

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
GENERAL MEETING
February 3, 2019
Called to Order 12:36 pm**

Preliminary Items

a. Roll Call

i. Present:

1. Keaton Leppanen, President
2. Deanna Schmidt, Vice President
3. Adam Barker, Speaker
4. Sam Tillman, Secretary
5. Lauren Hogan, Treasurer
6. Tiffany Middlemas, Student Representative to the Board of Governors
7. Katie Alexander, Academic Affairs Chair
8. Shania Montúfar, Women's Leadership Conference Chair
9. Jared Kolok, Environmental Affairs Chair
10. Adam Paris, Student Affairs Chair
11. Chantelle Wimms, Diversity Chair
12. Joon Bang, Appropriations Chair
13. Caroline Costello, Sexual Assault Prevention Designee
14. Jade Harrison, Public Relations Director
15. Hannah Wissler, Purple Friday Chair
16. Doug Adolphson, Voting Senator
17. Lizzie Cremer, Voting Senator
18. Maddie Meyer, Voting Senator
19. Kathleen Placke, Voting Senator
20. Emma Carignan, Associate Senator

b. Approval of Minutes

c. Gallery Introductions/Business

- i. Dr. Justin Jarvis, UGC Chair
- ii. Thank you for your most recent Resolution, recommending the postponement of the Dialogues.
- iii. A number of resolutions on this subject have come through faculty governance, but less has been done than I would like, I cannot bring this back up, but I would like you to know that I share your concerns. I think now is a good time to put more emphasis on this issue, and I think we should work together on something to make sure it remains in the forefront.
- iv. Specifically within the resolution, every point made is solid. On the Symposium, it brings up a lot of concerns.
- v. Talking to Dr. Thomas and Dr. Gooch, they seem close to being on board with your initiative. By the way, you are lucky that they like to hear student feedback.
- vi. I would like to come up with a plan for how to go forward, because I don't think saying "delay" is going to work, given how much investment has been made by the faculty working on this project.
- vii. On Thursday someone asked, "What can we do to lower stress of students?" which I think is a great question. Keaton made the suggestion of implementing the Dialogues in stages, which is a proposal I think we should put our weight behind. This might look like so: implementing Self & Society Seminar this fall, the rest at a later time. All of the proposed Self & Society Seminars are looking pretty polished, I am excited because I have one myself.
- viii. At the same time, I don't know if Symposium is ready for primetime. I think the best way forward would be to institute a catalogue for this fall with the Self & Society Seminar, leaving out the Health & Wellness Requirement, and keep everything else in its current form. The Modes would remain, the Perspectives would wait until they are ready.
- ix. Questions:

1. Schmidt: Thank you for your support and your time. Recently, Dr. Alberts has reached out to us about the possibility of a compromise, he actually suggested something similar to what you have proposed. We are going to meet with him today, to talk about possible compromises. We don't know as much about Self & Society Seminar, could you elaborate a little bit on that?
 - a. The deadline for faculty to get their Self & Society Seminar syllabi to me is March 1. Most departments seem to have two sections of the Self & Society Seminar, and with 25+ departments, that's at least 50 sections, which will probably be plenty.
 - b. Leppanen: If you would like to join us, we're meeting with Dr. Alberts at 2:30.
 - c. Unfortunately, I cannot. But please pass on my support for the idea of a staggered implementation.
 2. Alexander: I got some recent feedback from a professor about the Self & Society Seminar, and he was concerned about teaching his course in the fall. Is there any way to make the transition to teaching this course easier?
 - a. There were a number of professors who thought they could do something generic, but we want each to be somewhat unique. I think it is less about what the goal of the Self & Society Seminar is, and more of a mix-up in the expectations. We have made example syllabi and other materials, some of which are quite detailed. I don't know of anything that can or needs to be done in regard to easing the transition. Any time you teach a new class is always going bit scary.
 3. Leppanen: Could you give a brief rundown what the Self & Society Seminar is?
 - a. The unifying experience we want freshmen to have is the Symposium, with the corequisite for that being the 3-credit Self & Society Seminar, which will be kind of like a freshman JINS. I will be teaching a Self & Society Seminar on Sacred Economics. Through the lens of this topic, we will think about its relationship to ourselves and society. 30-40% of the class will be very similar among each section, the rest will be unique to the topic. Most students will be able to sign up for their preferred topic, with the exception of Biology majors, as their freshman seminar will be replaced by the Self & Society Seminar. There will be 1-2 sections for transfer students (they would take TRU 300 instead of TRU 110).
 4. Wimms: You mentioned that for Biology students, they would have to take a different Self & Society Seminar section than most others, could you explain the reasoning?
 - a. I think it was because the Biology department wanted to replace their own freshman seminar with the Self & Society Seminar.
 5. Middlemas: If someone changed their major to Biology, would they have to go back and take the Biology Self & Society Seminar even if they have already taken another Self & Society Seminar course?
 - a. It would likely be waived, but it depends on the case.
- d. Membership Appointment/Resignation/Removals
 - i. Appointment of Emma Carignan to Associate Senator on the External Affairs Committee (Leppanen)
 1. Approved
 - e. Oath of Office
 - f. Changes to the Agenda
 - i. Discussion of Dr. Jarvis' remarks
 1. Leppanen: Some background: last semester, you all passed a resolution recommending to delay the Dialogues. Two weeks ago at the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting, the registrar said that no student would graduate under the 2019-2020 catalogue, and that every student have their catalogue update to 2020-2021 in order to resolve that. This was obviously alarming, and the net result of that discussion is that I spoke at Faculty Senate in support of our

