

**Truman State University Student Government
Ninth Session of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee
November 3rd, 2021**

Convened: 8:00 p.m.

1) Preliminary Items

a) Roll call

2) Auxiliary Reports

a) Speaker of the Student Senate

i) O. Smith:

(1) Because there is a lot going on tonight, we're going to put our Senior Senator discussion on hold. There is some division in our committee, but we're working on a solution.

(2) Other than that, there may be some adjustments to Sunday's meeting, for example getting a larger room. I'm going to be meeting with Ryan and Laura tomorrow, but I will be sure to let everyone know of any changes.

(3) Montúfar: President Thomas gave us some suggestions for the meeting so I'll let you know about those.

b) Academic Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

c) Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

i) Cooper:

(1) A lot has happened in the last fifteen hours. I've met with Ryan Nely, the Catholic Newman Center, and Ethan and Shania. The petition has gotten a lot more signatures and I still plan to second read my resolution on Sunday. We will also be spending less than \$100 on stickers for Native American Heritage Month.

(2) O. Smith: Do you have designs for these stickers?

(a) Montúfar: The design is the artwork.

(3) King: This is not an easy situation to deal with and you're dealing with it well.

d) Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

i) Sprehe: We had our meeting yesterday and we finally decided on a movie, it's called *The True Cost* and it's about fast fashion and what it's doing to the environment. We want to partner with GlobeMed to put that on at the end of this semester or the start of next semester. Also, Krishna has started his conversations with Dan in ResLife.

e) External Affairs Committee Chair

i) Owsley:

- (1) We had our second meeting with Sue Thomas and got a lot of interesting information about what Truman's priorities are. We discussed pursuing a 5.4% increase in education funding, and also something that has the state pay directly into retirement funds, as opposed to right now where Truman pays that with their appropriated funds.
- (2) We also plan to pursue getting the Governor to lower the price match so that we can renovate the Kirk Building and flatten the McKinney Center.
- (3) We're getting access to the committee of higher education, which Sue Thomas is the president of, and their executive director is a guy named Paul Wagner, a Truman Alum. He is going to help us set up shop and get the requisite price match. She said there might be other things that come up, such as concealed carry and changes to Title IX, but we will not know about these until pre-filing of legislation. We're meeting with her again in January.
- (4) Registration Friday is coming up soon! We will be spending less than \$100 on posters and also less than \$100 on stickers.
- (5) Who gets to go to Truman at the Capitol?
 - (a) Montúfar: It doesn't have the same structure that it used to, so that would probably be a conversation with Mike and President Thomas about how that would work.
 - (b) Owsley: Yes, we talked about interested StuGov members being able to go. I don't know if there is a certain number of people that we have to limit it to, but if you haven't been to the lobbying day then you won't be able to go.
 - (i) Montúfar: It would depend on how much money we have.
 - (c) King: How much was budgeted towards Truman at the Capitol?
 - (i) Wren: \$250. But we will re-adjust the budget for the Spring.

f) Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee Co-chairs

i) Grandstaff:

- (1) We are bringing forward a resolution on Sunday to support the Mizzou against rape organization. We're going to go over it with Ryan and then I'll share it before the meeting so you guys have time to make comments.

ii) Woods:

- (1) We are working with UCS and Complete Family Medicine, and we're trying to get a list of resources together to get a good idea of what the building services are because we want to make a poster.
- (2) We are hoping to collaborate with Purple Friday soon for Epilepsy Awareness Month to hopefully bring awareness to how Student Government is supporting students who are chronically ill.
- (3) Kennedy, you're doing great, but this is really stressful, so please make sure that you're taking care of yourself.
- (4) Be careful about Sunday, tensions will be very high and please try to diffuse any situations that come up. Feel free to reach out to Joshua and I because we have a lot of resources for you guys.

g) Purple Friday Committee Chair

h) Student Affairs Committee Representative:

i) Bishop:

- (1) The President's Roundtable is a week from tomorrow, and all Warren had to say is that he was having some technical issues.
 - (a) Montúfar: His emails were being sent to spam. Also, in general, I told him not to worry if people don't get the messaging because I would be comfortable hosting another one in the Spring. He is also working on a graphic that we can post.

i) Legislative Director

i) King:

- (1) I want to give a brief talk in Gen. body about Legislation and how it works before Paul Wagner comes to talk to us so that people know what's going on. Not everyone is a political science student. I would probably do it relatively soon, but not too soon before he comes. He was a State Senator and he very much advocates for Truman whenever he can.

