



Student Government Resolution 117.012
A Resolution Urging More Appropriate Future Administrative Action Regarding
Inclement Weather

Sponsored by Joe Slama, Health Wellness and Safety Committee Chair; Kyra Cooper, Student Government President; Sarah Holtmeyer, Student Government Vice President; and Caroline Costello, Voting Senator

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
- On February 22, 2018, Truman State University had considerable layers of ice present on campus roads, sidewalks, and surrounding academic and residence buildings; and
- Similar hazardous conditions were present throughout and surrounding the Kirksville area; and
- A total of 46¹ local institutions, including A.T. Still University and Kirksville Public Schools, delayed or cancelled classes due to icy conditions on February 22, 2018; and
- Of these 46 decisions on inclement weather, 33² were full cancellations; and
- Truman State University did not issue an institution-wide closure on February 22, 2018; and
- Students living off-campus as well as faculty and staff must walk or otherwise commute on Kirksville roads and sidewalks to school; and
- Students living on-campus must walk on University sidewalks to class; and
- There was a significant lack of promptness in applying sufficient amounts of de-icing materials to the sidewalks and roads on and surrounding the University's campus that morning; and
- Students as well as faculty and staff living outside the city of Kirksville must drive to campus on surrounding roads and highways; and
- Roads outside city limits were dangerous to traverse that day; and
- Department of Public Safety Director Sergeant Sara Holzmeier sent a university-wide email at 9:47 a.m. on that day saying students were “encouraged to use your judgment about your own safety” and urged them not to travel to or on campus if they felt unsafe; and
- Many students had already begun class prior to receiving Sergeant Holzmeier's email; and

¹ According to KTVO.com as of 6:55 a.m. on February 22, 2018.

² Ibid.

- Despite this email, many students may have still felt obligated to attend class due to the university-wide attendance policy which limits students to an absence total that does not exceed the equivalent of a week of classes per semester for missing class on February 22, 2018; and
- Students expressed via an online petition³ that they felt an obligation to still attend class due to not being exempt from coursework or examinations that would be occurring on campus on February 22, 2018; and
- The Student Health Center saw seven students for ice-related injuries on that day.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Requests that Truman State University prioritize the physical safety of all of its students, faculty, and staff; and
- Requests that this prioritization include delaying or canceling classes if dangerous conditions are present; and
- Encourages that the administration take responsibility for closing the University rather than delegating the responsibility of class cancellation to individual professors when dangerous conditions are present; and
- Requests that University-wide emails which may affect class attendance be sent at least 15 minutes prior to the start of classes that day; and
- Requests that the administration publicize its inclement weather procedures for dangerous conditions so that students can inform themselves for future situations and report hazardous conditions when they occur; and
- Advocates that students who chose to miss class on February 22, 2018, should not be penalized for the choice to prioritize their safety through having their absence count against their allotted total or being unable to make up missed coursework; and
- Advocates that faculty who chose to cancel class on February 22, 2018 due to inclement weather should not be penalized in any way.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Janet Gooch; Vice President of Student Affairs, Janna Stoskopf; Vice President for Administration, Finance and Planning, Dave Rector; Director of Physical Plant, Karl Schneider; Department of Public Safety Director Sergeant Sara Holzmeier; Director of Student Health Center and Counseling Services, Brenda Higgins; Director of Residence Life, John Gardner; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

³ <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/truman-state-university-should-have-snow-days/>

Approved by: Unanimous Consent 2/25/17

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyra Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

President of the Student Association, Kyra Cooper