

The Environmental Affairs End of Year Report for the 2018-2019 Student Government Term

Chair and Sponsor: Jared Kolok

Committee Members and Cosponsors: Doug Adolphson, Voting Senator; Alek Nikitow, Voting Senator; Emma Rollings, Associate Senator; Megan Schneider, Associate Senator

Contents:

- 1) Introduction and Year in Review
- 2) Final Committee Reports
- 3) Labyrinth
- 4) Programs and Initiatives
- 5) Adopted Resolutions
- 6) Institutional Continuation
- 7) Going Forward
- 8) Farewell

1) Introduction and Year in Review

My name is Jared Kolok and I have served as the Environmental Affairs Committee Chair for two years, ever since I first joined Student Government. I have had my fair share of ups and downs, successes and failures, enjoyments and pains. This Report serves as a comprehensive review of the Environmental Affairs Committee. More so, it serves to maintain institutional continuity that I 1) never had and 2) had to spend energy and time, taking those away from the actual job at hand, learning and realizing. Student Government, especially a chair position, has a steep learning curve. This Report hopes to alleviate some of this.

The 2018-2019 Student Government term was very successful in most regards. This trend extends to the Environmental Affairs Committee as well. In total, four resolutions were adopted, plans for a labyrinth were formulated and formalized, a proposal to rename the Fair Apartments Lot was put forward to the Board of Governors for their approval. Despite these successes, Earth Week had several setbacks with regard to working with the Sustainability Office and their public relations. Similarly, competing plans for the Fair Apartments Lot blocked progress with the labyrinth while the committee and Student Government formulated a response and a path forward. Further, not all plans and goals were met resulting in future directions for the committee. As of the time writing, some projects have not been finished such as the labyrinth slated for this summer or next fall and the recycling bin recall. Regardless, the 2018-2019 term has been incredibly successful and it has been a true honor and privilege to work with the members of Student Government, the committee, and the faculty, students, and administration of Truman State University.

2) Final Committee Reports

a. *Doug Adolphson*

During the Fall semester, the Environmental Affairs Committee advocated for the creation of a University Culinary Committee. This included discussions with the General Manager of Sodexo and the passing of a resolution in support of the Culinary Committee. The Culinary Committee is now a group containing 2 voting senators from Student Government, 5-6 members of the general student body, the Vice President of Student Affairs, Jana Stoskopf, the General Manager of Sodexo at Truman, Justin Dreslinski, and the Interim Director of Residence Life, William Nelsen. The committee also passed out free recycling bins to Truman students. The bins will be returned to residence hall desks and lobbies during finals week of May 2019. Instructions for the recall program will be posted in each residence hall to inform students on the procedure for return. As of yet, the implementation of this program has not been completed. A return of 50% (100 recycling bins) is considered successful.

b. *Alek Nikitow*

- i. In my time on the Environmental Affairs Committee, I began work on an all encompassing pamphlet of the parks within the Kirksville area. While I completed most of the pamphlet and received a pricing estimate, a couple of unforeseen issues arose. This including formatting issues, which is what currently halts the project. A decision regarding the various options available formatting needs to be made; I lean towards the idea of creating a full page advertisement for the newly announced memorial park in Kirksville. The second issue lay within how many copies of the pamphlet we are able to produce; at this time we are looking at about 50 copies. In the case that work on the pamphlet is not furthered by the end of the current body, I would like to see the next body fill the blank page (with whatever they deem most appropriate) and finish the printing of said pamphlet.

c. *Emma Rollings*

- i. As a member of the Environmental Affairs committee, I brought in a climate resolution project I had been previously collaborating on. Started in August of 2018 by Dr. Christine Harker and Dr. Pete Goldman, the climate resolution was a letter that was brought to academic departments, campus student organizations, and individual students to sign on. The letter:
 1. To Students, Staff, Faculty, Administrators, and Friends of Truman State University, from Dr. Christine Harker, Professor of English, and Dr. Peter Goldman, Professor Emeritus of Biology. Please consider adding your name to the supporters of the following proposal. 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

OFFICIAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT 3

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.

