

**TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
 TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE 2020-2021 GENERAL BODY  
 February 21, 2021**

**Called to order: 5:01 p.m.**

**1) Preliminary Items**

- a) Roll Call
- b) Approval of Minutes
  - i) Approved
- c) Gallery Introductions/Business
  - i) Lauren Robinet; College Republicans
- d) Membership Appointment/Resignation
  - i) Minor appointment of Lauren Robinet as an associate senator on the Purple Friday Committee
- e) Oath of office
- f) Changes to the Agenda
  - i) Meyer: Move new business before old business
    - (1) Approved

**2) Auxiliary Reports**

- a) Speaker of the Student Senate
  - i) E. Smith:
    - (1) Rules revision committee met for the first time; let us know if you have any concerns
    - (2) Will start rearranging election packet this week
- b) Faculty Advisor
  - i) N/A
- c) Staff Advisor
  - i) Bates:
    - (1) Two weeks away from spring break; think about what your priorities are before the end of the term, particularly if you are planning on spending money
    - (2) There are still prizes, and I would like for you to use them
    - (3) Several jobs open on institutional level, pay attention to these
- d) Student Representative to the Board of Governors
  - i) No report
- e) Athletic Fee Accountability Committee Chair
  - i) Connolly:
    - (1) Coming up on proposal deadline this Friday
- f) Environmental Fee Accountability Committee Chair
  - i) N/A
- g) Student Representative to SAB
  - i) N/A
- h) Student Representative to ResLife
  - i) N/A
- i) Organizational Representatives
  - i) Student Climate Union: No report
- j) Black Student Representative
  - i) Eagal:
    - (1) Black feminist coffee hour Tuesday
    - (2) Meeting with Truman week committee this week
    - (3) *Land of Opportunity* coming up this week as well
- k) Academic Affairs Committee
  - i) Purinton:

- (1) Professor prompts were sent out Friday; will be due March 1st
  - (2) Jesse and a McNair Scholar will be joining interview committee
  - (3) Seniors have plenty of time to apply for commencement speaker
  - D) Diversity Committee**
    - i) Cooper:**
      - (1) Trying to meet with Brad before spring break for LGBTQ Resource Center and Interfaith Center
      - (2) Two events this week
  - m) Environmental Affairs Committee**
    - i) No report**
  - n) External Affairs Committee**
    - i) MacLeod:**
      - (1) Memorial resolution being second read today
  - o) Student Affairs Committee**
    - i) Barge:**
      - (1) Looking at dress code at the rec center
      - (2) Looking into working with Diversity Committee, and CIS
  - p) Health, Wellness, and Safety Co-Committee**
    - i) Barker:**
      - (1) Prompts due March 1st for Faculty Wellness Honoree
    - ii) Woods:**
      - (1) New variant of covid, keep an eye on this; may be looking into a double mask policy
      - (2) Met with Mr. Dreamweaver about the brochure, will be contacting ResLife, Health departments; might be making a draft and doing a pilot round with quarantine students
      - (3) Rec has new program that allows you to sign up and compete with other universities for exercising; lots of options for classes, both in-person and virtual; we are currently number 6 on the leader board
      - (4) Hoping to do some programming for safety during spring break
  - q) Purple Friday Committee**
    - i) Myers:**
      - (1) Had Valentine's purple friday; hoping to fit two into March before elections happen
  - r) Parking Appeals Committee**
    - i) N/A**
  - s) IT Director**
    - i) Eagal:**
      - (1) Working with Morgan and Jesse to update the website
      - (2) If you have any ideas or suggestions, let Azeeza know
      - (3) O. Smith: I was able to figure out how tables work, and I put up the members page on Slack; take a look
  - t) PR Director**
    - i) Knight:**
      - (1) Got design made for Black Feminist Coffe Hour
      - (2) Designing stickers for Women's Leadership Conference, and planning on doing some advertisements for the conference as well
      - (3) Bates: Whenever you have designs done, send them directly to Teresa Wheeler
- 3) Executive Reports**
- a) Treasurer**
    - i) No report**
  - b) Secretary**
    - i) Lesch:**

