

**Truman State University Student Government
Eleventh Session of the 2021-2022 General Body
October 31st, 2021**

Convened: 5:00 p.m.

1) Preliminary Items

- a) Roll Call
- b) Approval of Previous Minutes
 - i) Approved.
- c) Changes to the Agenda
- d) Gallery Introductions & Business
 - i) Lightle: I'm here to be appointed as an Associate Senator on the Environmental Affairs Committee.
 - ii) Hunter: I'm just here to hear everyone's thoughts.
 - iii) Elias: I'm here to observe.
- e) Membership Appointment & Resignation
 - i) Minor Appointments
 - (1) Véla Lightle as an Associate Senator on the Environmental Affairs Committee (Montúfar)
 - (a) Montúfar: Véla is a freshman history major and she had already talked to Morgan and expressed interest in environmental politics. She's involved with leadership at West Campus.
 - (b) Lightle: I'm just really passionate about the environment and I try to make as little waste as possible. I really want to make a difference with composting and recyclable objects.
 - (c) Appointed.
 - ii) Major Appointments
- f) Oath of Office

2) Auxiliary Reports

- a) Speaker
 - i) O. Smith: Per Jesse's request, we're going to table our Appropriations discussion until Wednesday at ExComm. Today at Gov Docs we talked about Senior Senators, and we have some other ideas that we would like to bring to ExComm. If you'd like to come, you're welcome to, or you can just check the minutes in the Shared Drive.
- b) Faculty Advisor
- c) Staff Advisor
- d) Board of Governors Representative
 - i) Montúfar: Abby is not here, but the application deadline has been extended and they have already received a few. Please reach out to Abby Smeltzer on Slack if you have any questions.
- e) FAC Representative
- f) RHA Representative

- g)** SAB Representative
- h)** Organizational Representatives
- i)** Athletic Fee Accountability Committee
- j)** Environmental Fee Accountability Committee
- k)** Academic Affairs Committee
 - i)** Purinton: I am meeting with Dr. Gooch on Friday morning, so if you have anything for me to share, let me know. For my committee members in the room, please check the Slack for commencement speaker information.
- l)** Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i)** Cooper: I met with Dr. Saint Rice about the Resource Center. My committee also met with Ryan Nely, which went really well and we plan to continue working with him on revising outdated language in old policies.
 - ii)** Grandstaff: Is there any update on the preferred pronouns in Portal?
 - (1) Cooper: I met with IT services and they are waiting on the people who run Portal. Once they get through to them, they should be able to implement it fairly easily.
- m)** Environmental Affairs Committee
 - i)** Sprehe: Welcome to the team Vela! Other than that I have no report.
- n)** External Affairs Committee
 - i)** Owsley: We've had a pretty productive week! We're planning to do Registration Friday on November 12th, and our goal is to bring attention to registering to vote on campus. Dan and I had a meeting with Sue Thomas last week, and we're going to have another one this week about Truman at the Capitol. I want to talk with my committee about that before meeting with her again. Truman at the Capitol will be next semester.
 - ii)** O. Smith: Do you have a proposed date?
 - (1) Owsley: Not yet, we want to have a talk with her about which specific things we want to lobby for/against. We also want to host a training day.
- o)** Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
 - i)** Grandstaff: Tori met with Andrew and Dr. Palmer from UCS last week and got more information. If you want an actual report on that, I'm going to let Tori share. Tori and I finally met with Laura, and we talked to Sutton about academic wellness.
- p)** Student Affairs Committee
 - i)** Barge: Last Friday, we had a student appreciation thing that went really well. I want to thank Kennedy and Tino for helping out with that. The other big thing is that I want you to put November 11th in your calendar for the President's Roundtable. It will be 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and it will be breakout room heavy in a virtual environment. We're relying on committee chairs or members to talk about their specific things.
- q)** Purple Friday Committee
 - i)** Bono: We teamed up with Warren last week. From this point on, our plan is to have Purple Friday inside the SUB. We're having the Voter Registration

day next Friday, and thanks to Grace and Mike, we did the trunk o' treat. Also, I plan to spend no more than \$99 on candy.

