

External Affairs Committee End of Year Report 2020

Submitted by Emily Smith: 2019-2020 Committee Chair

Members:

Luke Rascher (Voting Senator)

Jose Reyes (Voting Senator)

Ireti Rotimi (Voting Senator)

Projects

This committee was involved in the community in several ways and values our connection with the City of Kirksville but suggests engagement with city entities be re-evaluated in future years to be more strategic.

Complete Count (Census) Committee

Description: During the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year, the committee designated a member to attend Complete Count Committee meetings. This committee is chaired by Ashley Young, the Assistant City Manager of Kirksville, MO, and exists to ensure that everyone within the jurisdiction of the city is counted in the upcoming 2020 United States Census. While the Committee initiated communication with the representative from our organization as to on-campus promotion options, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the committee from being able to execute these plans. As of the time of this report, the representative had only attended 2 CCC meetings, and it remains unclear if and how Truman State University students will be counted as a part of the Kirksville population, considering that the vast majority of them will not be in Kirksville during the span of the Census count.

Main Street Kirksville Committee

Description: At the start of the school year, the committee had designated a member to attend the Main Street Kirksville Committee meetings. The meetings were held monthly and only lasted an hour, but the representative found it difficult to see how a student perspective could be incorporated into the discussions, and eventually found attendance to the Main Street Committee meetings to no longer be productive. This Senator recommends that unless a future committee is especially interested in working with this committee that we do not have a representative in regular attendance to the the Main Street Committee's meetings. The committee can be reached at kvdowntown@gmail.com.

City of Kirksville City Council Meetings

Description: During the first semester of the 2019-2020 academic year, the committee designated a member to attend the City of Kirksville's bi-monthly City Council Meetings. The most notable events in regards to University business was 1) at one point, Mayor Zac Burden expressed interest in visiting one of our organization's General Body meetings, and 2) Councilmember Jessica Parks brought forward a discussion item concerning the possible official redesignation of the second Monday of October, currently known as Columbus Day, to Indigenous People's Day, in line with legislation enacted in several major cities across the United States. As Student Government currently uses the latter language when referring to this holiday, our committee expressed its

interest to Councilmember Parks in a possible effort to adopt legislation within our organization reflecting this redesignation if/when it were to happen. Considering the limited amount of business relevant to the University, this Senator recommends that a member of the External Affairs Committee keep themselves apprised of the meetings' agendas, attending only when relevant information is being discussed.

Adopt-A-Street

Ongoing

Description: During the second semester of the 2019-2020 academic year, the committee designated a member to begin the process of adopting a street on behalf of the Student Government. Our Staff Advisor Laura Bates agreed to be our sponsor and signed the application. The application was given to the Public Works Department. At the time of this report, the department has temporarily suspended the Adopt-A-Street program due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I will be keeping in touch with the department to find out when we can proceed.

Events

These three events we feel help achieve the goals of the committee and are feasible to re-execute in the coming years with minor changes suggested.

Homecoming

Date: 10/19/19

Location: Event Parking Lots

Description: At the 2019 Truman State University Homecoming Tailgate, held at the Event Parking Lots, the External Affairs Committee set up a Student Government table, where hot chocolate and apple cider were handed out to attendees. StuGov backpacks and color-changing mugs were also handed out. In addition, we provided yard games, such as corn hole, for attendees to play. Despite having been informed tables would be provided at the event, one was not present upon arrival. The committee recommends future representation at this event, and formulating a plan to acquire a table for the event in advance. The committee also recommends future participation on the homecoming planning committee.

Truman at the Capitol

Date: Planned for 4/18

Location: Jefferson City

Description: Although TATC did not happen this year, the committee made great strides in communication with the office in charge of the event. I as chair got in touch with Mariee Murphee early on to discuss what we would like the event to look like. As it was planned to happen this year, we could bring up to 40 Truman students. About 12 Student Government members signed up to attend. The rest of the attendees would be faculty and staff from Truman and ATSU. Murphee planned to have resources to give every attendee a rundown on how to talk to legislators about higher education funding. Additionally, her office was to provide pamphlets in support of the two schools. She was also reaching out to specific representatives for students to talk to based on their

home districts in Missouri, assuming they had one. That information was easily collected through a google form I set up that asked for attendees addresses and could be looked up on <https://ogi.oa.mo.gov/LEGIS/LegislativeDistrict/index.html>. \$300 was budgeted to the event that would have been spent on meal vouchers for any attendees and potentially ice cream from Central Dairy. The biggest suggestion for this event in this chair's opinion would be to seek out other on-campus groups whose student population would be appropriate and eager to come far in advance.

Voter Registration Drive

Date: 1/30-31

Location: SUB Publicity Tables

Description: The committee set up a publicity table on a Thursday and Friday at the end of our third week back from school this semester. Despite planning well in advance, several things did not go as planned. We spent \$280 dollars on the event due to confusions with Sodexo. The original plan was as follows for 3 days.

- No more than \$250

- Event January 29-31

- \$100 on posters, a little over \$100 on food

- Cookies day 1, popcorn machine day 2, hot coco/cider day 3

- Giveaway one hydroflask

We additionally originally planned to have 3 days of programming starting 1/29 but was unable to due to the spring semester activities fair held by the U&I. This led to us consolidating the 3 events into one popcorn day and one hot cocoa and cookies day. On the first day, intended to be a popcorn machine day costing around \$20, Sodexo brought our \$60 cookies and cocoa order out so we never checked out the popcorn machine. We assumed they got the date wrong, but then realized they had duplicated the order and charged us for both days, putting us \$40 over our *original (3 day)* budget.

We had lots of people stop by the table. Despite having more food than planned, it was all gone by the end of our event each day. 22 total people registered either to vote for the first time or for a change of address form. It is in this chair's opinion that the event would be better suited for the fall semesters before general elections. People would be thinking more about the elections, even on non-presidential years, and a sense of urgency would be created as such. I also think that if the event was only held on election years before generals. The issue with that being that voter registration deadlines are typically early October for November elections.

Resolutions

Both of the committee's two resolutions were adopted in the last few meetings of the spring semester and were related to projects we had put together.

Resolution Advocating for Improved Relations Between Student Government Alumni and Current Student Government Members

Discussion: Following the release of the first alumni newsletter, the committee wanted to make sure that the newsletter continues to be released at the end of each semester as well as make it apparent that Alumni Relations were important to Student Government and a responsibility of the External Affairs committee.

A Resolution Authorizing Student Government's Participation in the City of Kirksville's Adopt-A-Street Program

Discussion: Since this year's committee was able to do everything for the process of adopting a street but receive the street, we wanted to put in writing not only that we should finalize the project but also put in place the language to implore Student Government to comply with the program's guidelines and maintain the street as directed by the city. The resolution recommends holding one mandatory service event on the street per semester.

Notes and Suggestions for Future Committee Chairs

If you can get on top of keeping track of the state legislature's business early, do. We wanted to do that so we could voice the student perspective through resolutions on legislation that was coming up that might affect the university but the spring semester got busy quickly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Smith