- (1) Please send in info for the roster!
  - (2) O. Smith: Can you send me emails for the members page?
  - c) The President and Vice President of the Student Association
    - i) Alexander:
      - (1) Meeting with Dr. Thomas:
        - (a) Expressed concerns regarding student workers coming to class on inclement weather days; Dr. Thomas and Janna will be working on clarifications
        - (b) Discussed clarifications with alternate class days; differs between classes; having students still doing work on days when they can't go to class works towards our accreditation, ensures we have enough seat time/keeps students engaged
        - (c) Classes are cancelled when the wind chill is below 20
        - (d) Followed up about Randolph Apartments; plan is to make it a green space or a volleyball court
        - (e) Health center diversity concerns; right now unable to hire additional staff, but is a concern for the future
        - (f) Talked with SAB about improving our relationship; discussed options for what the SAB representative role would look like in the future
      - (2) We are doing an unofficial StuGov donation to the family of JoEllen Engelbart; Venmo Katie if you would like to contribute
    - ii) German:
      - (1) StuGov dinner
      - (2) Tomorrow, we have intramural floor hockey
    - iii) Bates:
      - (1) There is also a scholarship fund set up in JoEllen's name
- 4) Old Business**
- a) [A Resolution in Memorial of JoEllen Engelbart, Truman State University Alumna](#)
    - i) MacLeod: Touched up this resolution after help about JoEllen's accomplishments at Truman; fixed up some extraneous information
    - ii) Discussion:
      - (1) Alexander: When I was reading this, I thought it was a little bit of a strange transition from the second bullet point to the third; you could say something about her excellence as a Truman student; should we put something in about the other way that people can donate -- student law academy
      - (2) Kiren: Touched up the transition, included the student law academy donation and link
      - (3) Alexander: Can we move the therefore line onto the second page?
    - iii) Voting:
      - (1) Adopted by unanimous consent
  - b) [A Resolution Proclaiming February 27, 2021 as TRIO Day](#)
    - i) Montufar: Supports TRIO and acknowledges accomplishments of TRIO groups at both Truman and nationally; had Dr. Ciancolla go over the rest of the resolution, made a few changes
    - ii) Voting:
      - (1) Adopted by unanimous consent
- 5) New Business**
- a) [A Resolution Calling on Truman State Universities Administration To Recognize and Consider Student Health and Safety in Freezing Conditions](#)
    - i) Meyer: Came about from student concerns about inclement weather days; this is basically an effort to get information to students about what to do on these

days/how to arrange accommodations with professors/how to make sure faculty and staff are respecting these guidelines

**ii) Questions:**

- (1) Alexander: You mention roads that are unsafe to travel; do you have any objective measurements/descriptors for what would make roads unsafe?
  - (a) Meyer: I'm largely talking about snow emergencies, when the roads are still not clear by 9 a.m.
  - (b) Alexander: How would that apply to the situation that happened last week?
  - (c) Meyer: I think it's a difficult metric to create; we do have a significant number of students who live far from campus and would need to risk dangerous roads; also think more communication between the city and the university would be helpful
- (2) Woods: I emailed Sara Seifert; she said snow emergencies are only used for clearing roads rather than actual "snow emergencies," and do not impact university decisions; most of the time it is only declared so snow can be moved, but not necessarily because it is a danger; don't think this should be the basis of our argument for this reason
- (3) Grandstaff: Under therefore it be resolved, what does campus buildings refer to?
  - (a) Meyer: All of the buildings on campus; won't shut down dorms, but there was confusion about what student workers would need to do in this situation; I believe all the buildings closed before the alternate course delivery policy was created
- (4) Alexander: Resolution cited other institutions in the area; seeing specific policies from a particular date rather than from other institutions
  - (a) Holt: I put in the history here; this specific fact was to include what the resolution from 2018 was addressing at the time

**iii) Discussion:**

- (1) Bates: There were a couple places where the information was not as clear; when the university is closed, it means all the buildings will be closed; this was not a situation in which closure was deemed necessary -- employers were encouraged to make contact with all employees and were expected to work to accommodate any who could not come in
- (2) Barker: I agree with the direction of the resolution, but I think it needs a little more information regarding actual university policies, such as partial cancellation/thresholds/etc.
- (3) Grandstaff: I think the main intent for this resolution should be clarifying this information to the student body rather than encouraging buildings to be closed
- (4) Woods: I think it would be beneficial to get more information -- reach out to the city, students, etc.
- (5) O. Smith: The spirit of the resolution is where it needs to be, but I do think we need more research on city policies and outcomes
- (6) Alexander: I don't think it's necessarily a bad idea to express giving students more clarification, but I don't think it's particularly effective; comparison between 2018 resolution is not particularly clear, "therefore" section does not have much actionable suggestions for the university; agree with Laura that there could be potential ramifications for students if we did close all campus buildings; the Zoom section is a little odd, I worry having zoom sections available in all classes and all scenarios might lead to a poor academic culture; this resolution could be very meaningful with the right research and thoughtful suggestions

- (7) Meyer: This has been kind of in the works for two weeks after taking in all those clarification emails; I worry that we are a little too late with getting clarification to students seeing as it will be getting warmer soon; I think it's very important to get information out to students about lines of contact/more information
- (8) Barker: If you wanted to talk about specific days, like Feb. 8 or 16, these might be examples for proposing late start days/other policies; I think another week would be fine to think about this, since we get snow throughout March
- (9) Alexander: I appreciate the concern that students need information about safety as soon as possible; however, I think the fact that it is going to be warmer this week gives us more time to make sure this information is thorough and accurate; a resolution like this that calls on the university to do things means that we need to make sure it is a strong resolution so that the administration knows what we are trying to communicate/accomplish; if Josh and I have the chance to have another conversation with Dr. Thomas on Tuesday, we can get more information and address these concerns
- (10) Holt: I do think it would be good to have an extra week; but I also think it's important to represent the students, and this has been a concern; I actually think that Zoom is really helpful for students with disabilities/who cannot easily make it for campus, so having this option has made attending class more accessible for some students
- (11) German: I don't think this resolution does a good job of telling students what they can do when there is inclement weather; I think there should be more information about what individual students can do if they can't make it to campus; I don't think resolutions are the only way for us to get information to students -- often discussions can be more effective
- (12) Alexander: Regarding Zoom, I don't have any problems with Zoom links being available when weather is inclement, but I think having Zoom links available throughout the year/regardless of weather is something we should consider more thoroughly; I also think we need to help students understand what they should be doing during inclement weather -- not sure if this resolution would be particularly helpful for students in its current form; I would rather write instructions to communicate with students

