

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
GENERAL MEETING
November 11, 2018**

Called to order 5:00 p.m.

Preliminary Items

- a.** Roll Call
- b.** Approval of Minutes
- c.** Gallery Introductions/Business
 - i. Bertha Thomas, addressing Martin Luther King Day and StuGov Involvement
 1. Was Asst. Dean for Multicultural Affairs at Truman 1992-2014. I recruit a small annual committee for celebrating MLK. I am the NE Missouri commissioner for this organization. Several different organizations/departments are represented on the committee. "Out of Many, One" was the event last year, with 300 attendees, and was the first outside of Truman. This year, will be at Take Root on Saturday, January 26 from 1:00-3:00 (Set up and tear down will be before and after, so three-hour shifts for volunteering). There will be crafts, social justice theatre, many interactive events. I am asking Student Government to help promote the event, as well as for some Senators to volunteer. This year, we are raising money for a local nonprofit, the Oasis program, which matches community members with students who struggle with reading, giving those students a mentor to help with that, in addition to general support. My email is bthomas@truman.edu if you need to contact me, "They never make you give up your email!"
- d.** Membership Appointment/Resignation/Removals
 - i. Appointment of Miriana Scatola to Associate Senator on the Diversity Committee (Leppanen)
 - ii. Appointment of Adam Moran to Associate Senator (Leppanen)
 1. Approved
 - iii. Appointment of Chester Pelsang to Presidential Aide (Leppanen)
 1. Approved
 - iv. Appointment of Caroline Costello to Student Senate Representative to the Residential Hall Association (Paris)
 1. Approved
- e.** Oath of Office
- f.** Changes to the Agenda
 - i. Consider New Business Item B before auxiliary reports.

Auxiliary Reports

- a.** Speaker of the Student Senate
 - i. I am bringing forth an extremely boring resolution. Please look that over.
 - ii. We will be having Rules Revision this week.
- b.** Student Representative to the Board of Governors
 - i. The Board does know what is going on and I will keep you posted.
- c.** Faculty Advisor
- d.** Staff Advisor
- e.** Academic Affairs Chair
 - i. We have 9 applications for the commencement speaker. They are due tonight at midnight. We will be selecting 3 finalists tomorrow, and they will be invited to present their speeches for us.
 - ii. Chairs - your pieces of the handbook are due the Tuesday (ExComm) after break.
 - iii. My committee is working on the 12-17 credit requirement, as it puts a lot of pressure on certain majors, esp music majors and science majors. We are looking for the reasoning behind these requirements.
 - iv. Questions :

1. Wissler - 18 credits works out better on the high end...the minimum you can take is 12. Could we encourage a couple of semesters at 9 credits with full scholarship available for those who may need to take an easier semester, but need to be here rather than take a medical leave of absence?
- f. Parking Ad Hoc Committee Chair
 - i. No report.
 - g. External Affairs Chair
 - i. No report. I got Adam.
 - h. Environmental Affairs Chair
 - i. No report.
 - i. Student Affairs Chair
 - i. No report.
 - j. Diversity Chair
 - i. On the Slack - I sent the wrong sign up, so please go and fill out the right sign up for International Education Week!
 - k. Appropriations Committee Chair
 - i. Looking at an application, revisions coming in.
 - l. Athletic Fee Accountability Chair
 - i. No report.
 - m. Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Chair
 - i. Applications are due at the end of the semester.
 - n. Health, Wellness and Safety Chair
 - i. I am writing a resolution. I will talk about this more at ExComm. A lot of what we said are things that have crossed my mind before, and now have more clarity. I have written down a lot of new things as well.
 - ii. KP is working with Adam on a student food pantry thing.
 - iii. Caroline is working on things for next semester.
 - o. Sexual Assault Prevention Designee
 - i. We had a meeting this week and we got a lot of good ideas for next semester. I am working on our official stance, etc.
 - p. SAB Representative
 - q. FAC Representative
 - r. Public Relations Director
 - i. We are in the process of making recommendations for the website and social media. We are planning on making a social media form with info on requirements, etc. Contact us through the Slack.
 - ii. We realize that Canva and Hootsuite are expensive, and I think we are doing fine.
 - s. Legislative Director
 - t. Parking Appeals Committee Chair
 - u. Purple Friday Subcommittee Chair
 - i. Purple Food Day was Friday was so fun! ("Woo." ~Keaton)
 - ii. We will get billed by the CSI for popcorn.
 - iii. Our next project is working on a Purple Friday promo video. Help me out! Trying to make it a whole campus thing.
 - iv. The ceiling tile is going in next semester.
 - v. Hot chocolate event is the Friday before finals.
 - v. TEDx Ad Hoc Committee Chair
 - i. The videos should be coming next week -ish. Stay tuned.
 - ii. We are looking into the license renewal process.
 - iii. We looked at things we can build on for next year. It would be nice to plan things at the end of the school year rather than so close to the conference. If you have some kind of interest in doing what I did, come talk to me. I am looking into starting to plan it again soon.

