

NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK



**TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT
GOVERNMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greeting From the President and VP.....	2
Purpose & Function.....	3
Governing Documents	4
Structure.....	5
Tools of the Trade.....	8
Senatorial Duties.....	10
Parliamentary Procedure.....	11
Meeting Etiquette.....	12
Appendix I: How to Write a Resolution.....	13
Appendix II: Parliamentary Procedure Cheat Sheet.....	15
Appendix III: The Making of Points.....	16
Appendix IV: Truman’s Organizational Hierarchy.....	17
Appendix V: Committee Purviews.....	18

GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Dear new Student Government Member,

Congratulations on being elected or appointed to a position on Student Government -- an accomplishment of no small note! Personally, we have found our time serving on Student Government to be one of the most fulfilling and rewarding parts of our college career -- there is nothing quite like the profound sense of satisfaction you get from affecting change that truly better the lives of your fellow students. It is our hope that you will come to feel the same!

We created the New Member Handbook with this goal in mind. The idea behind it being to help impart to you some of the knowledge and tools necessary to be a successful member of Student Government. Think of it as your go-to guide for anything regarding Student Government. However, it is not nearly comprehensive, and, as such, we encourage you to not only read through this handbook, but also to ask questions about anything that piques your interest, get to know your fellow Student Government members, and, most importantly, to contribute any new knowledge or tips that you have found useful!

In your new position on Student Government, you have a unique chance to help lead your peers, improve our University, and develop as a person. As such, it is our hope that arming you with the information herein will help speed up your transition into the organization, answer some of the questions you undoubtedly have, and eliminate some of your uncertainty. All of this so that you can hit the ground running and get to work representing the Student Association.

Best of Luck,

Keaton Leppanen

President of the Student Association
2018-2019

Deanna Schmidt

Vice President of the Student Association
2018-2019

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

The focus of Student Government shifts from year to year. A large part of what determines what Student Government accomplishes in a given year is determined by what each year's membership is most passionate about. However, what always remains constant is our overall purpose and function.

Our purpose revolves around three tenets:



Improve our University

Student Government is committed to the continual betterment of our University community from the perspective of the Student Association



Serve the Students

Student Government provides many services to students, such as organizational funding, the Collegiate Readership Program, and Parking Appeals



Represent our Students

Student Government represents the views of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy through legislation and membership on University committees

Breaking down these overarching goals allows us insight into how exactly Student Government functions and what exactly the roles that we fulfill at Truman are!

- 1) **Improve our University** -- This is the 'get stuff done' tennant that serves as the driving motivation behind many Student Government initiatives. Whenever an issue or opportunity for improvement presents itself, it is Student Government's job to seek a solution. Often times, these solutions take the form of projects and/or programming. Overall, this tenet encapsulates the work with which most Students will directly see and interact, it is in large part what comes to mind when students think of Student Government. Examples of projects in this category include: the International Flag Display, the suicide prevention hotline on student I.D.s, and the opening and renovation of 'The Library Pit.'
- 2) **Serve the Students** -- While everything Student Government does starts with us serving the student body, this particular tenet refers to the specific services which we provide to Truman students. We provide a handful of ongoing services aimed at making students' lives easier. Many of these services have evolved over time from projects we started and now we maintain as part of our duties. Many students have come to rely on these services and yet have no idea it is Student Government who provides them. Examples of theses services include: individual recycling bins for students, the Collegiate Readership Program, organizational funding in the form of our Appropriations committee, and a system for appealing parking tickets issued by DPS.
- 3) **Represent the Students** -- This is arguably the most often overlooked, but possibly most vital, aspect of Student Government because it does not involve direct interaction with the student body. This is because it primarily involves us ourselves or delegating individuals to serve on various university committees and governing bodies. In these capacities we share and advocate for the student perspective in the formulation of university policy. Examples include our involvement on: Faculty Senate, Undergraduate Council, the Information Technology Advisory Committee, the Next Step Teams, and many others.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Now that you have a sense of Student Government's place on campus, let's turn our focus internally. First up, our rules and structure!

Student Government has three primary governing documents which are supplemented by additional operating procedures and guidelines for specific committees and events. For now we will just focus on the main three:



Constitution

Our Constitution is our primary governing doctrine. It is voted on and approved by the Student Body.



Standing Rules

Our Standing Rules are our secondary governing doctrine. They detail the running of Student Government.



Ethical Code of Conduct

All members of Student Government are subject to and seek to embody out Ethical Code of Conduct.

Constitution -- This is the big one, our most important document. The Constitution deals with our purpose as an organization, our powers/authority, and our positions/structure -- higher-level ideals and goals. As such, it takes precedence over all other documents, and is the ultimate authority on all things Student Government. Since it is so important, in order to change the Constitution, the changes must first be approved by Student Senate and then by the Student Association at large in a campus-wide vote.

