



Student Government Resolution 119.017

A Resolution Recommending the Inactivation of Defunct Classes from the Course Catalog Sponsored by Maddie Meyer and Josh German, Academic Affairs Committee Co-Chairs, Paul Wuennenberg Jr., Nick Nguyen, Victor Wei, and Joshna Karki, Academic Affairs Committee Members

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University's mission; and
- The University's course catalog contains numerous classes which have not been taught in at least four years; and
- Many students, particularly freshmen and transfer students, may find the presence of such classes confusing and accidentally plan for classes which they cannot take or incorporate such defunct classes into their four year plans; and
- Many of these defunct classes are not intended on being taught at any time in the near future, and thus should not be included on the course roster; and
- A number of these courses were developed or taught by one or two specific faculty members with niche areas of expertise, and since their inception into the course catalog, such professors may no longer be at the University, leaving these courses without appropriate faculty to teach them; and
- It is the responsibility of individual departments to keep their course schedules current and updated, so as to allow for an optimal learning environment for their students; and
- To illustrate this situation, the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies evaluated its current listing of available JINS courses in the University course catalog in Fall 2019, finding that over thirty such courses had not been taught in the last four years (2016-2019);¹ and
- Upon collecting this information, Dr. Bridget Thomas (Director of Interdisciplinary Studies) reached out to individual departments which had introduced these courses, asking them if they knew of plans to offer those courses in the near future; and

¹ <http://wp-internal.truman.edu/ugc/files/2020/01/JINS-Courses-to-Inactivate-Memo.pdf>

- After careful review by each department involved, it was decided that eight of the courses would be reviewed and taught again in the next few years, and twenty two would be inactivated; and
- Effectively removing these course from the course catalog at present but allowing future interested faculty to reactivate the course at a later date with a course update form and new syllabus; and
- Such careful review of current course catalog offerings is necessary for all departments to ensure students can properly plan their course selections accordingly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Thanks the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies for being proactive in diligently updating the course catalog to the best of their abilities; and
- Affirms its strong support for the removal of defunct classes from the course catalog as part of ongoing effort to enrich the experience of Truman students, to attract students to the University, and to further the goals of providing an up-to date and holistic liberal arts education that defines Truman State University as an institution; and
- Recommends that all academic departments update their listed courses in the course catalog by carefully reviewing all courses, discussing those which have not been taught in at least four years, and removing any classes from the course catalog that will likely not be taught in the near future.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; Dr. Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Bridget Thomas, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies; All Department Chairs and Secretaries; the Truman Media Network; and the University Archives.

Passed by Unanimous Consent, March 15, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deanna Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Deanna Schmidt, President of the Student Association.