- ii. After receiving support from approximately 819 faculty and students, the project was passed on as a resolution to the student senate, where it was adopted in March of 2019. The resolution has now been passed on to the faculty senate for approval. We anticipate that prior support for the resolution will see it approved and presented to the Truman State University administration for approval.

d. Megan Schneider

- i. The partnership with the Sustainability Office has been successful, despite hiccups along the way. Notably a bit of tension between Student Government and the Sustainability Office over planning Earth Week. A resolution from Student Government and continued discussion between the two parties have cleared mutual miscommunications hopefully allowing for smoother operations in the future. If the committee's primary role in assisting the office in planning is funding, however, appropriations and money should would be more beneficial in funding for things other than posters. Donna Liss is able to handle funding posters, whereas giveaways and some other event items aren't as easy to get through her due to University restrictions.

3) Labyrinth

a. Design and Location

Pictures taken from the Labyrinth Company's website. Suggested size is 20' in diameter (16' 8"). Proposed shape is the Octagonal Avalon with an aesthetic similar to the above picture.



Avalon Octagonal™

\$597.00

Description Details Specifications Production & Shipping

The Avalon Octagonal™ 3 circuit design design is the smallest design in our Octagonal series. Adapted from our Neo-Medieval Avalon round design, it adopts the powerful rebirth and renewal medieval symbology of the number 8. All of our standard designs incorporate the delicate 4.5 to 1 path to line ratio from our larger Chartres Replica. Garden Labyrinth Templates make installation of a complex design paint-by-numbers easy! Prices include FedEx Ground shipping to the lower 48 states.

Size:

16'-8" ▾



Suggested location of the Labyrinth is the west side of the Former Fair Apartments Lot closest to Pershing Hall and the Bike CoOp (as pictured). The outline of the Labyrinth is roughly to scale.

OFFICIAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT 5

b. Budget

Dimensions, measurements, and general construction guidelines are all present in the Environmental Affairs Committee’s Documents and Information, Labyrinth folder¹. Similarly, a budget sheets document is present within the Environmental Affairs Committee folder but is also present below in a more concise and simplistic way.

Material	Material Coverage (sqft)	Menards Cost	Home Depot Cost	Miscellaneous Costs/Notes
Edging Material	60*	79.98	99.5	
Edging Stakes	20		14.93	
Paver Base	36*	207.36	250.56	
Chart Rock (Grugrich and Grugrich)	35*			
Paver Stones	100*	46	25	
Landscape Fabric	300	18.98		Labyrinth Co. (preferred)= 597
Delivery Charge	N/A	69	79	N/A
Labor	N/A			
Total Cost	N/A	999.34 or 421.32**	1065.99 or 487.97**	
*Indicates a measurement that is not exact and could probably be rounded up further. **Prices determined on the landscape fabric chosen				

c. Labor and Equipment

The Physical plant may be willing to help with labor, given a budget. Similarly, all required equipment consistent with the PDFs in the aforementioned labyrinth folder can be used from the Physical Plant as necessary and, from what I understand, for no cost.

¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1HeY03slAcnIFqhGx5jfOobf7_iagpTqX

4) Programs and Initiatives

- a. Recycling Bins Pass Out and Recall
 - i. Purchase of 200 recycling bins for \$1000 over the summer of 2018 with stickers and an associated design in the Environmental Affairs folder
 - ii. Passed out the bins at Fall events including Oktoberfest and other events
 - iii. Obtained student emails and worked with William Nelsen to put forward a recall program through email contact prior to finals week and a Reslife led effort for each
- b. Earth Week
 - i. Worked closely with the Sustainability Office and related organizations to put on Earth Week.
 - ii. Student Government showed WALL-E and tabled at the Earth Week Festival on Saturday.
 - iii. Both events had lower turnout than expected. Address this by advertising earlier and more heavily through Library banner, What's happening at Truman, etc.