(2)

j) IT Director

3) Executive Reports

a) Treasurer

- i) Wren: No report.

b) Secretary

- i) Reynolds: No report.

c) President and Vice President

- i) Montúfar:

- (1) The composite and apparel things are still being worked on. I'm still waiting on some photos for the composite.
- (2) As far as Gen. body, please let us know if you have specific concerns. We want to make sure that we are considering any necessary updates.
- (3) I'll talk about ESFAC, AFAC, and OAF on Sunday; we're just making some changes.
- (4) O. Smith: One of the things I'm going to talk about with Laura is to make sure we have the agenda available for people by having a printed handout. I would also like to just do this normally. SAB does not use computers in their meetings, and I don't think we need to go that far, but I think it's nice to have printouts to facilitate discussion.
- (5) Like Shania said, please reach out to her, me, or Ethan if you have concerns or suggestions about Sunday's meeting.
- (6) Grandstaff: How about the actual resolutions? I use the agenda to click on them.
 - (a) Wren: QR code at the door?
 - (b) King: We could put together a whole packet of things stapled to the back of the agenda.
 - (c) O. Smith: That would be a lot of paper, and also a lot of the things we talk about are in the comments of the document. I think Jesse's idea was a good one.

ii) Kershaw:

- (1) We just wanted to remind everyone about the spring room lottery! If you know of an event, try to get registered now. The form is available on the U&I website.
 - (a) Montúfar: If you have specific preferences then send them to me because I have special privileges.

4) Discussion item(s)

a) Appropriations

i) Wren:

- (1) I'm going to go through everything we have funded from 2018. Keep in mind that these were the committee's decision, not the Body's final approval. In the 2018/2019 school year, we granted:
 - (a) \$450 to an individual student to fund a band conference in Tempe, Arizona.
 - (b) \$400 to the Association of the Black Collegians for their Ebony Ball.
 - (c) \$650 to GlobeMed for their benefit dinner.

- (d) \$556 to Phi Epsilon Kappa for their Glow Stick It to Cancer Adventure Scramble.
- (e) Lastly, we denied funding to Truman's Bowling Club for advertisement and member dues.
- (2) In the 2019/2020 school year, we granted:
 - (a) \$650 to Sigma Tau Delta for flights to their national conference, plus hotel expenses.
 - (b) \$250 to Namaste Nepal to fund Himalayan Night.
 - (c) \$185 to fund a capstone podcast project for HES students.
 - (d) \$515 to fund the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Awards Ceremony.
 - (e) And lastly for this school year, we denied funding to students attending the 2020 SOPHIE Annual Conference and to the Woodwind Choir Club for start-up costs.
- (3) In the 2020/2021 school year, we only granted \$200 to the Jewish Student Union for their Purim Carnival and we denied funding to an individual student for their summer research project.
- (4) So far this year, the 2021/2022 school year, we have granted:
 - (a) \$650 to the Blue Key Honor Society for a national conference.
 - (b) \$350 to MAE students to attend the MOSHAPE conference.
 - (c) \$650 to Namaste Nepal for their Dashain and Tihar night.
 - (d) \$500 to the National Education Association for books.
 - (e) This year, we have denied funding to the Film Club for miscellaneous expenses.
- ii) Now I'm going to give you the history of the operating budget:
 - (1) Fall 2017: \$8,000
 - (2) Fall 2018: \$4,000
 - (3) Fall 2019: \$5,000
 - (4) Fall 2020: \$2,500
 - (5) Fall 2021: \$2,500
- iii) Now I'm going to go through the standing rules. Right now the committee has only four members and I don't always think that's enough. I would love to expand that to include more people.
- iv) I also highlighted the purpose; the purpose is too broad. We're attending conferences one year and not the next, so did we fail our standing rules by doing those things?
- v) Individual students can only apply for \$650, so does that matter to anyone?

- vi) There is also a section about being able to deny funding whenever we want, and I don't know if that's always a great idea.
- vii) I personally think that students who are on the body should be able to apply for funding, because there is already a really easy work around. I agree with the transparency of disclosing it to the body, but if we have a good process and a good committee.
- viii) O. Smith: Would you have a clause about committee members?
 - (1) Wren: Yes, I think that's reasonable.
- ix) Wren: I would like to have something by the end of the semester so that we are going into it at the beginning of the semester. I would also encourage you to allow our committee to review and update our application.
- x) O. Smith: Is there a process for that?
 - (1) Wren: I'm not sure, I did already change the application a bit.
 - (a) O. Smith: You are the chair so I think you have the ability to decide.
- xi) Wren: For future reference, to the future Treasurer, we need to set a specific meeting time.
- xii) Montúfar: One place that I thought was a good place to start was what are all of the ways that students can get funding on campus. The first one is obviously FAC.
 - (1) Wren: It's very easy to get funding from us compared to FAC.
- xiii) O. Smith: I don't know if you know Krista Garth, but I saw her today and she was going into her meeting with FAC to get money for club tennis and it looked very intimidating and scary.
- xiv) Wren: We're a pretty email-based organization, and technically Appropriations is a secret committee. We always encourage the organization to come to the meeting that we'll be bringing up the application in.
- xv) O. Smith: If funding is denied, I would like to see instructions on how we debate and vote on this because I feel like there's a whole lot of confusion. If we vote no on the committee's denial, does it approve the funding?
 - (1) Wren: That happened with Sigma Tau, and it goes back to the committee. They can either choose to kill it there or bring it back to the body.
- xvi) Montúfar: The Office of Student Research has applications due in a few days, so are we doubling? We can't give convenience funding to a lot of organizations, so who are we giving that convenience to? Is it organizations that don't get funding elsewhere? Do we want to target smaller organizations? I think we definitely need a rubric of what makes an application more competitive in our eyes.