Standing Rules -- The Standing Rules are far more mundane and nitty-gritty than our Constitution. These are what detail the day to day running of Student Government, and are composed of very specific rules for how to conduct our meetings, elections, committees, etc. If you have a question about something or want more details concerning a particular rule/policy, this is the place to look. Since they are more to do with our internal conduct, changes to the Standing Rules need only pass through the Student Senate.

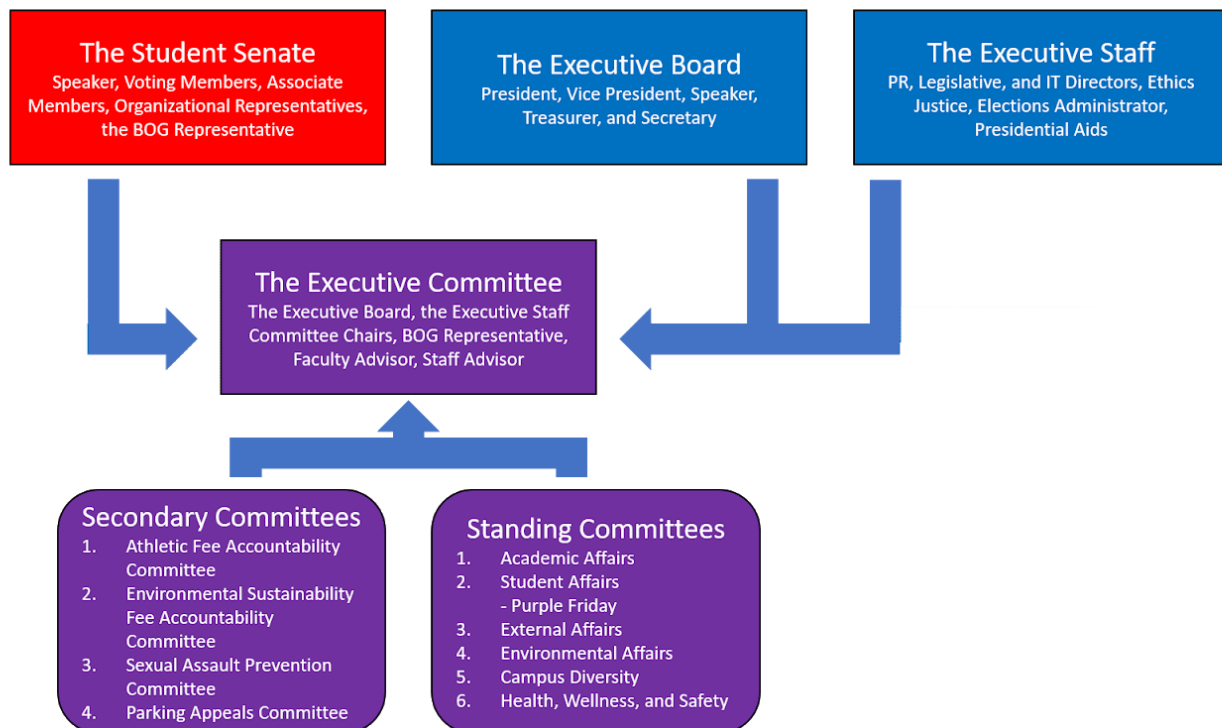
Ethical Code of Conduct -- A short, yet important, document that all members of Student Government should read and use to help inform their actions. This one is simple to understand in order to make sure that everyone understands and follows it. Members who break our Ethical Code are subject to an Ethics Hearing by the Ethics Justice.

STRUCTURE

It is important to note that Student Government is not structured like the federal government; we are structured to accomplish our goals of being as productive and efficient as possible, leading to the most change being accomplished for the student body.

The structure of Student Government can be roughly divided into three sections: the Student Senate, the Executive Branch (the Executive Board & Staff), and the various committees these two bodies oversee:

Truman State Student Government



The Student Senate -- As the legislative body of the Student Government, the Student Senate is charged with representing all members of the Student Association. The Senate is comprised of both voting and non-voting members. Voting members include Incoming Senators, Voting Senators, Senior Senators, and a Graduate Senator. Only these individuals have the power to vote on legislation in the form of resolutions. In addition, these members are required to serve on a Standing Committee where they work on various projects to help improve Truman. On the other hand, non-voting members such as Associate Senators have the privilege to speak at meetings and voice a formal opinion during voting, but are not allowed to actually cast a vote. This is where Student Government policy is formed and its opinions carry the weight of the Student Association.

The Executive Board -- As the executive leadership of Student Government, the Executive Board is charged with providing direction and guidance for the organization as a whole. Comprised of the President, Vice President, Speaker of the Student Senate, Treasurer, and Secretary, decisions regarding Student Government as a whole are often left to the Executive Board's discretion. In addition, it is left to the Executive Board to set each year's priorities, choosing what issues should be focused on and how Student Government's resources should be allocated. To accomplish this task, EBoard is given the power to run meetings, manage our finances, appoint

individuals to various tasks, and require particular issues be looked into. This is where the big decisions are made and each year's agenda is set.

