

# Black Student Representative End of Year Report

Submitted by: Azeeza Eagal, Black Student Representative

---

## Why was this position created?

In June 2020, the Association for Black Collegians issued the following petition to the fee-based organizations:

“We demand that the fee-based organizations develop and present initiatives to better serve Black students. We demand a Black representative to the Funds Allocation Committee. We demand input in programming put on by SAB. We demand increased representation in the Student Government.”

Thus, this position was created. Truman State’s Student Government believes that while all students can run for elected positions, it is important to ensure that the body represents minority students well.

## Given duties and responsibilities as determined by the Student Government:

The student in this position will serve as a liaison for the Black community to the Student Government. This student is not asked to represent an all-encompassing perspective, but to bring their unique experience in the community and their personal viewpoints on policy issues to the Student Government. Expectations for this position include:

- Attending General Body meetings every Sunday at 5:00 PM
- Reviewing legislation and appropriations on the agenda to provide a critical perspective
- Reporting on events, initiatives, and concerns of Black students and student organizations
- Communicating relevant Student Government business with Black student organizations
- Bringing general feedback and suggestions on Student Government business to the body
- Optional: Collaborating with the Student Government Diversity Committee to execute projects for the betterment of Black students on campus.

## Goals and Achievements from 2020-2021:

1. Review the ABC Demands: In the 2020-2021 Student Government Shared Drive, there should be a Black Student representative folder. In that folder, is the ABC Demands petition, and my subsequent efforts and thoughts on how to move forward with trying to meet their demands.
2. Black History Month: As the first Black Student Representative, I paid extra attention to the programming for Black History Month.

- a. Land of Opportunity: This was an event put on in conjunction with ABC, and our diversity committee. We showed *Land of Opportunity*, a Kansas City PBS documentary about redlining in the Santa Fe neighborhood and hosted a discussion.
  - b. Black Feminism Coffee Hour: This was put on with our diversity committee and the Black Representative. The description of the event was "A forum space for feminists of color & their allies to congregate and discuss contemporary and experiential concerns on Truman State's campus."
  - c. Black History Month Calendar: This was made to create one advertisement that would feature all of the Black History month events from all over campus including SAB, ABC, NPHC, the CDI et cetera. Work on this advertisement should be started in early January.
3. BIPOC Truman Week Ice Cream Social: This is probably the first thing that the incoming Black Student Representative will want to work on. In order to alleviate the alienation and isolation that comes with being an underrepresented BIPOC student at a predominantly white institution, I wanted to create a Truman Week event to allow students that identify as BIPOC to gather. This is an event that I was working on with the diversity committee; we still need to gain funding. I plan on continuing to work on the Truman Week committee to make sure we gain a time slot to host this event. It would be a good idea to reach out to McNair, MOLSAMP, the NPHC, the Queers of Color Collective, the CDI, and all other organizations that freshman can connect with and gain resources from to see if they'd like to stop by and give a presentation about their organization. I will get in contact with the Diversity Committee chair to talk about the logistics of this during the summer session.
4. SEE Program & TRU-Self & Bulldog Scholars Program: This school year the SEE program, which was a retention-based academic institute that helps its participants sharpen their academic skills, increase their self-efficacy, learn about campus resources, and form valuable connections to Truman during an intensive 2-week summer program, was dissolved and became two programs: TRU-self and the Bulldog Scholars Program. I talked with Bertha Thomas about the decision to dissolve the SEE program, and she gave good reasons as to why the administration dissolved SEE and created two new programs. The main reason seemed to be that with the creation of two programs, the programs can better address each target demographic better.
5. Bias Reporting: In my role as Black Student Representative, I found out that Truman has a streamlined system for students to report bias related incidents. It can be found [here](#). It would be wise for the next representative to work on advertising this service!
6. Spring Election Initiative: This year Truman's Student Government wanted to create a more intentional recruitment process. Our goals were to increase identity-based diversity of our candidates, increase diversity of academic perspectives among our candidates, and launch a strong advertisement campaign across campus. We started a little late and lost steam, but it was a great idea, and something that should be replicated next year. There was high yield from this project!
7. Racial Equity Recap: Late in the Spring, Truman hosted a Racial Equity Recap to demonstrate the administration's effort to be a more inclusive, equitable, and just campus.

There is a copy of the slides in the 2020/2021 and Black Student Rep folder. Check it out!  
You might get some good ideas!