**b) Discussion item on Racial Justice**

- i)** Alexander: We have been planning on having this discussion as a continuation from the Fall; want to continue to help minority groups as a body; would first like committee chairs to share their thoughts on issues, then go through comments/suggestions; discuss executive board plans for elections; end with any other comments or suggestions
- ii)** Purinton -- Academic Affairs:
  - (1) Would like to write a resolution outlining the steps the university should take to hire more faculty of color once funds are available; would be based on research from Joshna, as well as what other universities have done
  - (2) Joshna and I worked on compiling a list of classes that would increase Cultural IQ; would be a solution for the part of the ABC petition that calls for SOAN 190 as a graduation requirement
  - (3) O. Smith: How is what you are proposing different from the "inter-cultural perspective" requirement?
    - (a) Purinton: I think it's more of an addition to, rather than something completely separate; ideas from a student perspective

- of what other students would like implemented/reach a broader audience
- (4) Grandstaff: Is this new course list going to be required as an additional graduation requirement?
- (a) Purinton: It is not meant to be a requirement necessarily for students; I think creating a mode for just cultural IQ would be ideal, but this is mostly a list for students who want to learn more/are eager to be more educated in these areas
- iii)** Cooper -- Diversity:
- (1) Have had a couple discussion events, have been successful; would like to continue doing these
  - (2) Sam Tillman has been doing a really good job working with DPS and discussing how they are responding to racial justice issues
  - (3) Work on reaching out to students in identity-based clubs or organizations, with CDI and Azeeza, about how we can do things better
- iv)** Kershaw -- Environmental Affairs:
- (1) Last semester, worked with Diversity committee to host movie showing; planning on working with CIS on another documentary and discussion
  - (2) Planning on incorporating discussions of racial justice/environmental justice in Earth Week; keep environmentalism and intersections with racial justice in consideration during Earth Week plans
- v)** MacLeod -- External Affairs:
- (1) Working on getting in contact with other identity-based organizations in Kirksville; hoping to turn these lines of communication into institutionalized parts of what the External Affairs committee does
  - (2) Trying to work with city officials to make sure we have information on these groups
- vi)** Barge -- Student Affairs:
- (1) Focused on working with CIS to make sure international students are being recognized by Student Government and administration; research on institutional jobs for international students was valuable information
  - (2) Stephanie McNab was discussing the possibility of doing some projects in the future
- vii)** Barker -- HWS:
- (1) Worked with Kenneday and Azeeza, and Josh and Jacob, about diversity/wellness events
  - (2) Discussed possibly attending meetings for identity-based organizations; established connection with International Club
  - (3) Met with Brad Turnbull, gave us ideas for upcoming wellness brochure; will have section about connecting with identity-based groups; reach out again to discuss outreach to identity groups
  - (4) Hayden has been working on projects for disability advocacy on campus
  - (5) Focused on discussing how we as individuals can help people within identity groups -- most important step is setting examples on being good listeners, rather than policy-based steps
  - (6) Have been having weekly conversations on different identity groups and how we can support them; might even consider a body-wide discussion topic
- viii)** Alexander -- Executive board:
- (1) Eboard's focus will be spring elections, and recruiting a diverse set of candidates from across campus; meeting tomorrow to start planning
  - (2) Will be emailing and visiting underserved groups, develop presentation about our efforts/importance of having a diverse body
  - (3) Would like as much help and input as possible from the body

**ix) General Discussion:**

- (1) Barker: There was a lot of enthusiasm about these issues at the beginning of last semester, but things seemed to drop off after a while; there has been some significant progress in this area, but I think continuing discussions is important even if you don't have a particular project
- (2) Azeeza: For academic affairs, you might look into helping underrepresented students in STEM -- Missouri has a bad track record; you might also consider making cultural IQ courses a requirement, as students who are interested already take them
- (3) Owsley: For HWS, it might be cool to have discussions about minority populations and how they have been treated in the healthcare industry
- (4) Alexander: Adam, what kinds of discussions have you been having during meetings?
  - (a) Barker: Talking about how minority groups are disproportionately affected by health issues, particularly mental health; how your committee can be helping international students; how to be a good listener
- (5) Alexander: Thanks to all our committee chairs for working with this consistently this year!

**6) Announcements**

**Adjourned: 6:27 p.m.**