The Executive Staff -- As the administrative personnel of Student Government, the Executive Staff is charged with ensuring the efficiency and productivity of the organization. Holding positions such as Public Relations Director, Information Technology Director, Ethics Justice, and Legislative Director, members of the Executive Staff often have a particular specialized skill set and work in a role dependent on that skill set. As such, Student Government is dependent on them to help us out with projects where we either lack the necessary skills or do not have the time to devote to a particular task. This is where lots of the behind the scenes work of Student Government occurs and the work done here is essential to the day-to-day running of Student Government.

Standing Committees -- Standing Committees, also known as Primary Committees, are permanent and exist in order to address current concerns of the Student Association whether that be in the form of projects, programming, legislation, etc. Each Standing Committee is given a broad category of student life so that they can address a wide-range of issues in that category. We currently have 6 Standing Committees and one subcommittee:

1. Academic Affairs
2. Student Affairs
 - a. Purple Friday
3. Environmental Affairs
4. Diversity
5. External Affairs
6. Health, Wellness, and Safety

Secondary Committees -- Secondary Committees are permanent and exist to provide a particular service or deal with a specific ongoing problem facing the Student Body. We currently have 5 secondary committees:

1. Sexual Assault Prevention
2. Parking Appeals
3. Athletic Fee Accountability Committee
4. Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee
5. Appropriations

Ad Hoc Committees -- Ad Hoc Committees are not permanent and exist to address temporary issues or projects that either do not fall within the scope of or are too large to be handled by a Primary/Secondary Committee. These committees change from year to year, but several ones that we have had include:

1. Rules Revision
2. TEDx
3. Women's Leadership Conference
4. Vision Document

The Executive Committee -- The Executive Committee is the secondary executive body of the Student Government and is presided over by the President. It is comprised of the Executive Board, all the committee chairs, the Executive Staff, the Board of Governors Representative, and the Faculty and Staff Advisors. This committee is where much of the planning, logistics, and decision making happens. Think of it as the 'meeting of the minds' or the 'get stuff done' committee!

Faculty & Staff Advisors -- Our Faculty and Staff advisors are professionals who work at Truman and who graciously help us accomplish our goals by offering logistical support and valuable information and insight. Our Faculty Advisor helps to guide the Academic, External, and Environmental Committees. The Staff Advisor helps to guide the Student Affairs, Purple Friday, and Diversity Committees. The two collaborate to help jointly advise the Athletic Fee Accountability Committee, the Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee, Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, and Health/Wellness/Safety Committee. If you ever have any questions or want more information concerning something pertaining to their expertise, these individuals should be your first stop!

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

At this point you may be wondering how in the world Student Government can possibly achieve such lofty goals. Student Government derives its power from the Student Association (all the students here at Truman). What this means is that we have some sway over how student money is spent, and when student input is needed (solicited or unsolicited), we are the organization with the authority to provide it.

Although each individual project requires its own particular finessing, several of the primary tools at Student Government's disposal are:

Resolutions -- A resolution is Student Senate's primary form of legislation. Think of it as the equivalent to a bill in Congress. Resolutions can be used for many purposes and are often Senate's go to option. One of the most popular uses of a resolution is to state the official opinion of Student Senate and, by extension, the whole student body, in support or opposition of a particular issue or issues. In addition, they can be used to require Student Government to do something in particular (such as work on a project or allocate funds to something), document what we have accomplished, or place issues on the ballot for students to vote on (fee increases, constitutional changes, etc.). Resolutions are distributed to various university officials and, as their contents carries the weight of the official stance of the Student Association as a whole they are taken into consideration when major decision are being made. In short, resolutions are our most formal and direct way of achieving our goals.

Representation -- Truman has a complicated bureaucratic system consisting of countless committees, governing bodies, and departments -- there is a committee for everything! Although this system seems daunting at first, it is actually one of Student Government's greatest tools for enacting change. Student Government has the authority to send representatives to these various bodies to state the opinion of and advocate for the student body -- as students we can provide unique and valuable insight and perspectives on matters that the faculty and staff cannot. These committees are often the ones which shape university policy and have the power to make major changes here on campus. Most notable of the positions we fill are those on Faculty Senate and Undergraduate Council, but we also get to send representatives to everything from the committee designing the new LSP to one on campus mental health.

Communication -- Similar to how we can influence University policy through representation on committees, another very effective way of enacting change is by communication. Almost every project that you may hope to accomplish falls under an existing university official's responsibilities. In order to change things it's important to persuade these individuals to your cause, as they are the ones who will most likely have to do some of the work to make the change happen. Most faculty and staff will always be gracious enough to meet with you -- all you need to do is reach out! Knowing who is in charge of what, meeting with these individuals, building relationships with them, and informing them of the student opinion is the majority of what we do at Student Government -- they are the people who can make big changes happen. It is important to remember to represent yourself with decorum (you are now representing all students here at Truman), provide them with the support and motivation to accomplish your goal (they have their own jobs to do, you are asking them to do extra -- make it as easy for them as possible), and finally, don't be afraid to approach and talk to these individuals (you are now a leader of the student body, also they are, for the most part, genuinely nice)! Perfect examples of this are how the President & V.P. of Student Government meet with the University President on a weekly basis, and how the Student and Academic Affairs chairs meet with their University V.P. counterparts.

