



Student Government Resolution 118.017
A Resolution Encouraging Truman to Reconsider the University's Alcohol Policies
Sponsored by Adam Paris, Student Affairs Committee Chair; Joon Bang, and Chisom
Onyekwere; Student 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 University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The state of Missouri guarantees the right to consume alcohol, if so desired, when a person has turned age 21¹; and Current University policy disallows alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia on campus in nearly all forms subject to fines and conduct actions²; and
- In the past, Truman State University has temporarily suspended disciplinary action for of-age adults consuming alcohol in specific areas on campus, including for events such as tailgating³; and
- About two-thirds of public four-year universities in the United States allow alcohol on campus and 81% of public four-year universities in the United States have specific alcohol-free residence halls instead of outright banning all alcohol on campus⁴; and
- Some of-age students claim that one reason they move off campus is that they are unable to drink, contributing to them not feeling at home on campus; and
- Of-age students living on campus who have consumed alcohol off campus are currently prohibited from returning to their places of residence; and
- Of-age students living on campus are also prohibited from consuming alcohol on campus, even in the privacy of their own rooms; and
- This policy forces of-age students to choose between violating campus policy or staying in a potentially unsafe location off of campus; and

¹ https://www.google.com/url?q=https://atc.dps.mo.gov/documents/liquor-lawbook.pdf&sa=D&ust=1553103676678000&usg=AFQjCNHJtSH-VI-idj_ChrOzBKlecWF2fw

² <https://www.truman.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/ResLifeCard-GenPolicies.pdf>

³ <https://www.truman.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/General-Tailgate-Policies.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.reference.com/education/many-dry-college-campuses-united-states-fd090da50e5401b>

- Truman State University residence halls have seen a reduction in students remaining on campus past their first year⁵; and
- Living on campus has been thoroughly proven to improve GPA and campus community⁶; and
- Dobson Hall is scheduled to be closed in the Fall of 2019 due to a reduced number of enrolled students⁷; and
- Allowing of-age students to consume alcohol could make these students feel more welcomed in their on-campus places of residence, which could potentially increase the number of enrolled students who live on campus; and
- Outright bans of alcohol, even certain types or percentages of alcohol content, are not adequately researched and may not help or may even cause victims of crimes to become unwilling to come forward if they had consumed alcohol^{8, 9}; and
- Heavy drinking of students enrolled at universities is and has been a major problem¹⁰; and
- Binge drinking is defined by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism as drinking that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels to 0.08 g/dL¹¹; and
- A recent study between four public universities in the Midwest has shown that a policy allowing or disallowing the sale and consumption of alcohol on campus has no statistically significant effect on heavy drinking on campus¹²; and
- Any change in alcohol policy on campus must be done with the utmost consideration for student safety, as well as strict adherence to all laws that have jurisdiction over Truman State University;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Supports allowing students twenty-one and older to exercise their legal right in the state of Missouri to consume alcohol on or off campus; and
- Recognizes that consuming alcohol is a choice that not all students may make; and
- Encourages Truman State University to allow of-age students to return to the safety of their on-campus living arrangement after consuming alcoholic beverages; and

⁵ <http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/dobson-hall-to-close-after-current-semester/>

⁶ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0042085910372351>

⁷ <http://tmn.truman.edu/blog/news/campus/dobson-hall-to-close-after-current-semester/>

⁸ <http://time.com/4463227/stanford-hard-liquor-ban/>

⁹ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/04/08/can-college-bans-hard-liquor-be-effective>

¹⁰ Walter, Gayle, and John Kowalczyk. "The effectiveness of alcohol policies in 4-year public universities." *Journal of community health* 37.2 (2012): 520-528.

¹¹ <https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/overview-alcohol-consumption/moderate-binge-drinking>

¹² Walter, Gayle, and John Kowalczyk. "The effectiveness of alcohol policies in 4-year public universities." *Journal of community health* 37.2 (2012): 520-528.

- Suggests a policy identifying specific residence halls as allowing or disallowing alcohol as a potential compromise; and
- Supports the objective enforcement of the Student Conduct Code, after any potential amendment to Truman's alcohol policy, across all instances of violation, regardless of whether or not the student involved is under the influence of alcohol; and
- Continues to support the enforcement of quiet hours and other such rules put in place to keep residence halls safe and welcoming; and
- Further supports increasing the number of, expanding the scope of, and adapting the content of intervention and education programs regarding alcohol consumption offered to students; and
- Does not advocate for or against the consumption of alcohol; and
- Further advocates against students committing the action of binge drinking; and
- Encourages that the Student Affairs Committee, Health Wellness and Safety Committee, the Sexual Assault Prevention Designee, and any such committee or position where alcohol consumption on campus is likely to have an effect on their purview as designated by the Student Government Constitution and Standing Rules to continue to discuss future policy direction taken with regards to student consumption of alcohol; and
- Supports Truman State University in its mission to respect the safety and rights of students.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE DIRECTS THAT

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President of Student Affairs; J.D. Smiser, Director of Office of Citizenship and Community Standards; William Nelsen, Interim Director for Residence Life; Lauri Millot, Institutional Compliance Office/Title IX Coordinator; Department of Public Safety; the Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed 9-2-2, April 7, 2019



Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association