Executive Reports

a. Treasurer

- i. Let me know if you spend money.
- ii. STEM Dialogues - everything is messy and we don't know what's going on. At UGC on Thursday, I mentioned that the committee isn't supposed to report until April and the registrar's deadline is February. He literally said he was going to beg the registrar for an extension. This is why we want this delayed.
- iii. I will be stepping down from my position. I will be sticking around until we find someone for my position. Let me know if you have any interest at all. I will be emailing you if I think you are good for the position.
- iv. Questions:
 1. Wissler - Why didn't you say you love me back?

b. Secretary

- i. No report.

c. President and Vice President of the Student Association

- i. Thank you Caleb. If you are interested, reach out.
- ii. Thank you for such a great discussion. I think it was very productive. This is not a one and done thing. Change takes time.
- iii. T-shirts - thank you for filling out the doc. We will be ordering them tomorrow and will update you if associates need to pay. These are the long sleeve, different from those we've had before. We will also be restocking the old t-shirts once the spring budget is passed.
- iv. Chester will be spending no more than \$100 on the holiday party - Friday, Nov 30th in the complex starting at 8 p.m. We will be playing White Elephant - DO NOT buy anything for it. Bring trash from your apartment. Please come, it is going to be great.
- v. UGC - it was very long, focused on the core curriculum. If you are interested, come talk to us. Health and Wellness gave a report - will not be nearly as intense as we had thought. The resolution to postpone dialogues failed, but has the potential to come back.
- vi. Women's Leadership Conference - we have a committee and a time! We are going to make a list of speakers to reach out to.
- vii. The survey - it is in a semi-finished state. Will hopefully get done tomorrow. We are hoping to get it out asap and make it due by the end of the semester, so that we can have projects that chairs can work on next semester.
- viii. SG Dinner is at 6 in Ryle on Wednesday!
- ix. Next meeting - plan on it being at 7 or 8 p.m., more coming on that tomorrow.
- x. Thank you for being so passionate and supportive!

New Business

a. First Read: A Resolution Amending the Standing Rules of Student Government: Committees and Committee Chairs (Barker)

- i. I noticed something very odd about the definitions of committees. "Standing Committee" is used interestingly. I have decided to get rid of the mention of that term in the standing rules. I am going to add the rest of them later, but I got the major ones. WE wanted to clarify what committee chairs are for all types of committees.
- ii. Questions:
 1. Kolok - Are we going to second read this after break?
 - a. Yes.
- iii. Discussion:
 1. Leppanen - Capitalize "Primary" to make it proper.
 - a. If we do that, we will have to capitalize it all, would you do that?
- iv. First Read

b. Discussion Item: Mental Health and UCS (Leppanen)

- i. The first things that flared up was the UCS sharing of their limitations on Facebook.

