

External Affairs End of the Year Report

Submitted by Rachel Holt. 2018-2019 Committee Chair

Members:

Kaylee Jacobsen- Fall 2018
Austin Derbak- Fall 2018
Katelyn Lowe- 2018-2019
Emma Carignan- Spring 2019
Rachel Owings - Spring 2019

The year in review and Some General Notes

External Affairs can be... hard. The most difficult thing is that you have to, at times, rely and work with outside people and groups. They can be very difficult to rely on. The most successful events are events that you can control because you know how they will turn out; however, do not be afraid to fail. If any of these chair positions can teach us anything, its how to fail and yet still keep trying until you are able to figure out how to do it in a way that works. Most of my projects this year did not go anywhere according to plan but the higher ups will all agree that it had to do with outside people. Half of my committee left in the spring for amazing opportunities so that had to be rebuilt as well. All in all, be ready to work with whatever curveballs are thrown at you because if you never swing the bat, you'll never hit a home run.

Projects and Events

- Fall Voter Registration Drive
 - Held in september. We tabled for about three days, two on the quad and on in the sub. On the days outside, we had sodexo pizza. The pizza was about \$75 per day and definitely helped draw more people. Sodexo provides plates and napkins which was very helpful. College Democrats and College Republicans both helped tabled which presented a unified front and made tabling pretty interesting. DO NOT DO IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE QUAD. Do it closer to Baldwin over lunch. People love it. Also do it right when school starts. Make the freshmen register.
- Homecoming
 - We made oreo balls (gluten free and regular) roughly 100 of each. It was a blast to make them and hand them out for free. We also threw together a pamphlet of what student government has been up to the past few years but I could not figure out how to print it right. It was super annoying and not many people took them, but a great idea! I can not seem to find it, but

it was a trifold with 10 years, 5 years, 1 year updates and pictures. Super cute.

- Street Clean up
 - Yikes. We had everything figured out with the highschool for november 3rd when we'd clean up a street and then all hang out and drink hot coco and cider, and I kid you not, the highschool pulled out the day before the event. The event did make us realize that Stu Gov has not officially adopted a street with the city but it is free and easy to do so.
- Freshman Guide
 - The fall committee CRUSHED the freshman guide and we our section finished in about two weeks though some of the topics, such as the skin lap and train bridge, were deemed controversial and cut from the final.
- NEMO connect
 - The committee volunteered at the NEMO job fair. It was free and very fun. Would do again.
- Truman At the Capital
 - This was lowkey a disaster. Heidi was reached out right when we got back to school in January. We chatted. Everything seemed fine. It was not. Apparently she was planning to cancel it because not enough people wanted to go. We had 10-15 members looking to attend. Suddenly the event was back on! Then she canceled it because of weather (the weather was fine). The committee tried to find a day for just those of us on stu gov to go down, but apparently Jeff City doesn't really have session on Fridays. After that, the stu gov administration *suggest* that we ditch the idea which is technically an impeachable offense, but we were following orders. Suggestion: Reach out to Heidi in November. Get the ball rolling then.
- Spring Volunteer events
 - We had two volunteer events that were required to be attended, one for MLK Day at Take Root and the other at Hopes Kitchen. MLK Day was pretty unnecessary because so many other organizations were attending, but hopes kitchen was a blast! Reach out to them early to pick a weekend that works for the body, but I would really recommend doing that again. You can make it required for the body after talking with the president and Vice President.
- AM Housing
 - I reached out to them. We met and I proposed two options to them, 1: we pay for their room reservations (\$200) and provide volunteers to help with

their event and they would have total control with whatever they wanted to do (as long as it followed university guidelines) or 2: We reserve the room and pay for food (\$600) but then event becomes our event and an educational one about poverty and homelessness in this area but the money that was donated would still go directly to them. After two very ungrateful meetings with Jimmy and Glen (who did not like the educational aspect and wanted the entire event to be solely a fundraiser), I believed we were finally on the same page and they had picked option 2. I reserved the room and moved to order food but in order to do that, I had to go through one of the members of their organization then to Jimmy and then we pay for it. Once I finally got the food order, it was not what we had discussed at all. So I tried to set up a meeting with Jimmy. He could not find a time. After further discussion with the body and the committee, we decided it was best to cut ties with them and continue the event on our own. The email was sent and we were free. After spring break, four weeks before the event, AM Housing begins advertising for their event *with the same name I had chosen, on the same date, with the same educational spin on it*. They stole the idea. I sent an email expressing my disappointment soon after, and never got a response. We did not hold our event because we did not want to draw people away from their event. I was never supposed to be a competition.

- Based on this, we highly suggest to not work with AM Housing.
 - Also, be willing to put your foot down and say enough is enough.
- Main Street Kirksville
 - Formerly known as Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee, they asked us to send a representative to their monthly meetings. Please see the resolution below.

Resolutions

-Mainstreet Kirksville:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lJ7kmHbRO0TI0qxrEf8mJ9_uxqyflx40GXfohiumGRO/edit?usp=sharing

Future Projects Suggestions

1. Continue Service Events

2. Adopt a Street and write a resolution
3. Truman at the Capital
4. August Voter Registration Drive - With political Groups on Campus
5. Choose a philanthropy
6. Raise awareness about local issues
7. Encourage participation in local elections
8. Bring Candidates to campus
9. Do a huge fundraiser with the political groups on Campus
 - a. Maybe a debate titled "Best Party on Campus"
 - b. Pick a local charity that all want to donate to