



### **Student Government Resolution 120.023**

## **A Resolution to Add a Sustainable Living Section to the Residence Life Guidebook and Website**

**Sponsored by Ethan Kershaw, Environmental Affairs Chair; Maddie Meyer, Senior Senator; Krishna Chebolu, Blaine Smallwood, Caroline Vogl, 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
- Truman State University has consistently recognized the importance of sustainability to its goals as an institution of higher learning; and
- Living on-campus gives students access to many sustainability programs Truman State University has already established; and
- Students are often unaware of these initiatives and how they can generate less waste and live sustainably in the dorms; and
- The current Residence Life Guidebook<sup>1</sup> offered to students does not consist of a section that informs students on sustainability measures on campus; and
- The Residence Life webpage<sup>2</sup> currently lacks tips on sustainable living, despite the previous existence of a Residence Life sustainability tips webpage<sup>3</sup>; and
- The Student Government believes that it is in the best interest of incoming students to be offered adequate guidance in the availability and navigation of on-campus resources concerning environmental sustainability.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Suggests the addition of a sustainability section in the Residence Life Guidebook; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.truman.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ResLife-Guidebook-2020-21.pdf?x13843>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.truman.edu/residence-life/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://reslife.truman.edu/Midyear/ResLifeCard-Communication.pdf>

- Suggests the addition of a link leading to a sustainability tips page to the Residence Life website's home page<sup>4</sup>; and
- Encourages these resources be dedicated to notifying students of sustainability initiatives in the residence halls, offering tips on how to generate less waste, and informing students on how to live sustainably in the dorms; and
- Encourages the additions to the guidebook and webpage to include but not be limited to:
  - Informing students of on-campus resources including the Sustainability Office and the Environmental Affairs Committee of Student Government,
  - Recommending air conditioning temperature and fan adjustments for different kinds of weather conditions to reduce energy usage,
  - Suggesting a list of reusable items that can be used in place of disposable items,
  - Noting a list of habits that can help students adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, such as reducing plastic or using dryer racks instead of electric dryers,
  - Providing directions for the proper usage of recycling and compost bins, along with the disposal of other waste; and
- Recommends that the addition of the sustainability tips page to the Residence Life website be completed by the end of the Fall semester of 2021 or sooner; and
- Recommends that the Sustainability addition to the Residence Life Guidebook be included with the publication of the guidebook for the Fall semester of 2022; and
- Directs the future members of the Environmental Affairs committee to establish communication with Residence Life beginning in Fall 2021 in order to support the process of making appropriate and ethical changes by the suggested timeline; and
- Directs that future members of the Environmental Affairs committee work directly with the relevant Residence Life employees to provide student perspectives on pertinent information to be included in the sustainability sections of the website and guidebook.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to President Sue Thomas; Truman State University Board of Governors; Donna Liss, Chair of the President's Sustainability Action Committee; Lori Shook, Project Planner and Coordinator; Jamie Van Boxel, Director of Residence Life; Zac Burden, Coordinator for Residence Life; Christine Harker, Professor of English; Environmental Campus Organization; Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee; Kirksville Bike Co-op; Truman Media Network; Office of Residence Life; and the University Archives.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.truman.edu/residence-life/>

Passed by unanimous consent, April 18, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katelyn Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Alexander, President of the Student Association