resolution, and on the problems with the catalogue. Some members of Faculty Senate and UGC agree with our resolution, others do not. As it stands, unless something happens, the Dialogues are still rolling onward. I feel we must reach some sort of compromise in order to avoid a complete mess in the fall.

- a. Hogan: Why would no student graduate under that catalogue?
- b. There is no clear path to graduate. All the requirements would be unclear, and the result of that would either be exceptions (on the requirements) for every single student, or an update to a new catalogue.
2. Costello: Reading through the survey data from Symposium, the freshmen who were in the pilot program hated it. Now, the changes recommended are an improvement, but I still don't think it's where it needs to be.
3. Wissler: Self & Society Seminar seems much further along in its progress. Why would they force people to enter a catalogue that will just be updated? I don't see any risk delaying a year and possibly doing another pilot. Doing implementation in stages ensures each part gets the attention it needs.
4. Wimms: It bothers me that Biology students would be forced to take a Biology-specific Self & Society Seminar. I thought the point of S&SS was to take something outside your major.
 - a. Leppanen: The Biology Self & Society Seminar would replace the Biology freshman seminar.
 - b. Schmidt: The Biology faculty insisted upon this, they see it as allowing Biology majors to have one less class.
5. Schmidt: I am really glad Dr. Jarvis came to second our ideas. On the idea of doing a second pilot, I'm not sure I support that anymore. We had proposed in the past to do a bigger pilot, around 500. But I don't it's fair to force students or even ask them to opt in for another pilot. Having another pilot just feels weird. I think it's a good idea to let the Self & Society Seminar go ahead, but hold off on the Symposium so there is another year to work out how it would fit in with Self & Society Seminar.
6. Middlemas: I don't really know how the catalogue works, but would someone who takes Self & Society Seminar have to then Symposium once it's implemented?
 - a. Leppanen: We would hope that it would just be a requirement in the NEXT year's catalogue.
 - b. Middlemas: So essentially, Self & Society Seminar would just an addition to the current curriculum?
 - c. Leppanen: Yes, it is separate. Maybe we could call it FINS.
7. Hogan: So are the only changes the Self & Society Seminar and Symposium, or more than that?
 - a. Leppanen: It is a complete overhaul. There will also be the Perspectives to replace the Modes.
 - b. Hogan: Why not just do one new thing each year?
 - c. Leppanen: That's what we are proposing. But Dr. Alberts, et al want to just put everything in, warts and all.
8. Meyer: How will students know about the proposed changes?
 - a. Leppanen: To be clear, none of these changes will affect anyone in this room. But, it is important for students to know. We've really tried to make people informed, but simply because this process is so complex we've mostly relied on the people here. I don't think I even fully understand what is happening.
9. Leppanen: Thank you all, we'll bring this to Dr. Alberts and other members of Faculty governance.