Money -- Student Government has both direct and indirect control over a significant sum of student money. We have our internal budget which we can spend on projects important to each year's administration, but on a broader scale, Student Government is the only organization (student or staff/faculty run) with the power to assess additional student fees. As such, we have sway over how money raised via these fees is spent. We have passed the I.T. Fee, the Environmental Sustainability Fee, the Athletic Fee, and, the Mental Health Fee. In their passage we also set particular parameters for how the money is to be spent -- the University can get in legal trouble if they appropriate the money for other uses. In the case of the Environmental and Athletic Fees, we also have student-led committees which decide how the fee is to be spent that year (subject to Student Senate's approval). These committees were responsible for choosing to fund the renovation of Stokes Stadium and installing solar panels across campus. We also have control over proposing raises or reallocations of the Student Activity Fee, which is what funds Student Government, FAC, SAB, and the Collegiate Readership Program.

SENATORIAL DUTIES

So what is your role in all of this? Depending on your exact position, you will have specific duties that may differ from the ones below, but, for the sake of simplicity, in this handbook we will assume that you are a brand new Incoming or Voting Senator and discuss your duties/privileges accordingly. For specifics of other positions' duties I would refer you to the Constitution and Standing Rules.

Required Meetings:

1. General Body Meeting -- As a Senator, you are required to attend all General Body Meetings of the Student Senate. These take place every Sunday at a time designated by each year's administration. These are the most formal of all of our meetings and the only ones where official legislative business can occur. Only members of the Student Government may sit at the table during these meeting, but non-members are welcome to attend and watch in the gallery.
2. Committee Meetings -- After you assume your position as Senator you will be appointed to a Standing Committee. As a member of this committee, you are expected to attend a weekly committee meeting. These are generally much more informal than the General Body meetings and are used to work on various projects at the committee level. The time, place, and content of these meetings is largely dependant on your Committee Chair.
3. Required Events -- Occasionally, the President may designate an event as "required." Generally, these are major or important events that Student Government is hosting or has contributed to.

Office Hours -- Student Senators are required to serve a weekly office hour in the Student Government Office. This time is primarily meant to allow for students to reach out to and talk with their representatives. Most of the time, however, no one shows up to talk with you. As such, they have evolved into more general, 'work on StuGov stuff' time. Many individuals use their office hour to draft resolutions, work on projects, reach out to people regarding their ideas, etc.

Absences -- Student Government takes attendance seriously. After all, if you are not showing up to meetings you are likely not doing your part to serve the Student Body. As such, our attendance policy for Voting Senators is as follows:

- You get five (5) total absences. One (1) of these may be an unexcused absence.
- Missing a General Body Meeting, committee meeting, office hour, or required event counts as an absence.
- Missing more than half a meeting counts as an absence.
- In order for an absence to be excused, you must notify the Secretary beforehand with your excuse and find a replacement to fulfill your duties if necessary.
 - Excuses which are always acceptable include family emergencies and medical appointments or emergencies. The acceptability of other excuses is left to the Secretary.
- Once you have reached your maximum number of absences you will receive a warning from the Secretary.
- Once you have exceeded your maximum number of absences, you will be brought before the Student Senate by the Secretary for removal from your position.
 - You are allowed to appeal the Secretary's decision to the Student Senate.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

In order to keep our meetings running effectively and smoothly, Student Government uses Parliamentary Procedure. In general, we use Robert's Rules of Order as the guidelines for our parliamentary procedure, however we do differ from them in some significant ways. The Speaker is the individual who conducts the meetings and arbitrates matters of parliamentary procedure -- as such, it is only necessary for other members to have a passing understanding of the basic tenets of parli pro -- you don't have to read the entirety of Robert's Rules of Orders! The intention of this section is to convey base knowledge, but if you want any more detail regarding this topic, please reach out to the current Speaker.

The primary place where parliamentary procedure comes to play is at our General Body meetings of the Student Senate where we are all present and official business is conducted. These meetings are run by the Speaker of the Student Senate who makes sure that everyone is abiding by ParliPro, rules on any disputes regarding it, and interprets any vague rules -- their word goes!

Parliamentary Procedure can be divided into two large categories:

1. Motions -- It will serve you well to think of these as the formal way of saying “I want to do something!” There are many codified uses of motions, such as introducing new business (like a resolution), opening/closing debate on a topic, and adjourning the meeting. However, they can be used to do pretty much anything based on the Speaker’s discretion (inviting someone to the table, moving the meeting into closed session, calling for a straw poll, etc.) In order to make a motion you wait to be recognized by the Speaker and you say:

“I *move* to _____”.

first read a Resolution to *insert title*

adopt a Resolution to *insert title*

adjourn the meeting

etc.