- r) Parking Appeals Committee
 - i) Meyer: No appeals the last couple of weeks, which seems unrealistic. I'm working with my committee to write something for DPS about getting stuff to us in a more timely manner. If people don't appeal in 14 days, we don't even have the option to review their ticket. This is concerning because the ticket can create holds on the student account.
 - ii) O. Smith: Does it say on the ticket that we have a parking appeals process?
 - (1) Meyer: No, it does not, and it doesn't say that the deadline is 14 days.
 - s) Legislative Director
 - i) King: No report.
 - t) IT Director
 - i) S. Myers: I still do not have access to the website. Thank you to Owen for updating it because I have not been able to.
 - ii) O. Smith: If you have anything that needs to go on the website, let me know. I update it every Wednesday during my office hours.
 - u) PR Director
- 3) Executive Board Reports**
- a) Secretary
 - i) No report.
 - b) Treasurer
 - i) Wren: We have a whole slate of applications coming today. It has seven applications on it, but they're all the same, just with different names. Depending on your approval or denial of these applications, we'll be close to hitting our budget limit for this semester.
 - c) Vice President
 - i) Kershaw: Today we have a mask mandate discussion item on the table and Shania and I will be reporting back on what we learned from you today. If your club organization is hoping to get funded, remember that the vaccination incentive program ends tomorrow on November 1st.
 - ii) Sprehe: Can you give me an ESFAC update?
 - (1) Kershaw: There is no chair for ESFAC and there have been no applications.
 - d) President
 - i) Montúfar: A belated shoutout to all of those who helped with Homecoming! Beyond that, we've still been having some trouble with AFAC, ESFAC, and OAF, and we've had a couple of applications, but we still need more. They are all aware that we're having some holdups, and our goal is to meet next week with our advisors to discuss different strategies.
 - ii) Montúfar: Two random things: We're working on the composite right now and it will be printed and put in the office. It will be similar pricing to what the land acknowledgement framing was, so look out for a money motion.

- iii) Montúfar: We started to work on apparel designs with the U&I designer, and our rough goal is to have a design by the end of the year, and the apparel next year.
- iv) O. Smith: If you're a voting member of the body and don't have a headshot on the website, please send it to me so I can put it up.

4) Old Business

- a) [A Resolution Amending the Absence Policy in the Governing Documents of Student Government](#) (O. Smith)
- b) O. Smith: I brought up the suggestion of putting an excused absence limit in our Gov Docs meeting, and we ultimately determined that the whole point of rewriting the policy in this way was to get rid of the cap for absences like that. That is where we stand right now, and I resolved most of the comments that I felt had been resolved, and I made one tiny wording suggestion. If you have any questions I would love to hear them, but I would like to get this passed today.
- c) Kershaw: I had my reservations about this, but I think this is the best way to move forward. I think these changes are positive.
- d) Adopted.

5) New Business

- a) [A Resolution of Continued Support of Establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center](#) (Cooper)
 - i) Cooper: There have been a lot of changes in the administration at CDI and it's been moved to be under Academic Affairs. I wanted to get updated numbers of student support because our last numbers were from 2016. I also want to show that the Student Government does still support this.
 - ii) Wuennenberg: I think you all remember the conversation from last year, so I'll repeat myself. I'm not opposed to the Center, but I am a bit concerned that the Center will be funded by student tuition. I know a few students are concerned about their tuition money going towards the Center. I would like to have an opt-out option.
 - iii) Cooper: Considering the university already uses the money that they get from students to fund different aspects of CDI, I don't think this would be very different.
 - iv) Bishop: I don't think enough need has been demonstrated, only 7% of students have shown support. If 50-some percent was enough to make decisions about masks and vaccines, then I don't think 7% is enough to make a decision about a resource center.
 - v) Rascher: I believe at one point we were asking for letters in support of this Center... was that made available online?
 - (1) Cooper: The letters were just written during tabling on National Coming Out Day.
 - vi) Rascher: Where was the petition made available?

- (1) Cooper: It went live on Monday and was shared widely on social media.
- vii)** Wren: Until somebody personally experiences being kicked out of their home and not being able to go anywhere in Kirksville, I don't think they can understand the gravity of the support that this Center could offer.
 - viii)** O. Smith: The number of students who signed this petition is greater than the number of people who participated in our own election.
 - ix)** Lightle: The opt-out option would be unnecessarily complicated and it seems like an unnecessary step in bringing hate towards people.
 - x)** Rascher: Rather than asking for signatures, it might be nice to have more of an open forum regarding the specific topics. As far as the opt-out option, I think the only thing you could cite for that would be religious objections, which I think we should be addressing. This would be a good starting point for opting in and out of other things, not just this.
 - xi)** Cooper: Two things. First, I wanted to talk about why we decided to do a petition. Right now, the administration is looking at finding a place for the Center. Writing a survey takes time; we wanted to get student opinions as fast as possible, and the petition still gives students the option to not support something simply by not signing it. Second, if we started to allow students to opt out of something, it would cause the university to lose a lot of important funding.
 - xii)** Wuennenberg: I would like to agree with Luke. We should be always keeping in mind religious students as they are one of the protected classes on campus. I truly think there is a way to care for the LGBT students and the religious students.
 - xiii)** Montúfar: This has been in the works as early as 2010. Administration is a lot more supportive than they have been in the past, and I think that's because we're better able to capture the positions that some of our students are in. Queer students have very specific needs, and our long-standing departments are not always well-equipped to handle some of these needs. Also, we've lost a lot of queer faculty in the past five year. In my experience, that has created a huge void. For a lot of reasons, I think this is a really important time to prioritize this. We need to advocate for things at a surface level; if you don't think you'll benefit from something like this, I think you can still be fine knowing that it benefits others.
 - xiv)** R. Myers: I think it's unreasonable to have this opt-in/opt-out gauntlet. The school is simply not run that way.
 - xv)** Barge: Just to bounce off of what a few people said: I just don't think that the opt-in/opt-out should be done in any situation. I don't think the student