Auxiliary Reports

- a. Speaker of the Student Senate
 - i. No report
- b. Student Representative to the Board of Governors

- i. The Board of Governors meeting is next Saturday, and it is open to public. A brief rundown of the items on agenda: A new Bachelor of Science degree for Philosophy and Religions, new Major for Italian. The new Enrollment Management consultant will be there, and he will talk more about what he is working on. We are also picking a new contractor for the Mall project.
 - ii. Questions:
 - 1. Kolok: What time is the meeting?
 - a. The general meeting is at 1 pm in the SUB conference room, committee meetings are at 9 am in various locations.
- c.** Faculty Advisor
- d.** Staff Advisor
- e.** Academic Affairs Chair
 - i. My meeting with Dr. Holcomb was postponed (it was supposed to be on Wednesday), that will be next Tuesday. I'm really excited to get going on the Freshman Guide!
 - ii. EOTY: Nominations are due THIS FRIDAY. Please go fill one out! This is a great way to recognize a professor who has impacted you. Please also share the link with your organizations. Direct advertisement is a great way to get people involved. A possible perk of nominating a professor is that you get to come to the banquet if your nominee is a finalist.
 - iii. Course Threads: We will be discussing a resolution later. Bridget Thomas invited me to present on Course Threads at the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee meeting, so Keaton suggested I have a resolution to support our idea.
 - iv. Questions:
 - 1. Harrison: There is a Facebook post about EOTY, do you want me to spread the info further?
 - a. Yes!
- f.** Parking Ad Hoc Committee Chair
- g.** Women's Leadership Conference Chair
 - i. No report
- h.** External Affairs Chair
 - i. Schmidt (for Holt): There was a concern that Truman at the Cap was not going to happen, but Heidi reached out to us and said she has found enough people to go. The bus leaves at 7 am next Tuesday!
- i.** Environmental Affairs Chair
 - i. I had a meeting with Ernie Hughes, and we talked about building a Labyrinth on the Fair Apartments lot. It will have a new name, with a plaque and the history of Fair Apartments.
- j.** Student Affairs Chair
 - i. The showcase was pretty laid-back, but we had some nice conversations with parents about StuGov.
 - ii. My slate for Student Appreciation Week is almost done.
- k.** Diversity Chair
 - i. The map of gender-neutral bathrooms are up on Truview!
 - ii. I'm meeting with Admissions about braille maps, they had concern that it might be hard to make changes to those when changes need to be made.
- l.** Appropriations Committee Chair
 - i. We will have our first meeting on Thursday, a slate is coming next meeting.
- m.** Athletic Fee Accountability Chair
- n.** Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Chair
 - i.
- o.** Health, Wellness and Safety Chair
 - i. The schedule for Mental Wellness Week has been finalized, and is as follows:
 - 1. Monday, February 11
 - a. "Stepping Stones of Mental Health," 10 am-2 pm, SUB Down Under.
 - b. JED Committee Town Hall, 5 pm, VH 1000.
 - 2. Tuesday, February 12

- a. “Pursuing Well-Being at Truman and Beyond,” Rebecca Zimmer, Lecturer in Psychology, 7 pm, SUB Georgian Rooms.
- 3. Wednesday, February 13
 - a. “Healthy or Hurtful? Relationships, Resilience and Red Flags,” Dr. Katie Jdd, Asst. Prof. of Psychology, 7 pm, Baldwin 114.
- 4. Thursday, February 14
 - a. Screening Services provided by UCS, 10 am-2 pm, SUB Activities Room.
- 5. Friday, February 15
 - a. Waffles for Mental Wellness, 9 am-noon, SUB Hub.
 - b. Mental Health Resource Fair, 10 am-2 pm, SUB Alumni Room.
- 6. Sunday, February 17
 - a. Mental Wellness Walk, 3 pm, Kirk Gym.
- p. Sexual Assault Prevention Designee
 - i. I emailed a bunch of organizations again, but the same people responded. Dr. Millot will make them respond if she has to...
- q. SAB Representative
- r. FAC Representative
- s. Public Relations Director
 - i. I have some projects going on; Student Appreciation Week posters, Mental Wellness Week stuff, and Univ Conduct Board posters. PR req form is in Important Links
- t. Legislative Director
- u. Parking Appeals Committee Chair
- v. Purple Friday Subcommittee Chair
 - i. I submitted an FRF for our Pal-entine’s day event. We are spending about \$81 for candy, fake flowers, and cute little valentines. We will be tabling that day in the SUB. This and next week, the committee is working on crafts for our event. Join us the next two Mondays at 7!

