



Student Government Resolution 118.023
A Resolution Outlining the Development of the Former Fair Apartments Lot
Sponsored by Jared Kolok, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; Hannah Wissler,
Ethics Justice; Rachel Holt, External Affairs Committee Chair

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
- On March 25, 2019 a proposal¹ to rename the former Fair Apartments Lot to the ‘Fair Grounds’ was submitted in line with University naming procedures to President Sue Thomas and for subsequent review by the Board of Governors; and
- The naming proposal allows for future development of the former Fair Apartments Lot by Student Government and the Student Association²; and
- The naming proposal includes a plan for Student Government to develop and implement a rock labyrinth on the former Fair Apartments Lot³; and
- Truman State University’s Student Government, Student Association, and Administration are concerned with recent and chronic mental health issues on campus, including depression, anxiety, and suicide; and
- The Student Government has been considering holistic health solutions and their implementation as a direct response and potential solution to some of the mental health issues on campus; and
- The former Fair Apartments Lot offers a unique location to provide this holistic approach to mental and physical health by implementing a labyrinth; and
- The Student Recreation Center has suggested developing an outdoor Fitness Center⁴ on the former Fair Apartments Lot in addition to the labyrinth; and
- The labyrinth, a space for meditative walking and relaxation, offers a restful, meditative environment that provides a mechanism to reduce anxiety and elicit a “relaxation response”

¹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o4PeBV9nF-3nP2loZNM1S5fHrkfcBW3unm67lBYWcO4/edit>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.labyrinthcompany.com/pages/about-labyrinths>

⁴ <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/>

that coincides with a personal journey from start to end to re-center oneself through a brief walk⁵; and

- An outdoor labyrinth, if implemented, would provide a mechanism for the Truman Community to engage in light physical activity which has been shown to positively impact mental wellbeing since even gentle exercise has been shown to increase quality of life⁶; and
- These improvements to campus are in the best interest of the Student Association in order to provide proactive solutions to mental health issues in line with the JED Committee's recommendations⁷;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Does not support the implementation of an outdoor Fitness Court advanced by the Student Recreation Center in the former Fair Apartments Lot at this time; and
- Suggests further communication between the Student Recreation Center and the Student Government to explore the possibility of an outdoor fitness court to ensure that adequate student opinion is gathered on the subject before implementation; and
- Requests continued communication between the Student Government, the Administration and the faculty as is relevant to the development of the former Fair Apartments Lot; and
- Will continue to develop the former Fair Apartments Lot in line with a holistic approach to mental health; and
- Supports all efforts to create a healthier campus that encourages mental health and spending time outdoors; and
- Directs the Environmental Affairs Committee to continue development and implementation of the labyrinth in the former Fair Apartments Lot; and
- Directs the 2018-2019 Environmental Affairs Committee to draft a report outlining:
 - Total expected cost
 - Required materials
 - Requested equipment from the Physical Plant
 - Expected location of the labyrinth
 - Expected source of labor
- Directs that this report be published in the 2018-2019 Environmental Affairs end of year report; and
- Requests the 2019-2020 Environmental Affairs Committee move forward with the labyrinth in the Fall 2019 semester; and
- Directs that the 2019-2020 Student Government set aside at least \$1000 to be dedicated to this rock labyrinth coming from rollover of the 2018-2019 Student Government budget; and
- Encourages other interested Student Government parties to support the development of future projects around campus in order to continue to better student wellness; and

⁵ <https://www.labyrinthcompany.com/pages/about-labyrinths>

⁶ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/p/physical-health-and-mental-health>

⁷ <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NpI3sglnkDxm2xwIi2AbA46HuLz2meAroAsYC7tYQRU/edit#gid=0>

- Encourages the 2019-2020 Environmental Affairs Committee sets aside money to inform the student body about the benefits and uses of the Labyrinth.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President for Student Affairs; Ernie Hughes, Vice President for University Advancement; Lori Shook, Project Planner and Coordinator; Sam Guth, Physical Plant Director and Safety Manager; Susan Limestall, Director of Campus Recreation; William Nelsen, Interim Director of Residence Life; Donna Liss, Chair of the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee; Ryle Hall Council; Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed 11-1-0, April 14, 2019



Keaton Leppanen, President of the Student Association