2. Points -- Think of these as saying “I want/need something to happen *right now!*” Points are primarily used to facilitate clear and efficient debate. As such, they can be made at almost any time during the meeting. In order to raise a Point, simply raise your hand, call it out, and wait to be acknowledged by the Speaker before continuing (yes, this is one of the few times that you can call things out without having to wait your turn- but remember to be respectful if someone is talking!).

Raise Hand
"Point of _____"
 Information
 Clarification
 Order
Wait to be acknowledged
Explain the point

******For more specifics see Appendices IV & V: Parliamentary Procedure Cheat Sheet & The Making of Points******

MEETING ETIQUETTE

Unlike Parliamentary Procedure, which is extensively codified, meeting etiquette is much more ephemeral and it can be hard at times for members to know what is appropriate when. Additionally, StuGov cohesion and collegiality is one of the most important things when it comes to determining how effective a given administration is.

Order of Business -- Our meetings are divided into different sections, as shown on the weekly agenda, the most important sections are:

1. *Appointments* -- during this section people, generally the President, will move to appoint individuals to various positions. Some of these appointments are minor and, unless someone objects to them, will not require debate. However, Major Appointments will. This means that we will be talking about individuals' qualifications, profinities, and any reservations we might have about them taking a position. This debate is healthy and is necessary for picking the best person for the job, but it is vital that you do not get too personal, remain professional, and not let the content of the discussion leave the room (see "Closed Session" below).
2. *Reports* -- during this section, various executives will share what they have accomplished this past week, what they are planning to do going forward, and just general updates about their committee/position. It is also where people can ask questions and offer advice. As such, this is the least formal section of the meeting, and often times (at the discretion of the Speaker) departs from strict Parliamentary Procedure as to facilitate more open communication and efficiency.
3. *New/Old Business* -- these sections are the heart of the meeting and where Parliamentary Procedure is strictly enforced. During these various business is brought to the table through motions and official debate on that business is held. It is where we have our formal discussions and propose/pass resolutions. As such, in order to maintain the efficiency and dignity of this process, you should remember to follow the Rules of Debate as listed below, not speak out of turn, and just generally follow all the rules of ParliPro.

Closed Session -- At various times we will move into Closed Session, such as when we are debating Major Appointments or are dealing with otherwise sensitive matters. What this means is that anyone who does not have a seat at the table will be asked to leave the room and the doors will be closed. Additionally, no one can enter a Closed Session (even if a StuGov member leaves and come back -- go to the restroom beforehand)! Anything discussed in a closed session, including how people vote, is to be kept strictly confidential -- it does not leave the room. You should not even really discuss the content with other members who were present in the room and certainly not individuals who were not present. This means that people can be free to speak their minds without fear of reprisal. Any breach of this secrecy is counted as a violation of our Ethical Code of Conduct and will be handled accordingly. We take this very seriously!

Rules of Debate -- Often times, debates get heated in StuGov. We have a lot of differing opinions, strong willed individuals, and deal with difficult and sensitive issues. As such, we need to be constantly checking ourselves to makes sure we are acting in a way that fits our positions. Remember, we are all here because we want to help make Truman a better place and debate is not about forcing your opinion on the other side, but rather developing a collective opinion that best represents the Student Association at large. As such, make sure to keep an open mind and to debate, not argue. Here are the general tenants we expect our members to abide by in and outside of meetings:

- 1. Listen to the other side**
- 2. Focus on issues, not personalities**
- 3. Keep redundancy to a minimum**
- 4. Limit cross talk**
- 5. Do not speak without being recognized**
- 6. Be polite**

APPENDIX I: HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

So you want to write a Resolution? Every resolution will vary in content, length, and topic, but the following guidelines should get you started on the right path!

Plan carefully beforehand

Resolutions will be read for content as well as structure and grammar so it is necessary to give writing them the time and energy they deserve. Do all the necessary research -- make sure that you have your facts straight and that any assertions you make are reasonable and supportable. Many times resolutions will incorporate data from student surveys, reputable journals, the news, and university officials.