Executive Reports

- a. Treasurer
 - i. Reminders: **any** time you spend money, tell me, and fill out an FRF. Materials, prices, when/where your event is. I want it all.
 - ii. You have a deadline of 13 **business** days before you need something to get it.
 - iii. Chairs are the only ones to spend money. Don’t go rogue. No more committee members spending money.
 - iv. If you are ordering posters, give me at least two weeks.
 - v. Questions:
 - 1. Harrison: Do I have a budget?
 - a. Leppanen: you don’t have a budget, but if you need money, we have some you can use in our miscellaneous budget.
- b. Secretary
 - i.
- c. President and Vice President of the Student Association
 - i. Activities Fair: we only need someone for set-up from 12:30-1. Since it is divided into to sections, we can’t be there for the second, but we are allowed to put up a sign directing people to our office. We have added additional time slots for those office times.
 - ii. Voting Senator positions are still open, if you have dedicated associates, they should think about applying. Recruit!
 - iii. Council appointments: Janna has finalized the makeup of the Student Affairs Advisory Council and the Sodexo Culinary Council. We have to appoint a StuGov rep and two students-at-large to each, so if you know people who are not on StuGov and might be interested, please talk to them and send them our way.
 - iv. As you may remember, we brought up the Vision Doc in the fall, but it is not happening this year. We would like to have this as a chairship, so if you are interested in that position, talk to us.

- v. Presidents Round Table: several of you have submitted summaries of their notes, but we need those from everyone who was a discussion leader. Please type up something (nothing fancy) and send it to us by ExComm.
- vi. Faculty Senate: It was an eventful week, but we must press on. Just so you know, lots of Faculty are in support of us, and they are impressed by the work we have done.
- vii. Enrollment: Regina Morin gave a report about enrollment at Faculty Senate, and it looks like next year will also see a decrease in enrollment. This means less money for us and other fee-based organizations. This trajectory may continue for a couple of years, but don't panic. This is a tricky time.
- viii. Writing-Enhanced Perspective: this was passed at Faculty Senate, with some important amendments.
- ix. After TWO YEARS, the course repeat policy update has been passed. You are now allowed to replace the old grade with the new grade in your GPA.
- x. Thank you to the four of you who showed up to our first stugov dinner last week. The next one is tomorrow!
- xi. Intramural Leagues sent me a message about volleyball, if you would like to play on the TruLuvStuGov indoor volleyball team, slack or email me. No experience required!

Old Business

- a. Second Read: A Resolution Designating the Official Graduation Honor Cord of the Truman State University Student Government (Leppanen)
 - i. Nothing has really changed, I thought about Laura's comment about the budget, but chose not to include it because that would be tricky, with having to decide on a set amount.
 - ii. Questions: on your last Therefore bullet, why aren't you designating the date for receiving one as at the transition meeting in the spring?
 - 1. Some people graduate at semester.
 - iii. Passed by Unanimous Consent
- b. Second Read: A Resolution Amending the Standing Rules of Student Government: Committees and Committee Chairs (Barker)
 - i. Not much has changed here, either. One thing, in the part about VP taking over for chair vacancy.
 - ii. Discussion:
 - 1. Schmidt: Going off of what you said about VP, why are we not just saying "in the absence of a committee chair" on that section? Could I make a friendly?
 - a. Accepted.
 - 2. Kolok: Friendly to remove Sam Tillman from "sponsored by"
 - a. Accepted.
 - iii. Passed by Unanimous Consent.

New Business

- a. First Read: A Resolution to Support an Interdisciplinary "Course Threads" Certificate Program (Alexander)
 - i. Some background: The course thread program is a project I have been working on for awhile, and I'm excited to continue working on it! A single course thread would be less work than a minor, probably three courses. It would also be more interdisciplinary, exploring more niche areas of study. I think it would be a great way to have something unique to Truman. There might also be a capstone-like element to each thread.
 - ii. Questions:
 - 1. Hogan: Have you talked to Bridget Thomas?
 - a. Yes. We have worked closely on developing this project.
 - 2. Have you also talked to John Quinn? He is the chair of the International Studies Minor, which is rather interdisciplinary, I think he might be a good resource.
 - a. I have not, but I may.
 - 3. Placke: Will this be course-based or credit-based?
 - a. I would rather this be course-based.
 - 4. Middlemas: Can JINS courses be part of a thread?

