**Vice President’s Report and Exit Notes 2017**

Christy Crouse, Vice President

(2016-2017)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Office of Vice President:**

Vice President is the coolest position, if you ask me. You get to meet with the President of the University each week and move forward with amazing projects, while not getting bogged down in too many administrative duties. Nevertheless, the Vice Presidential role comes with a slew of responsibilities including:

**Committee Oversight:**

The Vice President must keep track of each committee’s progress throughout the year. As much as possible, visiting committees and keeping up with each one’s projects will help ensure an effective Student Senate. This takes an extensive amount of time, but is worth doing if possible. This year, committee attendance was a problem, so working to find new senators to appoint as well as ensuring senators attended meetings was a role VP filled.

**Stepping Up:**

Vice President must fill positions on the body that have not been filled. This year, I was External Affairs Chair for the Fall 2016 semester, Webmaster for the year, UGC Representative, Faculty Senate Representative, and Presidential Representative to the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee. Clearly, these were all extra responsibilities that are not laid out in the Vice Presidential responsibilities. I completed all of these roles with excitement, but continued the search to fill a few of them in order to not become overwhelmed. For instance, at the beginning of Spring 2017, a senator came back from studying abroad and we had her fill the role of External Affairs Chair for the rest of the year.

**Retreat Planner:**

**The Spring and Fall Retreats take place each year, one per semester. Here are the steps to a successful retreat:**

**1.** Determine a date. This year our dates were: October 2 and April 25

**2.** Make a schedule. Usually this includes important activities, some fun team-building activities,

Note: Fall Retreat you must create committees. Spring Retreat you must write committee end of the year reports. These are the two most important things these retreats are for.

**3.** Schedule Programming.

Note: Fall Retreat we had Carol Bennett from the MAC speak about leadership and diversity and President Thomas speak as well. Spring Retreat we hadBrad Turnbull from the MAC come to speak about communication between opposing parties on difficult issues.

**4.** Order Food.

Sodexo Catering has an order form on its website. Fill this out and send it to the Sodexo coordinators listed on the form. Spring and Fall we had the Deli Platter!

**5.** Announce the retreat dates at least a month in advance and send repeated updates.

**6.** Facilitate the retreat! You are the leader and will guide everyone through the programming and various activities.

**The President-Vice President Team:**

**Notes from the University President:**

At the beginning of this year, President Thomas encouraged JJ and I to approach our duties in a different manner. She urged us that, in order to be effective, we should not simply produce a large amount of resolutions. She said that those resolutions end up on people’s desks, especially the Board of Governors’ desk, and does not do very much. Resolutions are necessary for documentation purposes as well as pushing initiatives forward or making a statement, but they do not complete tangible projects on their own. She wanted us to focus more and doing the logistical work to communicate with her, other administrators, students, and so forth to get projects done and not just writing resolutions constantly. JJ and I identified that working on projects for students on campus, connecting students to the Kirksville and Jefferson City communities, informing the student association about important issues, changing policy on campus, helping the student opinion be heard on faculty and administrative committees, and documenting what we do, are all areas that must be addressed equally.

**Supporting Role to President:**

JJ and I determined each of our strengths and capitalized on those, truly working as a team. My interest areas of diversity and politics made me the point person for issues that dealt with anything in that area. I was also an idea-generator for projects, speakers and events. JJ chose me to fill rolls on committees he could not be on because he wanted someone close to him represented there. When JJ was absent, I fulfilled the role of President. As VP, you will always be the first volunteer and the clutch helper when Student Senate is in need. Be ready! ☺

**International Flag Display Project:**

Thus far, we have written a resolution urging the completion of the flag display by Fall 2017. Lori Shook (lshook@truman.edu) is the campus planner working on it. In her last email to me, she asked how we were funding the flags. At Excomm and in the general meeting this year, we were all unanimously in support of purchasing the display with Student Government funds. I would suggest purchasing the flags and having the school purchase the hanging apparatus, so there is buy-in on both sides to maintain the display. Melanie Crist is the International Office coordinator who can help with specifics related to what flags to purchase and the way to hang them if there are any specifics.