Write the Resolution

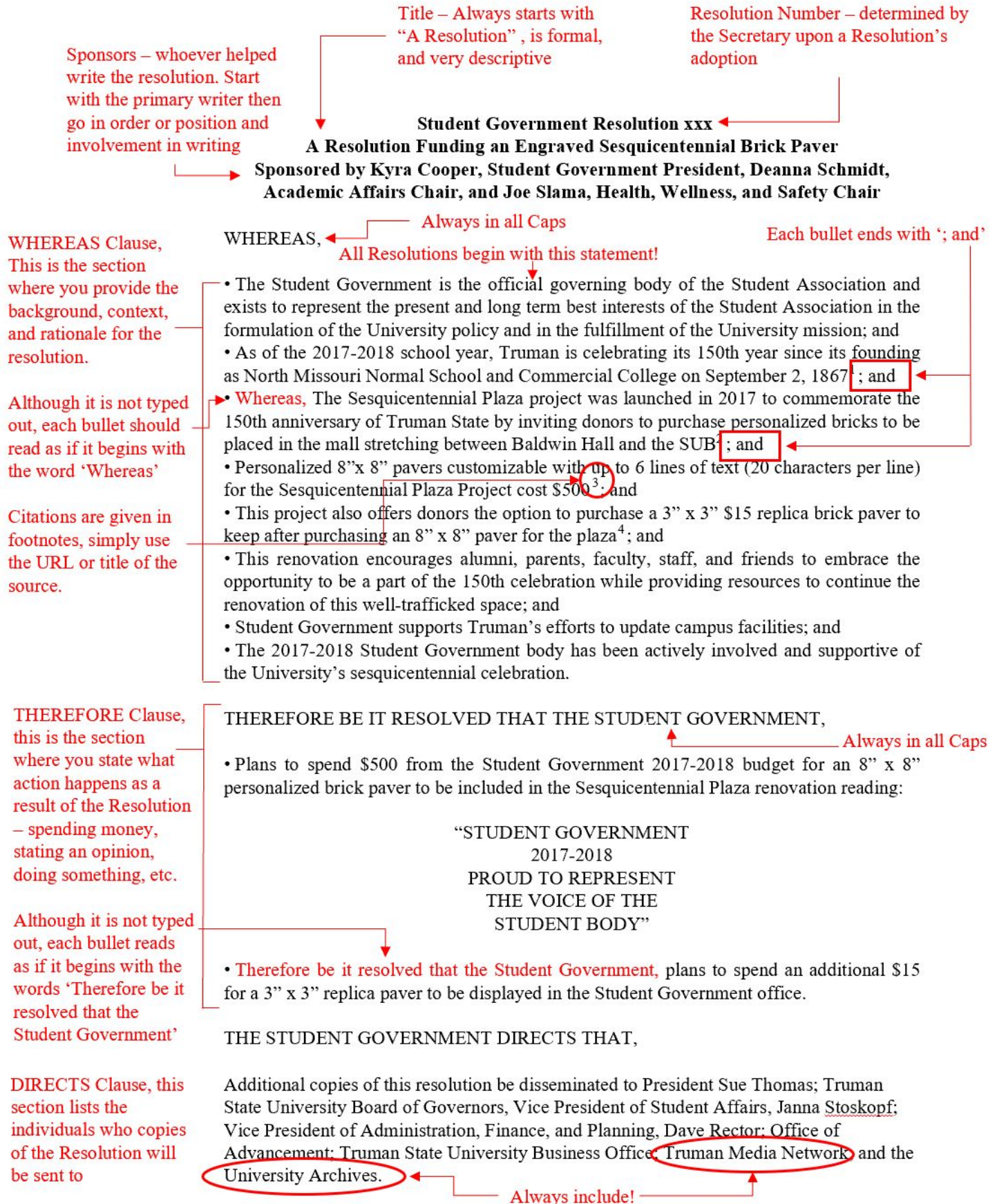
Prepare a rough draft of the resolution so that you can take it to your committee meeting for review and restructuring. It is generally more productive if one or two people write the resolution on their own rather than doing it as a whole committee. This allows for something tangible to discuss and people can point out things that they like or dislike.

Formatting the Resolution

Our resolutions are divided into three main clauses:

- **WHEREAS** - Being the first clause, this is where you want to provide all the background and context for the resolution. Think of it as the 'Because all these things clause.' In it you want to describe any history the project/topic has associated with it (Did we pass a resolution concerning this already? Has there been attempts at this in the past? What has already been done towards accomplishing this?). This is also where you lay out your rationale for why you think this Resolution should be passed/why your project should be done. When doing this remember to stay formal, not become argumentative, lay out your points rationally and objectively. It is also really good if you can provide statistical or professional support for your arguments.
- **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** - This clause is the conclusion clause where you are stating what will happen as the result of this Resolution. Think of it as the 'This is what should happen now clause.' Important to note is that we cannot tell university officials what to do. As such, when it comes to recommending changes beyond our power to make we like to use language such as 'encourages' and 'supports' to convey our message.
- **DIRECTS THAT** - This clause simply is who the Resolution should be sent to.

