



Student Government Resolution 118.021
A Resolution Approving Spring 2019 Ballot Language for the Redistribution of the Student Activities Fee
Sponsored by Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association; and Deanna Schmidt, Vice President of the Student Association

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 Student Activities Fee is a student-initiated fee paid by Truman students; and
- As of Spring 2019, the Student Activities Fee stands at \$45 per student per semester; and
- As of Spring 2019, the Student Activities Fee allocation breakdown stands at:
 - \$27.00 for the Student Activities Board,
 - \$10.50 for the Funds Allotment Council,
 - \$2.00 for Student Government,
 - \$2.50 for the Collegiate Readership Program,
 - \$3.00 for the Center for Student Involvement
- Student Government is charged with administering both the Student Government and the Collegiate Readership Program portions of the Student Activities Fee; and
- The allocation of 8% of the Student Activities Fee towards the Collegiate Readership Program has ceased to be in the best interests of Truman students; and
- The Pew Research Center estimates that physical American newspaper circulation has decreased by approximately 50% in the past three decades and is continuing to decrease;¹ and
- As researched by the 2016-2017 Organization Activities Fee Review Committee, the usership of and benefit derived from the Collegiate Readership Program has accordingly decreased over the years; and
- Despite efforts to prevent such usage, the majority of users of the Collegiate Readership Program are strongly suspected to be non-student individuals including faculty, staff, and members of the Kirksville community; and

¹ <https://www.journalism.org/fact-sheet/newspapers/>

- The 2016-2017 Organization Activities Fee Review Committee urged the exploration of amending the purpose of the Collegiate Readership Program so as to provide digital subscriptions to news sources to students instead of the physical paper copies; and
- The Student Government has not, in at least the past two decades, asked the Student Association to vote on increasing its portion of the Student Activities Fee; and
- The allocation of 4% of the Student Activities Fee to Student Government has ceased to be sufficient to sustain the services and projects provided to students by the Student Government; and
- Declining enrollment and the depletion of annual rollover of the Student Government fee, as recommended by the 2016-2017 Organization Activities Fee Review Committee has led to the Student Government budget decreasing substantially over the past couple of years; and
- The 2018-2019 Student Government budget included substantial cuts to committee and project funding, severely limiting the services provided by it to students; and
- The 2018-2019 Student Government Appropriations Committee, for the first time in recent memory, has had to reject a substantial amount of applications due to these budget cuts; and
- Even if enrollment does not decline further, Student Government's 2019-2020 budget will still be the smallest budget in its history; and
- Over the past couple of years Student Government has completed several ambitious, costly projects such as holding a TEDx conference, creating an International Flag Display, and hosting a Presidents' Round Table; and
- Given the forecasted funding for the 2019-2020 Student Government, continuation of these and similar projects would not be feasible moving forward; and
- Given the forecasted funding for the 2019-2020 Student Government, the ability of Student Government to fulfill its purpose to provide services for and enact projects on behalf of the Student Association would be severely handicapped; and
- Digital subscriptions to news sources for students would be more accessible to and convenient for Truman students than physical newspapers; and
- Digital subscriptions would help to ensure that student fee money is being spent to support only students or approved individuals; and
- A redistribution of the Student Activities Fee so as to increase Student Government's funding and decrease the funding for the Collegiate Readership Program would serve to enable Student Government to continue to fulfill its purpose and would thus increase the benefits which students receive from paying the Student Activities Fee; and
- A redistribution of the Student Activities Fee would not increase the amount of money paid by students; and
- Decreasing the Collegiate Readership Program fee by \$1.00 per student per semester would not prohibit the continued functioning of the Collegiate Readership Program for the 2019-2020 School year; and
- An increase of the Student Government Fee by \$1.00 per student per semester is estimated to be enough to increase the 2019-2020 Student Government budget to a point where it is comparable to Student Government budgets before the declining enrollment over the past couple of years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Approves of Student Government receiving \$1 more per semester per student as diverted from the Collegiate Readership Program and consents to put this change up to a vote of the Student Association; and
- Directs the ballot language for the fee adjustment as presented to the Student Association to be:
 - “Background: The Student Activities fee is currently \$45 a semester per student. This fee funds, among other things, the Collegiate Readership Program and the Student Government. The Collegiate Readership Program portion of the Student Activities Fee funds the providing of print newspapers for students at various locations across campus. Student Government has been more active on campus in recent years. However, because of decreasing enrollment, Student Government’s budget has decreased substantially over the past couple years and Student Government’s budget is forecasted to decrease further for the 2019-2020 academic year. Therefore, in order for Student Government to continue to serve students at its current level, this decrease in its budget needs to be offset.

I support that \$1 per semester be diverted from the Collegiate Readership Program to the Student Government in order to continue to provide and improve upon services and projects such as, but not limited to, TEDx conferences, campus improvements, such as the International Flag Display, and the hosting of Presidents’ Round Tables. This diversion would not increase the Student Activities Fee and would not prohibit the continued functioning of the Collegiate Readership Program in the 2019-2020 academic year.”

- Approves of changing the purpose of the Collegiate Readership Program from providing students with only physical newspapers to providing students with digital subscriptions to news sources as well, and consents to putting this change to a vote of the Student Association; and
- Directs the ballot language associated with this change and subject to approval by the Student Association as:
 - “Background: The Collegiate Readership Program portion of the Student Activities Fee goes to fund the providing of newspapers for students at various locations across campus.

I support that the purpose of the Collegiate Readership Program portion of the Student Activities Fee should be changed from providing students with only physical newspapers to providing students with digital subscriptions to news sources as well, in the future. This change would neither increase nor decrease the Student Activities Fee.”

- Upon approval by the Student Association, these proposed changes to the Student Activities Fee shall take effect starting the Fall 2019 semester; and
- Requests that the 2019-2020 Organization Activities Fee Review Committee thoroughly review the Collegiate Readership Program and provide recommendations as to the providing of digital subscriptions to news sources using the funds from the Collegiate Readership Program portion of the Student Activities Fee.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President of Student Affairs; Dave Rector, Vice President for Administration, Finance and Planning; Arletta Nelson, Assistant to the Vice President for Administration, Finance and Planning; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed 9-0-4, April 14, 2019

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Keaton Leppanen".

Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association