- a. Yes, one idea behind this is to possibly have a JINS class be the culmination of a thread, to tie multiple areas of study together
 5. Adolphson: Are there other schools that have done this, or is UC Berkeley the only one?
 - a. UC Berkeley was the one school I looked at for an example, as far as I know there aren't any other schools that do this.
 6. Kolok: How many classes would these be?
 - a. Three classes of three credits, so a minimum of nine credits.
 7. Leppanen: Would these be able to be double-counted?
 - a. Probably, but if you had an Economics class for your major, you would still have to take two course from other departments.
- iii. Discussion:
 1. Wissler: I am concerned about each thread being too broad, especially with the capstone, how can you tie together those disparate topics?
 2. Paris: friendly
 3. Hogan: I don't like this. The main reason is that except for the Income Inequality Thread, these sound like the International Studies minor. I think it's a good idea, but.
 4. Schmidt: I am in support of this resolution, there is something to be said for the variety of courses. The details maybe shouldn't be weighing this down.
 - a. Friendly amendment to include the example course thread on the appendix.
 - i. Accepted
 - b. Another friendly amendment to include faculty on the discussion.
 - i. Accepted
 5. Leppanen: I don't really see any downside to moving this forward. Worst-case, students will have an extra certificate on their diploma. As far as the capstone, I don't think it needs to be a course, but I think it would be good to have a project to explain how you've gained a particular perspective between all of these classes.
 6. Alexander: I think this is particularly valuable to students who are in a major that doesn't allow them to have a minor, so if they want to explore a particular interest this way, they can.
 7. Placke: On the capstone: the Child Studies Minor has a similar thing to what Keaton was proposing, something to connect.
 8. Tillman:
 9. Wissler: The example list is rather broad, but so is the topic. The other example threads are niches, I don't think this one, American and Global Culture, is a niche subject. A history or philosophy major is already taking courses that cover this subject.
 10. Kolok: Spanish 360 has at least 4 prerequisites for it. We should be wary of those classes.
 11. Middlemas: I do really support this ideas. The only reservations I have are that a lot of other schools call their minors "certificates," which would be confusing to employers.
 12. Adolphson: I was concerned there was no science component, but that is apparently.
 13. Montúfar: I think it's fine that it is broad, maybe there is not enough for a capstone, but overall this is a good example because it is not intended to be like a minor.
 14. Alexander: Thank you for the feedback! To clarify, the point of this resolution is to express our support for the project, not necessarily to hammer out specific details.
- iv. First Read
- b. Motion to suspend the Standing Rules to Second Read the resolution.
 - i. Passed 6-2-0
- c. Second Read: A Resolution to Support an Interdisciplinary "Course Threads" Certificate Program (Alexander)

- i. I would really like to have the backing of Student Government when I go to the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee meeting on Friday, it would give more weight to the proposal.
- ii. Kolok: I'm afraid that the committee will bring up questions you're not prepared for, especially given that this was written so quickly.
- iii. Leppanen: I don't see a downside of passing it. It's very solid. Work with committee, Dr. Gooch, and Bridget Thomas has been going on for awhile, so I don't see
- iv. Alexander: I have been working on this project for a while, and I was able to write the resolution quickly because I know a lot about this project.
- v. Wissler: To Keaton's point, this is something we should support, but at the same time I would like to see all of these be more niche topics.
- vi. Hogan: Hostile amendment to change title to "A Resolution to Support an Exploration of Interdisciplinary "Course Threads" Certificate Program"
 1. Amendment fails 3-5-0
- vii. Resolution Passes 6-1-1

Announcements

- a. Wimms: The Women's Resource Center is looking for participants in the Vagina Monologues! Please sign up if you are interested!

Adjourned 2:36 Links

Grad Cord Resolution:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1taJ85jtXPomepFyY1mDb5SIzCHGnq2QdnVoS4VSojhE/edit?usp=sharing>

Committee Changes Resolution:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W2jVTci9N71OjlU4tJ2SoRbKkNZBEviwMDnNXx992-8/edit?usp=sharing>

Course Threads Resolution:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JOCKMmKfPP6unv9X6dfm4tTeonzMO8xhUTlRS--SiGE/edit?usp=sharing>