1. To clarify, their limitations did not change. The paragraph before the limitations did. This sharing spurred a larger conversation and as the Student Government we represent the student body, and we wanted to open this up to the body. Please remain respectful and collegial.
- ii. Slama - Mental health needs to be addressed more explicitly during Truman Days, and with the new curriculum this is an opportune time to add this to their agenda. We are currently working on a document explaining our rationale, etc. I know that currently they go through the online training, but I am wondering if anyone knows if there is anything else that they do?
- iii. Montufar - Truman Days: I think he talked about the online workshop. It is not that productive, because there are so many online activities. There were some shade tree discussion about it, but I wasn't given any resources about UCS at all.
- iv. Leppanen - to the gallery - at any point you have questions or want to weigh in, please just raise your hand.
- v. Schmidt - Thank you for your input. I agree that it needs to be addressed more in that first week. Jack Holcomb is in charge of that and would love our input.
- vi. Holt - while it is great to bring more attention to it, I went to the meeting earlier this week and a few issues caught my attention. While we can talk about it during Truman days, it goes far beyond. Things that were mentioned at the meeting were the scholarship jobs required, and the gpa expectations that are set on those scholarships. These need to be worked with, because this is not normal.
- vii. Zach (gallery) - Wrestling team captain - As a team we keep getting barriers placed in front of us. Athletes in general have this pressure. WE were just told this week about the expectations placed upon us to continue next year. This only puts more mental health stress on us. We have reached out to Pres. Thomas, and we want to meet with her to spread awareness of the stress. We did not receive the scholarships we were promised this year, and that adds more pressure.
- viii. Slama - POI - The team, those of you who had scholarships, those were discontinued?
 1. Those scholarships were changed at the beginning of the semester, after our meeting with the coach about this in the spring. This also really affects our freshmen. We didn't get the money we were promised to increase at the end of the season last year.
- ix. DeWitt- the only thing required during TD is the online QPR, which is very low-commitment. The only time is shade tree time, which is based on SAs themselves. One route is to go through ResLife and have mental health be set as a required discussion for that time.
- x. Isaac (gallery) - one of my concerns with the online training is that it is the kind of thing that people won't take seriously. I think it would be helpful if you could maybe have groups where you talk through certain situations that people have actually been through. It hits home.
- xi. Meyer - One of the big things happened during my family dinner. Because of the large-scale reaction, I realized that people didn't realize they exist. Even my SAs did not realize that these weren't new limitations. They saw this as another thing that they would have to work on in the halls. Something needs to be done to raise awareness.
- xii. Lawrence (gallery) - Truman Days presents information that is already known. I don't know what the best way to approach that is, but for something this delicate, we should have a session on something that brings these issues to light.
- xiii. Wissler - I do think that one of the biggest problems was the lack of transparency. I was very concerned about these limitations, because it seemed as if they would turn away anyone with a serious mental health issue, which is obviously not their intent. Their timing wasn't the best either, with it being two weeks after a student death, but I appreciate them trying to be more transparent. They are doing the best they can. They are counselors and legally they are not allowed to give certain things. We are sharing a

psychiatrist with ATSU. I appreciate their transparency and these are realistic expectations.