should be deciding that. When you go to a university, you opt-in to the “package” of that university, so to speak. Going off of the idea about how much support this has, many people did not have more votes than what this petition got, and I think that even with that, it’s still valid. We did not do as much advertising as we have done for elections. We’re going to be doing these things as a university no matter what, and I think that the Center will conduct them in a more specialized way that will help the student body better.

b) Appropriations Slates

i) [NEA Application](#) (Wren)

- (1) Rowley: If you open up the document, the National Education Association (NEA) is requesting \$500 to a program scheduled for November 16th. We’ve decided to recommend this amount because we think it will be beneficial to the Truman and Kirksville communities.
- (2) Carey: I just wanted to clarify that I am a part of this organization, but I had no part in writing this application.
- (3) Rascher: I was just looking at the application and I don’t know how many people we can expect to attend this event, so I would love to hear some numbers for that. Thirty copies of anything seems to be a small return.
 - (a) Rowley: There’s going to be a professional learning session and a professional workshop and it will be hosted by Dr. Fields.
 - (b) Bishop: But they are only asking \$500 from us?
 - (i) Rowley: Yes.
- (4) Approved.

ii) [MOSHAPE Applications](#) (Wren)

- (1) Rowley: A group of seven students in the Masters of Arts in Physical Education program are requesting money to attend the Missouri Society of Health and Physical Education Convention in the Lake of the Ozarks in November of 2021. We are confident that the delegates will bring back important skills. We have decided to recommend \$350 for the fees of the event, but not for food and gas.
- (2) Rascher: I understand the committee’s decision to deny funding for food, but I’m not sure I understand the decision to deny funding for travel expenses. I don’t see any issues with funding gas.
- (3) Montúfar: How much did they request for travel?

- (a) O. Smith: I believe it's listed in the application under the requested budget.
 - (b) Rowley: Admission to the conference is \$50 per student, and some students only requested that, whereas some requested money for food and gas.
- (4) Montúfar: I'm tentatively in support of using funding in this way. As someone who is often thinking of going to conferences, I know that there aren't many resources on campus to request funding, so I think that it makes our role confusing. The reason I say that I'm tentatively in support of this is because I know it will be hard to find money elsewhere. In a long term sense I think we need to have conversations with the office of student research about funding these conferences.
- (5) Barge: I'm struggling with this appropriations slate because I don't know if it's our purpose to be funding individual trips that won't have a large impact. I know that they said they will bring back skills, and I do believe that they will do that, but I think reserving this funding for another application that might be directed towards a larger number of students. I think this is a great cause, I just think that this is a limited amount of money and we should be appropriating it wisely.
- (6) O. Smith: The total amount of gas costs totals to \$250.
- (7) Rowley: From the looks of the applications, each student requested their own gas.
- (a) O. Smith: There is one application that says other students will be traveling with them.
- (8) Rowley: Laura did say that our appropriations money is to fund things that will benefit our community, and with such a small number going I don't know how beneficial it will be.
- (9) Rascher: My opinion was changed because it allows Truman to be represented at these events and I think it's great that they want to use the conference as a part of their education at Truman. As far as the gas, I would love to see a specific, itemized list of fuel economy calculations just so we would know for sure what was being granted.
- (10) Sprehe: I understand how this doesn't necessarily benefit the campus in a great way, but I agree with Luke's point about allowing Truman students to be represented in other communities.
- (11) R. Myers: Are we close to hitting the finite budget?
- (a) Barge: Yes.