5) Adopted Resolutions

- 1) A Resolution in Support of Sodexo and the the Formation of a Culinary Council
 - a) ²Noted the efforts of Sodexo to make Truman's culinary experience and sustainability healthier and more environmentally friendly through the implementation of programs across campus, including reusable green boxes³, University farm to table initiative, providing reusable Starbucks cups for students, and more
 - b) Requested a better forum to open up dialogue between Sodexo leadership and the students
 - c) Supported the formation of a Culinary Council which was spearheaded by Jana Stoskopf, Vice President for Student Affairs, ultimately getting a member of the committee onto the committee
- 2) A Resolution Endorsing the Proposed Climate Resolution⁴
 - a) Dr. Harker, English Professor, Dr. Goldman, Emeritus Professor of Biology, and Emma Rollings worked to gather student and faculty signatures for a climate initiative on Truman's campus
 - b) Noted these efforts and emphasized the need and precedent for such action based on climate change, past Student Government actions, and support from a significant amount of students
 - c) Supports the efforts of Dr. Harker and Goldman
 - d) Requested that the climate resolution put forward by Dr. Harker go on to the floor of Faculty Senate via Dr. Alberts (The resolution came to the Faculty Senate floor on Thursday, April 25)
- 3) A Resolution Outlining the Development of the Former Fair Apartments Lot⁵

² <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lqfNDMBHqoPQ7-XC0q5G-TQYqZnv2Kia5l5oGLLManE/edit>

³ <http://newsletter.truman.edu/article.asp?id=18180>

⁴ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13SjwAu5nIVBYStMtIKrufO2aBJGB5Kw1ji8ivZNdKEM/edit>

⁵ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vh4kZxhPnb8L0o_tELLcnyIFle5XZfmiv7cfC56A-zk/edit

OFFICIAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT 7

- a) Outlined the ongoing process of renaming and developing the Former Fair Apartments Lot to Fair Grounds which would allow students an outlet to be outdoors and an approach to holistic health⁶
 - b) Put forward the idea of implementing a labyrinth on the plot, in with designs and information available from Labyrinth Company⁷
 - c) Discussed Sue Limestall's, Director for the Recreation Center, idea to implement an outdoor recreation center on the Lot, despite the procedure she took that put University and Student bureaucracy to the sideline causing a momentary pause in development of the labyrinth idea⁸
 - d) Rejected the implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Center at the time of adoption
 - e) Put forward an idea of the Former Fair Apartments Lot that is in line with a holistic approach to health, especially mental health, with the implementation of the labyrinth and leaving the area open to future development
 - f) Directed the current chair of the Committee to write and publish a report in this document including a budget with requested money set aside from Student Government's operating budget for 2019-2020
- 4) A Resolution Formalizing Student Government's Role in Earth Week⁹
- a) As the planning for Earth Week approached the end, PR efforts and claim for the week came to a front between the two parties
 - b) Student Government's Standing Rules ensure that the Environmental Affairs Committee has a responsibility to plan and coordinate Earth Week for at least three days¹⁰
 - c) It was made apparent by a past chair that Earth Week had been informally passed off to the Sustainability Office leading them to assume they had total authority over the week
 - d) Noted past actions from the Committee and ESFAC that had successfully funded the Sustainability Office for Earth Week activities
 - e) Requested continued input from the Sustainability Office and commitment from Student Government to continue working with environmental organizations to put on Earth Week in the future
 - f) Supported the efforts of the Committee with logistic and monetary support, formalizing these actions as a role Student Government is uniquely qualified to act upon

⁶ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o4PeBV9nF-3nP2loZNM1S5fHrkfcBW3unm67lBYWcO4/edit>

⁷ <https://www.labyrinthcompany.com/pages/about-labyrinths>

⁸ <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/>

⁹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13SjwAu5nIVBYStMtIKrufO2aBJGB5Kw1ji8ivZNdKEM/edit>

¹⁰ <http://senate.truman.edu/files/2018/04/Standing-Rules-of-the-Truman-State-University-Student-Government-Spring-2018.pdf>

5) Institutional Continuation

Excel spreadsheet of up to date contacts of faculty, administration, and students important to maintain communications with, depending on the project(s) you are working on at a given time. Both the Sheets document for all contacts and the three year documentation of the Environmental Affairs Committee are listed below^{11,12}.