******For a visual and more specific tips, check out the annotated example Resolution on the next page******



¹ <http://150.truman.edu/>

² <http://150plaza.truman.edu/>

³ <http://150plaza.truman.edu/product/8-x-8-paver/>

⁴ <http://150plaza.truman.edu/product/8-x-8-paver/>

APPENDIX II: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE CHEAT SHEET

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE CHEAT SHEET					
To:	You say:	Interrupt	Second	Debatable	Vote
Introduce Business	"I move that..."	No	Yes	Yes	Depends on business
To first read a Resolution	"I move to first read..."	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
To second read & pass a resolution	"I move to adopt..."	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Points:					
Complain about noise, room temperature, trouble hearing, etc.	"Point of Privilege"	Yes	No	No	Chair decides
Object to procedure	"Point of Order"	Yes	No	No	Chair decides
To ask a question about a relevant fact	"Point of Information"	No	No	No	None
To respond to a question not directed at you or to clarify a fact	"Point of Clarification"	No	No	No	None
Debate & Tabling:					
Limit or extend time for debate	"I move that we limit/extend debate for..."	No	Yes	No	2/3
End debate	"I move the previous question"	No	Yes	No	2/3
Kill a motion without taking a vote	"I move to postpone this motion indefinitely"	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Temporarily suspend the consideration of a motion	"I move that we table the motion"	No	Yes	No	Majority
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move to take from the table..."	No	Yes	No	Majority
Other:					
To amend a motion	"I move that the motion be amended so it reads..."	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	"I move to adjourn"	No	Yes	No	Majority

APPENDIX III: THE MAKING OF POINTS

Points - An aspect of Parliamentary Procedure used to facilitate clear and efficient debate. To raise a point you simply raise your hand, call it out, and wait to be acknowledged.

Point of Information – A question about FACTS under discussion, can be addressed to anyone, but must pertain to the discussion at hand. (Purpose: helps to ensure members are INFORMED while debating)

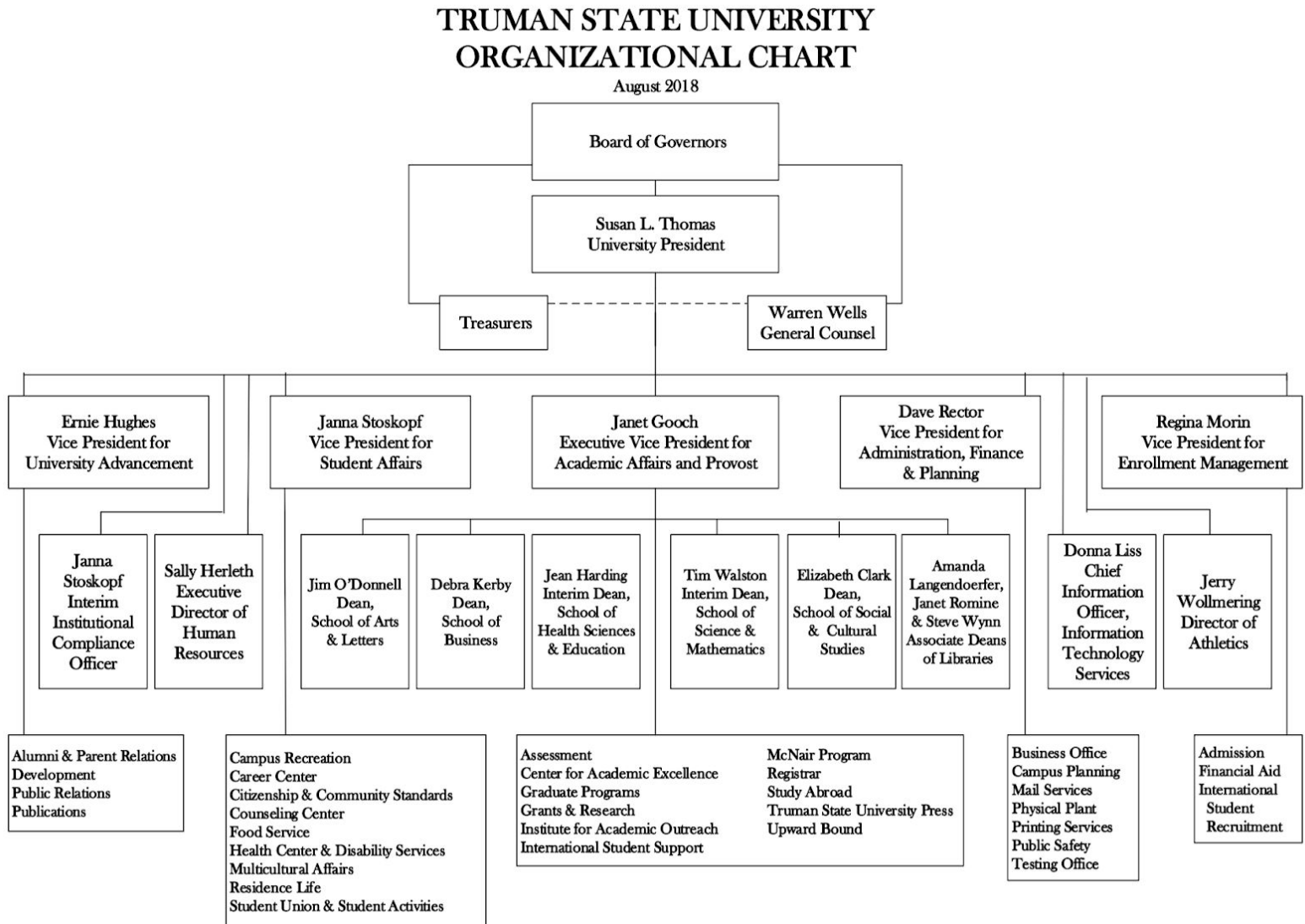
Point of Clarification - To respond to a question not directed at you or to help to illuminate/clarify the FACTS pertaining to what is being discussed.