- xiv. Discussion extended by 15 minutes.
- xv. Isaac (gallery)- another thing I think would be helpful is a review of things that you can do or turn to outside of UCS. There are also telepsychiatry, which would be really great.
- xvi. Costello - I like the discussion about the SAs. I think that they get a lot of training about mental health, but not very much about UCS. They were blindsided by the limitations as well. Something that needs to be addressed is the transparency of the JED committee. Joe and I know how hard they are working, but the campus at large is completely unaware. They really were just trying to let people know of their limitations.
- xvii. Slama - it is important to note that it should say "potential limitations" rather than "limitations." They will do as much as they can, and then will work to find other solutions when there is nothing more they can legally do. The JED committee is also working on making their website more usable. This was not from the JED committee, however. Right after a student death was not a good idea. Important to keep those in mind, especially the misnomer. Something else - with the scholarship stuff, this has been churning in my mind. I had a friend who had to transfer because he could not work as much as he had to. I would like to do research on how much other schools require. (Wissler - other schools have a much lower minimum gpa and do not require scholarship jobs) I am ok with going with the other schools and not having scholarship jobs. I am not opposed to the idea of Truman not requiring them. I would love to hear feedback on this - maybe waiving the requirement for those who need to work outside of the scholarship job 4 hours or more - a way for them to confidentially verify this.
- xviii. Jacobson - The Health 195 class, she brought in UCS and they went over things that were helpful, they gave contact information, introduced us to the counselors. Maybe putting something like this earlier on in the Truman experience.
- xix. Lawrence (gallery)- Truman does a great job of putting themselves in a great place to do loads of damage control. Instead of them asking a couple of students to read this before they sent it out, it would have been much easier for them to send an email saying 1) this is not new, and 2) we probably will not turn you away. (POI - The father of the student who died confirmed that it was a suicide.) Truman should not be putting themselves in this sticky PR situation.
- xx. Montufar - The UCS website is terrible. That totally turned me away. There is probably a better way. (POC - The reason that you have to come in, is that they want to make sure that you are not in a crisis. They have a crisis button on their website. They don't want students to make an appointment when they really need to be helped immediately, Slama) I don't know if I am happy with that answer. It is pretty difficult to have to go in person regardless. The website needs to be more user friendly. (Tillman - we are so digitally connected.)
- xxi. Holt - The first time I was desperate enough to go, I was in a crisis. When I found that they couldn't help me in my crisis, that was the end all be all for me. I felt like no one could help me. How are they supposed to help people when they cannot even make it in the door. Also, we have 6,000 students that need to be helped. It is important to change that GPA requirement now. It is so important. We are in a crisis now, and we need to do something now.
- xxii. Schmidt - In response to Shania and Rachel - you are not the first to address this. I believe that this should be addressed. I also went to the forum on Thursday, and it was very eye-opening and productive. Loved the ideas of looking into scholarship jobs and gpa requirements. Also, looking into attendance policies - the policy passed by Faculty Senate two years ago is not being followed. Also, Keaton and I are working with Dr. Thomas to host a forum for faculty, staff, and students. We will be talking with her more; please stay tuned.
- xxiii. Deck - I think that one concern is that there is a problem now. There is a concern about the culture of Truman. No one answered my question about what we do about it. I think

that we should have more events surrounding mental health outside of Mental Health Week to show students that we really care. Also, having an opportunity for the students to meet the counselors. That could potentially be very helpful, even to talk with them for a minute.

- xxiv. Isaac (gallery)- In response to that, it might be useful to personally select people and challenge them to challenge that culture when they see it on campus, esp. In situations where people are putting their studies before themselves. A specific, concerning issue is that I went to the psychiatric nurse practitioner to get a prescription refilled and it seemed very new-agey, and it's very concerning because she couldn't keep track of my friend's medication. It is baffling to me that she was hired in the first place.
- xxv. Leppanen - Thank you all for coming out and contributing. We are going to bring up lots of this discussion in our weekly meeting with Pres. Thomas and VP Stoskopf. We are going to check-in on the projects they are working on as well as give suggestions.
1. Schmidt - you have been doing a great job sharing this with your peers, talking to people sharing their concerns about what we can do to concretely help. It is also extremely important to be respectful and not invalidate others' feelings or experiences. This is not a one and done discussion; we meet every week.
 2. Leppanen - It is your job to act as a resource, to help direct people to things that they need. We need to stay informed. A change on campus starts with the students. Keep things positive and productive. Do not be afraid to reach out to administrators. Our door is always open.

Announcements

1. Our speaker Adam Barker is a winner of the Gold Medal Concerto Competition! Congratulations, Adam!
2. University Conduct Board is looking for new members - contact us if you are interested.
3. Happy Birthday Keaton!!

Adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Links

[Committees and Committee Chairs Resolution](#)