, we spoke Ashley Young (Assistant City Manager) about the tax to understand both sides of the issue. We then wrote and passed a resolution stating our support of the tax, which we then disseminated to local and campus media. The tax passed (which was entirely because of us).

**Service Event with Kirksville High School**

We connected with Kirksville High School Student Government in order to do a clean-up of Patterson Street and a dinner to mix and mingle with the students. The event was held on April 19th at 6 p.m. We got in contact with Karen Keck (Student Government sponsor) and visited their meetings at 7:10 a.m. (yes, you CAN) twice to encourage them to attend. We had a Google Sheet for sign-ups for Truman and Kirksville students.

We bought trash bags and latex gloves to take care of the trash. Since we had money left in our budget, we were able to provide Chick Fil’ A, sweet tea, lemonade, and two sides from Sodexo for everyone there (everyone indicated what they wanted from Chick Fil’ A on the Google Sheet, and we had mac n cheese for vegetarians). Sodexo would like to have orders 4 days in advance. It would be a good idea to purchase extras because a lot of students signed up the day of. We held the meal in VH 1010, but you are not technically supposed to have food there. Try to book a room in the SUB earlier in the semester. This would be a good event to start doing annually to promote working together with the high school.

**Vision**

Overall, this year we made a point of trying to connect more with the community as a whole. In the future, it would be valuable to attend City Hall meetings and stay updated on what is going on in the City of Kirksville (following the example of action on the half-cent sales tax). It may be beneficial to appoint a member to serve as a permanent representative to City Council. Also, look into getting a table at the Farmer’s Market. Additionally, this committee has potential to come up with projects that could better engage the community as a whole and promote cooperation between campus and the city of Kirksville.