- a. President's Sustainability Action Committee (PSAC)
 - i. Presidential appointment of Donna Liss to serve as chair of the committee. The Committee meets monthly usually on the first Monday of the month. The committee brings together major faculty actors across campus and committees who are working to better Truman's sustainability
 - ii. Justin Dreslinski, Director of Sodexo; Lori Shook, Tree Campus USA and Campus Planning; Sam Guth, Director of Facilities; and others are all a part of the committee
 - iii. Generally, the students don't have much information to input, but your representation matters and there will be times throughout the year when you can input your say
- b. Culinary Council
 - i. Doug Adolphson served as a Voting Senator Representative to this council. The exact workings of the council are unclear, but it is important to get a member or Voting Senator to serve on the council
 - ii. Deann Schmidt, President of the Student Association, has appointment powers and should authorize any appointments to the council
- c. Bimonthly Meetings with William Nelsen
 - i. The current interim director for Reslife, William Nelsen has always been a contact person for the Environmental Affairs Committee
 - ii. Discussion is usually pretty quick and short, but it makes sure that Student Government maintain transparency and works with the existing institutions on campus to get things done
- d. Earth Week Meetings
 - i. Sometime during Spring semester, Earth Week meetings will begin to take place organized by and in the Sustainability Office
 - ii. Ensure you are included in these discussions and that at least you or a committee member can attend
 - iii. Generally weekly and mostly less than an hour, these are integral for the success and planning of Earth Week

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/186vGNcd9YcEtiV7LaqvmWWt_EoAnj-SJ

¹² https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OH7-_pve1vOQEaRy9IMy6D34U1FdjttZoj-eM_L9DY/edit

6) Going Forward

- 1) Suggest not including a member of the Sustainability Office on the committee
 - a) Similarly, try to work with the Sustainability Office as minimally as possible as Student Government's efforts have often been criticised by members
 - b) If you do choose to work closely with them, figure out a way to work cooperatively and bring each of your efforts under the same roof and coordinate through social media, events, and attempts to influence University legislation and practices
- 2) Suggest the next chair does not serve as a representative to ESFAC or other student led environmental committees
- 3) Create a goal document for the term as this will drive much of your discussion throughout your term
 - a) That being said, do not stick too firmly to these goals as things will shift and you will run out of time and energy
 - b) Choose one major project to focus your energy and time on, this will keep you on track and not scattered across numerous projects- progress will happen more efficiently with this approach
 - c) Learn to effectively delegate and lead a committee
- 4) Continue progress with the Park Passports
 - a) You will have an operating budget with some miscellaneous money to spend. Alternatively, these could be printed out of the Earth Week budget
 - b) Pass out at Student Government events and during Earth Week and other sustainability happenings throughout the semester
- 5) As outline above, continue the implementation of the labyrinth. Most of the process has been detailed, but feel free to reach out to me with any questions (jtk7741@truman.edu). I would love to see this on campus, as did many of the members of the 2018-2019 Student Government body.
- 6) Project Suggestions:
 - a) Stickers in res hall bathrooms giving information about water usage, paper towels, etc and how those impact the environment
 - b) Do more with bikes on campus. There is a bike committee that does a lot and has recently implemented a bike checkout at the Rec center
 - c) Do more with trees on campus. There is also a tree committee on campus that is active during Earth Week and Arbor day to lead tree tours and puts up information about trees on campus
 - d) Get a plaque on the Fair Apartments Lot putting up information about President Fair and what the lot is expected to represent and its purpose
 - e) Plastic water bottles to hand out at events with a map of the University and all buildings and general locations of water bottle fillers imposed on them (We do not have the budget for this, but you might want to submit it to ESFAC for their consideration)

7) Farewell

Two years have come and gone. I am now passing the baton of this committee I have worked so diligently to use to make changes on campus. It is time for new leadership and ideas. I reiterate that learning a chair position has a steep learning curve. I am confident that anyone who decides and is selected to run the committee will have the best interests of the students, Student Government, University, and the environment at heart.

There will be ups and downs. The committee and its work can be challenging and drag you down. I can't count the number of nights I would drag myself home and seriously wonder why I was doing what I was doing. Then the next day would come around, I'd open an email or read a kind message and remember what it was all for. This has transcended committee advice, but it is still important to maintain sharp focus on your goals and to know that 1) you can slip up sometimes 2) you don't have to be perfect 3) you have committee members for a reason, use them to help you 4) you don't have to be 100% all the time, no one is expecting that and it isn't possible. Do what you can. Do what makes you content and feel worthwhile. Leave the rest for others, for another time, for a future chair.

Thank you and enjoy the moment, all of them.

Jared T. Kolok
Environmental Affairs Chair 2018-2019