

Truman State University Student Government
First Session of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee
September 1, 2021

Convened: 8:00 p.m.

1) Preliminary Items

- a) Roll call
- b) Introductions

2) Introduction to ExComm Structure

- a) Montúfar: ExComm is a lot like gen. body, so in some ways the reports overlap a lot. We all make an effort to be here, so I think we can still do some form of report, but I think we can shift what that means. We can talk more in-depth about problems and discussion points instead of repeating what was said in the gen. body meeting.
- b) Montúfar: We can focus more on specific talking points like room reservations and printing, but I'm open to suggestions. We can also bring people into our ExComm meetings so we don't have to make the gen. body meetings longer than they already are.
- c) Wren: I really think narrowing down that focus will help us because we've had ExComm meetings that have been repetitive and I just think that's a great idea.
- d) Montúfar: Does anyone have any discussion point suggestions or general ideas?
- e) Sprehe: I think all of us individually could ensure that we have a diverse body and an inclusive body, so we should be reaching out to more cultural organizations on campus.
- f) O. Smith: I've already been getting a lot of questions about the rules, and I think it would be great if we could start discussing those things here (ExComm meetings) instead of bringing them up in the middle of a gen. body meeting.

3) Discussion Items

- a) Montúfar: What are people's biggest concerns for this year that we should in some way address?
- b) O. Smith: The changes with UCS have been a concern, so I think it's important to make sure people know where they can go to talk to someone.
- c) Wren: I have heard many complaints about parking and it seems like a priority.
 - i) Montúfar: There used to be a parking committee that had gathered tons of data along with suggestions. Maybe we could combine the parking appeals committee with general parking concerns.
- d) Cooper: We need to be better connected on campus because a lot of students don't know how many different facets of Truman's community we are involved in.

- i) Montúfar: I think we should talk with Alex about that, but I also think that getting more connected with The Index.
 - ii) O. Smith: I think we could get the symposium committee to work toward having us at a roundtable discussion. I also think we could have a different way that we write resolutions: we could add a “history section” that more completely documents what we have done to address the issue.
 - iii) Purinton: As far as symposium goes, Dr. Gooch and Santino are still a part of that, so if Santino wants to work with our committee, we would want to be invested in that. I think people are also more stressed by returning to in-person classes, and I would like to see that addressed.
 - iv) Grandstaff: I agree and think we should really look into the transition back into in-person classes in terms of health and wellness.
 - v) Sprehe: I think our best bet would be to engage with people personally and casually in everyday interactions.
 - vi) Montúfar: One conversation we don’t often have is what it means to be in Student Government, so it would be good to just ask because that’s good practice for us as well.
- b) Sprehe: The majority of the money that the university makes comes from different funds that use fossil fuels, so I wanted to hear your ideas on addressing that with the university.
- i) Montúfar: The first step for me would be full transparency with the budget and also thinking of all the tools we have available to us. I don’t think a change could be made overnight, but that would be a good starting point.
- c) Owsley: I had a conversation with Janna and she brought up the idea of students serving on the City Council as non-voting members. I don’t know to what extent that would impact the University’s population entirely, but is that something we vote on here, or is it students that are registered to vote? Or does our off-campus population get to vote as well? I think it would be an interesting thing to pursue and I sent Janna a big email outlining all my points.
- i) Montúfar: Another thing that makes me think of is how we get students to engage in local government, but that’s very interesting.

4) Retreat

- a) Montúfar: In general, we just prepare incoming senators to be in their role, so we usually start with conversations about what we do at gen.body, how we write a resolution, etc. It’s really open to us on what we decide to do with that, but I think

we could break it into smaller parts, so first going over specific role tasks, but also we could bring in outside speakers to hear about how they see the role of Student Government on campus. And the third part would be a bigger group discussion about what we all care about and what matters to us.

- b) Sprehe: I think it would be a good idea to make our presentations more neurodivergent-friendly so that members who are neurodivergent can comprehend more of the presented information.
- c) E. Smith: The one thing with bringing people in is that you need to be very specific with what you want the administrators to discuss.
- d) Wren: I think if the people coming up with the presentations could also include a handbook for people to take away. I would also love to see more fun! We could do food or crafts or mocktails.
- e) Sprehe: I really liked the bonding activity we did with painting the rocks! I still have mine and I think it's a great way to converse and connect.

5) Committee Timelines

- a) Montúfar: It would be great for us to be more proactive with our goals and deadlines.
- b) King: It's a bit difficult for me to plan ahead, since my role is mostly reactive.
- c) Montúfar: You don't have to try to predict the future, but maybe try to have some personal goals.
- d) Montúfar: Once people start joining your committees, try to already have a plan of your first couple projects and/or what your first meeting will look like.
- e) Montúfar: I will also be sending out a survey next week about what you feel your strengths and weaknesses are, just to gauge how we're all feeling. Also, Ethan and I want to get some meetings scheduled with you all, but we're working on figuring out something that will work for all of us.
- f) Montúfar: The President's roundtable is also coming up soon, but Ethan and I will be working on that.
- g) Kershaw: Please remember to fill out the vaccination status survey from the President's Office today!

Adjourned: 8:49 p.m.