



Student Government Resolution 118.016
A Resolution Endorsing the Proposed Climate Resolution
Sponsored by Jared Kolok, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; Emma Rollings,
Environmental Affairs Committee Member

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
- Consensus among climate researchers, scientists, and the general scientific community points towards human carbon emissions as the driver of climate change on planet Earth¹; and
- Climate change and other anthropogenic changes to the natural environment are rapidly becoming irreversible thereby promoting and requiring immediate and rapid action²; and
- Climate change imperils the integrity of the biosphere and so threatens not only humans but all other living things with which we share the world; and
- As members of a local and national community, we must be dedicated to deep, careful, and critical thinking about the response, either in actions or words, that is formulated and implemented; and

¹ <https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>

- The Student Government of Truman State University adopted a Resolution Endorsing the President’s Climate Commitment recommending to Faculty Senate that Truman State University signs onto the President’s Climate Commitment³; and
- The Student Government of Truman State University adopted a Resolution Endorsing the Signing of the Truman State University Sustainability Initiative that recognizes the existence of climate change⁴; and
- Truman State University’s Liberal Arts and Sciences education provides a unique opportunity for the local and national communities to come together and work proactively and creatively to put forward solutions for the betterment of local, national, and international communities⁵; and
- Numerous universities across the United States have recognized the importance of climate action and committed their operations to carbon neutrality, including the University of Missouri⁶ and Missouri University of Science and Technology;⁷ and
- Dr. Harker and Dr. Goldman alongside other faculty and students have first put forward a proposed climate resolution on March 25, 2018 that stated;
 - “Climate change imperils the integrity of the biosphere and so threatens not only humans but all other living things with which we share the world. As members of a community dedicated to deep, careful, and critical thinking about our nature and circumstance, we need to embrace fully the profound challenge humanity faces in coming to terms with the global and unprecedented crisis we have created.
 - To this end we, the undersigned, urge our fellow Truman students, staff, faculty, administrators, and friends to work toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 in accordance with the goals articulated in the Paris Accord.”
- This proposal has been presented to student organizations, academic departments, and university offices; and
- This proposal, as of March 24, 2019, has resulted in 819 student and faculty signatures in support of the climate resolution and, thereby, Truman State University’s commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2030;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Strongly supports the efforts of Dr. Harker, Dr. Goldman, and their dedicated team of students to bring forward a climate resolution with the ultimate goal of achieving carbon neutrality for Truman State University by 2030; and
- Recognizes the grassroots support from the student body, faculty and their associated departments, and student organizations across campus⁸; and
- Voices the opinion of the Student Association in support of the climate resolution; and

³ <http://senate.truman.edu/official-documents/previousessions/2007-2008-session-records/>

⁴ <http://senate.truman.edu/official-documents/previousessions/2008-2009-session-records/>

⁵ <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

⁶ https://masterplan.missouri.edu/masterplan/sites/masterplan/files/pdf/2017_annual_report_web.pdf

⁷ <https://news.mst.edu/2016/03/missouri-st-signs-commitment-to-climate/>

⁸ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/166a-H_4kdWtggDokEW-Wbf4Rvsn_4n95BpCl_Z_TmD8/edit#gid=1353575509

- Requests this resolution and the climate resolution itself be presented to Faculty Senate for their consideration.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Scott Alberts, President of Faculty Senate; Donna Liss, Chair of the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Sam Guth, Physical Plant Director; Lori Shook, Project Planner and Coordinator; Christine Harker, Professor of English; Peter Goldman, Professor Emeritus of Biology; Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee; Jimmy Clemens and Megan Schneider, Representatives to the Sustainability Office; Ben Grabner, President of Environmental Campus Organization; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by Unanimous Consent, March 31, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keaton Leppanen".

Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association