- xvii) Kershaw: At least with ESFAC and AFAC there is a rubric with four or five values that they use. It's just more a standardized way of looking at things.
- xviii) Montúfar: It relies so heavily on value, but what are the values of our body?
- xix) Wren: We're also on a rolling basis, so we can't see all of them and then make a decision.
- xx) Owsley: I like the rubric idea because it's similar to what happens in the real world and it gives a little something extra to put on that job resume.
- xxi) King: I'm a little on the fence about a rubric... if we already have that set thing, then why even have the committee? It could fall under the power of the Treasurer.
- (1) Wren: I would never want that power.
- xxii) Grandstaff: The committee changes each year, so it would be nice to have some set guidelines. I think it would really help with the natural change in values that comes from different committees.
- xxiii) O. Smith: Do you think the things you would have funded would have changed if you had a rubric?
- (1) Grandstaff: I'm not trying to look back, I just think it would make things more fair, especially if it was value-based.
- xxiv) Wren: There are also just two clauses in the standing rules that are just incorrect. It says that the applications are submitted on our website, which is incorrect, and also the deadline date is wrong. It says that people can't apply after the first day of Spring elections. I think it should be a set date like April 1st.
- xxv) Kershaw: I think that was put in there so that people can't say 'I'll give you funding if you vote for me'.
- xxvi) Wren: I would like to hear the opinion of Mike and Joshua since they are current members of the committee.
- (1) Owsley: My experience with high volumes of applications is limited because last year we didn't really get any. I'm very much glad that there is a need for Appropriations now. I know that at some point there was the thought of getting rid of that, and I just want to say that I don't support that. I do like the idea of the rubric. I feel that it could get rid of the need for committee meetings. People could take the rubric home and score it.
- (2) Grandstaff: I think we could get rid of the meetings now, but we shouldn't do that.
- (a) Owsley: I agree. I like anything that makes Jesse's job easier.

- (3) Kershaw: As a member of ESFAC, I would say that the rubric does not get rid of the need for committee meetings. It really just makes the process go faster.
- (4) Grandstaff: I agree with Mike. I think that narrowing the scope or having the rubric is a great idea. As for committee makeup, I think we should make it a little bigger. Regarding the \$650 limit, I don't know if that's arbitrary or not, but there should definitely be a limit.
- (5) Sprehe: I think a better format for it would be a great idea as long as we make it accessible. I feel it isn't accessible to full-time, single students.
- (6) Woods: I want to say something similar to what Morgan said. I think we've had this problem in the past. Do they realize that they have to have a specific event for the money?
 - (a) Wren: Yes, the application does ask them for specifics on their event.
- (7) Montúfar: One thing that I want to mention is regarding projects such as research or specific grants for research or travel. I think since this is a repeating problem, we might need to make this separate from regular appropriations.
- (8) Wren: I just noticed some issues with timing, and it is making us out of compliance. It says that the money must be spent the same semester and the receipt must be submitted sixty days after.
- (9) O. Smith: I think that we could make it the full calendar year.
- (10) Grandstaff: At that point we should just make it six months.
- (11) Sprehe: We should make this accessible for the summer months so that people could get their summer research projects funded.
- (12) Kershaw: Summer is complicated because of the change of the fiscal year and the change of administration within Student Government.
- (13) Smith: First, regarding expanding committee membership, one thing we could do is set a minimum number of members and remove the cap. Second, we can change the bylaws to help with this. Jesse, you can talk to me so that we can change this quickly.
- (14) Sprehe: I think if we expand it, we should have more than just one mandatory student-at-large.
- (15) Wren: Our goal is to have these suggestions implemented by the end of the semester. One thing we can think about changing is funding research projects and/or capstones.

(a) King: Are there any other organizations that fund those things?

(i) Montúfar: I think it would just be OSR.

Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.