Point of Order - Someone has misused the rules/procedure and you want to call them on it

Point of Privilege - Used to complain about the temperature, room noise, trouble hearing, etc.

IT IS CONSIDERED VERY POOR FORM TO USE POINTS TO TRY TO SNEAK IN DEBATE!!!!

APPENDIX IV: TRUMAN'S ORGANIZATIONAL HIERARCHY



APPENDIX V: COMMITTEE PURVIEWS

Student Affairs:

Purpose - To ensure the fulfillment of the University's mission in the non-academic aspects of the University community from the perspective of the Student Association. This committee actively works to: improve the quality of student life; guarantee the rights and promote the desires of the Student Association; further the enhancement of an all-encompassing living and learning environment; and ensure that University policies and programs are commensurate with the best interests of the Student Association

Notable Projects - The placement of a suicide prevention hotline number on the back of student ID cards, the opening of and the addition of the sculpture to the 'Pit', student accessible printing, and Student Appreciation Week.

Academic Affairs:

Purpose - To ensure the continuance of the academic quality of Truman State University from the perspective of the Student Association. This committee strives to promote: a diverse curriculum encompassing the philosophy, values, content, and ideals of a Liberal Arts and Sciences education; academic integrity and other ethics and values inherent in a liberal arts and sciences education; academic advising of the highest caliber which assures that students understand the role of the Liberal Arts and Sciences in the University's curriculum; and proper student representation within faculty and University governance.

Notable Projects - Implementation of a University Attendance Policy, involvement in curriculum changes, the placement of emergency procedures on syllabi, and Educator of the Year.

External Affairs:

Purpose - To promote communication between the Student Association and the larger society of which it is a part. This committee actively works to: establish and maintain communication with members of the Kirksville community, the Missouri State Government, and the student governments from other universities in order to share perspectives and gather information, thereby increasing the awareness of the Student Association on issues which impact its well-being in order to create an informed citizenry; exchange information and perspectives with prospective and future members of the Student Association; and gather student opinion on issues that impact the Student Association and the University community.

Notable Projects - Voter registration drives for students, community outreach and volunteering, and Truman at the Capital.

Environmental Affairs:

Purpose - To ensure the maintenance of a campus environment that is commensurate with the goals of a Liberal Arts and Sciences university from the perspective of the Student Association. This committee carefully considers issues concerning resource management and recycling, construction, repairs, renovations, campus beautification, and handicap accessibility in order to assure that: all facilities and grounds are optimally utilized and maintained in a safe and environmentally responsible manner; decisions affecting the campus environment will receive appropriate student, faculty, staff, and administrative input prior to implementation; and the University's facilities in no way inhibit or hinder, but rather enhance, the Liberal Arts and Sciences environment.

Notable Projects - Recycling bins for dorm rooms, glass recycling on campus, light shades for lamp posts, and Earth Week activities.

Campus Diversity:

Purpose - To improve the harmony among the diverse population of the Student Association and actively work to represent the interests and needs of marginalized students and communities. The Committee shall promote diversity in all of its forms through one Diversity Week per year, other diversity programs, and involvement in University policy making.

Notable Projects - The International Flag Display, translating admissions materials, and Diversity Week.

Health, Wellness, and Safety:

Purpose - To nurture a campus environment of well being through a commitment to continuous improvement of University public health and safety. The committee will serve in order to: advocate for mindful health practices of the Student Association at large by promoting awareness of healthy lifestyle development; fervently identify protection concerns; solve comfort problems; and secure safety measures for the general welfare of all University students, faculty, and staff.

Notable Projects - Suicide prevention training for faculty, Mental Health Fee, and Mental Wellness Week.

Purple Friday:

Purpose - To see to the promotion of school spirit and the continuation of the Purple Friday tradition.

Parking Appeals:

Purpose - To render decisions on student appeals of parking tickets issued by DPS. With the exception of the Chair, membership of this committee is secret.

Appropriations:

Purpose - To oversee the allotment of funds to the Truman community. This committee accepts and judges the merit/feasibility of applications for the funding of projects and events from students and organizations and then presents the results of their deliberations in the form of an Appropriations Slate to the Senate for approval.

The Athletic Fee Accountability Committee:

Purpose - To oversee the use of the Athletic Fee. The Athletic Fee is paid by all Truman students on a semesterly basis and this committee, subject to the approval of Student Senate, decides what projects to fund with the money raised by the fee.

The Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee:

Purpose - To oversee the use of the Environmental Sustainability Fee. The Athletic Fee is paid by all Truman students on a semesterly basis and this committee, subject to the approval of Student Senate, decides what projects to fund with the money raised by the fee.