- (12) S. Myers: Can you go into more detail about the one student requesting \$150?
- (a) Rowley: We aren't funding gas so it's not on here.
- (13) Grandstaff: I understand that it's a concern to make sure we're putting our money towards campus events, but it's important to keep in mind that this is a great opportunity to represent the university and bring back those learned skills. I don't think the gas should be talked about as much because we didn't decide to recommend it anyway.
- (14) Barge: Going back to what Jesse said at the beginning, we have a very limited number of resources, so I think we should make cuts in this area: small events attended by a small number of people. I don't think we should fund educational opportunities for specific students that will only benefit those students. I don't see how they're going to take that to others who are not in attendance.
- (15) Rascher: The idea of reserving funding for something now in the hopes that it will be needed later is not a good idea because we don't know if something will come up; there's no guarantee. As far as the gas, regardless of what we decided, I think we should mention the reasons why we did not approve the gas money.
- (16) Chebolu: Could we ask them to hold some kind of event after the conference?
- (a) O. Smith: We don't usually approve funding with conditions because that would essentially be denying their application.
- (17) Approved.

c) Discussion Item on a Campus Mask Mandate (Kershaw)

- i)** Kershaw: I'm going to give some background. There have been no reported cases on Truman's campus over the past two weeks. We know that about 70% of faculty and staff have been vaccinated, but only 47% over the age of 12 have been vaccinated in Adair County. There have been twenty-seven active cases in Adair county. Some other Missouri schools have either dropped their mask mandates or adopted a hybrid model. For example, you would only have to wear your mask in class or in high-density interactions.
- ii)** Bishop: If we're using the framework of "other universities to do this, so we should do this", just like the LGBT Resource Center, then we should drop our mask mandate.
- iii)** Grandstaff: The CDC has guidance on institutions of higher education, but it has not been updated since July. I am hesitant on removing the mask mandate right before Thanksgiving, but I'm interested in testing out how no-masks would work for us at some point in the future.

- iv)** Wuennenberg: Boone County in Columbia is rated at the same level of risk as us, but numbers-wise our risk is still lower, so I think we should follow Mizzou's lead here.
- v)** Woods: As we all know, the reason why masks mandates work is because they stop the spread. We most likely have low numbers on our campus community due to increasing vaccination rates and correct mask usage. I think it would be better to assess the mask mandate after we return from Winter Break.
- vi)** Lightle: I agree with Tori. If we remove the mask mandate it will shoot our levels up. Even if it's not COVID that is spreading, we will see the spread of other illnesses that we aren't exposed to right now because of the protection the masks provide.
- vii)** Smallwood: Personally, I don't trust anyone in Adair County, and since there is no mask mandate in the County, it's very possible for a student to go off campus and bring COVID back to campus.
- viii)** Rowley: I agree with what Blaine said because I'm just concerned about lifting our mandate when we know for a fact that Adair County is not doing well.
- ix)** Montúfar: As far as following other universities, I would want to wait a bit to collect more information because they haven't had much time to collect data themselves. I don't think that this is the best time to drop the mask mandate because the CDC has demonstrated that the increased travel during the holidays puts more people at risk. I am not opposed to some sort of tiered plan, but I think we need to make these decisions as responsibly as possible.
- x)** Chebolu: COVID has been going on for a long time and I don't want it to spike up again. This is not the best analogy, but it's like when the Doctor gives you antibiotics, you're supposed to continue taking it until you've finished the prescription, even if you stop experiencing symptoms earlier than that.
- xi)** Bono: I don't think the removal of the mask mandate should even be discussed at this time; it's too risky for at-risk individuals.
- xii)** Rascher: I think the reasoning for testing the removal of the mandate in the Spring could be applied to removing it before Thanksgiving as well. If we're going to go with a gradual plan, I would argue that right now is the more opportune time than after Winter Break.
- xiii)** Cooper: I think that we should wait until after Winter Break. In a few of my classes it is impossible to social distance, so if we lift the mask mandate right now, we need to consider re-implementing social distancing procedures.
- xiv)** Barge: I think it would be good to keep mask mandates in academic buildings. I understand the argument of being jam-packed in a classroom so I agree with Kennedy on that. We also need to consider enforcement, I know right now that it's hard for SAs to enforce the mask mandate. I'm not sold on the idea that we need to keep the mask mandate for flu season, not because the flu doesn't cause issues, but really just because you're breaking away from

precedent in that situation. We're not going to ever get rid of the flu, so then we'd never get rid of the mask mandate.

- xv)** Bishop: It has been mentioned that if we keep wearing our masks that the pandemic will end, but the pandemic will likely not go away for many many more years. I think we should also look at not wearing masks as the norm, and working on proving that masks are necessary instead of proving that they are not necessary.
- xvi)** Kershaw: IF you have anything more to say about the mask mandate, you can come talk to me after the meeting.

6) Announcements

- a)** Montúfar: I'm going to get a card and a small gift for Laura and I'll put it in the office!
- b)** Kershaw: We have an IM indoor soccer game this Tuesday so let me know if you want to attend.
- c)** Bishop: One of my classes is hosting a food drive from the 8th to the 18th, so if you have any non-perishables, please donate them.
- d)** Bono: On November 6th there is the a cappella fest, and it's free!
- e)** Woods: There is a mindfulness art experience at the art gallery right now, so you should go check that out.

Adjourned: 6:36 p.m.