



### **Student Government Resolution 118.009**

#### **A Resolution to Support an Interdisciplinary “Course Threads” Certificate Program Sponsored by Katie Alexander, Academic Affairs Committee Chair; Sam Tillman, Secretary; Maddie Meyer and Eric Ngo, Academic Affairs Committee Members**

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
- Truman State University is Missouri’s only public liberal arts and sciences institution; and
- Exploring interconnecting perspectives is a vital element of Truman State’s core curriculum<sup>1</sup>; and
- Truman State offers 63 minor areas of study; and
- Each minor generally requires five or more courses for completion; and
- Truman State offers no undergraduate certificate programs; and
- Certificate programs offer students a recognizable way to pursue their interests without the course load required of a minor; and
- Over the 2018-2019 academic year, the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government has been exploring options to create an interdisciplinary certificate program; and
- The committee has been modeling a potential program from the University of California-Berkeley “Course Threads” curriculum<sup>2</sup>; and
- A “Course Threads” certificate program would allow students to explore niche, interdisciplinary areas of interest; and
- The program could further benefit students in their future career opportunities by demonstrating their knowledge in specific topics; and
- Offering this program would further distinguish Truman State University as a premier liberal arts and sciences institution; and
- Dr. Janet Gooch, the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, has encouraged the pursuit of such a program; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.truman.edu/majors-programs/liberal-studies-core-curriculum/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://coursethreads.berkeley.edu/>

- Dr. Bridget Thomas, Professor of Classics and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, has worked closely with the Academic Affairs committee to develop an outline of the program; and
- The Academic Affairs Committee in the process of creating several potential “Threads” of study, including but not limited to:
  - Human Rights; and
  - Conflicts and Wars; and
  - Income Inequality; and
  - American and Global Culture; and
- These example topics are prominent areas of interest that could not be explored in a traditional minor; and
- Each of these topics can be examined from a breadth of different disciplines; and
- The program has the potential to integrate Junior Interdisciplinary Seminar Courses, which would further develop students’ interdisciplinary thinking; and
- Creating the “Course Threads” program would not require the creation of any additional courses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the creation of an interdisciplinary certificate program at Truman State University; and
- Encourages the Academic Affairs committee to continue to research and develop the certificate program in collaboration with faculty.

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; Executive Secretary to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, DeeDee Moore; Chair of the Undergraduate Council, Justin Jarvis; Chair of Faculty Senate, Scott Alberts; Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dr. Bridget Thomas; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed 6-1-1, 2/3/19



President of the Student Association, Keaton Leppanen