

**Truman State University Student Government
Twelfth Session of the 2021-2022 General Body
November 7th, 2021**

Convened: 5:00 p.m.

1) Preliminary Items

- a) Roll Call
- b) Approval of Previous Minutes
 - i) Approved.
- c) Changes to the Agenda
 - i) Rowley: Motion to move Old Business before Auxiliary Reports.
(1) Wren: I object.
 - ii) Changes approved 10-5-6.
- d) Gallery Introductions & Business
 - i) Hannah, Nate, Grace, Riley, Alexa, Nancy, Elias, Kyle, Amanda, Jack, Sammy, Ashley, Kate, Caroline, Brianna, Allison, Johanna, Lisl, Dan, Keegan, Megan, Dr. Saint Rice, Ryan Nely, Dr. Nancy Daley-Moore, Dr. Mayer.
 - ii) O. Smith: You can participate in our discussion by raising your hand, and if I call your name you will come up to the microphone. Please say your name so our Secretary can record the minutes accurately. Please bear with us as we have a lot of different outlets where our conversation will come from.
- e) Membership Appointment & Resignation
 - i) Minor Appointments
 - ii) Major Appointments
- f) Oath of Office

2) Auxiliary Reports

- a) Speaker
 - i) O. Smith: We had our Gov. docs meeting today. We're talking about Appropriations and the Senior Senators. We left some comments on Jesse's document that I'm going to send his way, so we're going to see what they have to say about that. We need to have a resolution about changes to Appropriations by December 5th because we need to budget things for next semester. As it relates to Senior Senators, we think we came up with a good compromise. I will have more to say about that at ExComm just to explain our thinking and how to make voting more fair and even on the body. I have a constitutional amendment motion coming to the body in New Business and I will be sure to answer any questions about that.
- b) Faculty Advisor
 - i) Dr. Edwards: Hi I'm Dr. Edwards, I usually give a report about how faculty intersects with students. One of the things I hear is concerns about student mental health. Faculty are also concerned about student mental health, but we also don't have a lot that we can do about that.

- ii) Dr. Edwards: Coming out of the Provost office, there might be administrative structure changes to Academic Affairs. That will be an ongoing discussion across time.
- c) Staff Advisor
 - i) Bates: I put in Slack where faculty and staff vaccination reporting was at, since we got close to 75%, we get a half day off, so that will be Tuesday. There were a few organizations that will have checks going out to them for reaching 85% or more. I have met with most of the chairs, but message me if we have not.
- d) Board of Governors Representative
 - i) Smeltzer: Before the semester is over, whenever a slate is approved, all two to three of them will come to Student Government for a forty-five minute interview, and I just wanted you guys to be aware of that.
- 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 had a meeting with Dr. Gooch on Friday morning. I talked to her about the possibility of a financial hardship form as part of the academic warning notification system. I'm also waiting for a few emails to come in, but soon I will be talking to all of you about the changes my committee will be making to academic accolades.
 - ii) Purinton: We chose Kate Becker as the commencement speaker for the Winter 2021.
 - iii) Purinton: Also, we have a new meeting time at 5:00 p.m. on Mondays. If you have any questions or concerns that you would like me to address, please let me know. Have a great week.
- l) Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i) Cooper: Thank you to everyone who helped with this resolution, I really appreciate it. My committee met with Dr. Saint Rice last week and we are really looking forward to working with him in the future, specifically with an equity recap event. Lastly, we're spending less than \$100 on bookmarks for Native American History Month.
- m) Environmental Affairs Committee
 - i) No report.
- n) External Affairs Committee
 - i) Owsley: We had meeting number two with President Thomas and it was great. We talked a lot about the issues that are likely to come up in the next legislative session, and have some ideas about what we're going to pursue at Truman at the Capitol. The other big thing is that we have Registration Friday this Friday. We got stickers and posters and it will be fun to help register voters on Truman's campus. If you're not registered to vote on

campus, make sure you do that. I would've gotten 200 stickers for \$99, but through printing services they offered me 2,000.

- o) Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
 - i) Grandstaff: The mask mandate is extended for the rest of the semester. Tori is going to be meeting with Ryan Nely to talk about accessibility issues. We're also talking with Alex from Complete Family Medicine to make sure that there aren't any issues with appointment-making.
 - i) Sexual Assault Prevention Designee
 - (1) Fox: I met with Ryan Nely last Friday to start planning a Title IX Q&A event for the future.
 - (2) Fox: I am also working with Alex to send resources about sexual assault prevention and awareness via Instagram.
- p) Student Affairs Committee
 - i) Barge: The big thing is the President's Roundtable this week! If you are involved in some outside organizations, make sure that they're aware that the President's Roundtable is happening. I've been having trouble with IT services blocking my emails. If you have already selected the people that can be in attendance, please let me know so I can plan the breakout rooms ahead of time.
- q) Purple Friday Committee
 - i) Bono: Voter Registration Friday is this Friday; our committee is working with External Affairs on that. Stop by the table and grab a sticker. Sometime in November we are going to do an Epilepsy Awareness Friday with Tori. I'm also looking into indoor spaces to table as it gets colder.
- r) Parking Appeals Committee
 - i) Meyer: Really good job everybody. That was the biggest crowd we've had in a long time. I was correct in my assumption last week; I had parking appeals that were four weeks old that had not gotten to me. I'm planning to talk to Sara about that on Tuesday to see if we can get that issue taken care of.
 - (1) Bates: You might want to find out when DPS is doing food-for-fines.
- s) Legislative Director
 - i) King: Like Mike said, we had a meeting with President Thomas last week. In conjunction with External Affairs we have some programming coming up. I also want to give an info session on legislation because I understand that not everyone would know how it works.
- t) IT Director
 - i) S. Myers: I have access to the website! If you have anything that you would like on there, you can email me instead of Owen. I cannot guarantee anything quicker than a week, because school will always come first.
- u) PR Director
 - i) Crawford: I will be working with Joshua and Esther soon, but also, Owen wrote the StuGov column, so great job on that. I also made a post on our Instagram page.
 - ii) Meyer: When I find out when the food-for-fines, could I work with you to make a post about that?

(1) Yes, of course!

3) Executive Board Reports

- a) Secretary
 - i) No report.
- b) Treasurer
 - i) No report.
- c) Vice President
 - i) Kershaw: I would like to say that we may have found our future ESFAC chair. We're still looking for OAF and AFAC chairs, so tell people to apply.
 - ii) Kershaw: We have our first playoff game for indoor soccer at 9:00 p.m. Monday so please come if you can.
- d) President
 - i) Montúfar: Thank you for your participation today. Let me know if you want to talk through anything else.
 - ii) Montúfar: If you're interested in helping out with our holiday party, please reach out to me.
 - iii) Montúfar: We got some shirt designs from U&I, so we'll be making some edits and sending those back soon.
 - iv) Montúfar: Stay tuned for meeting changes around Thanksgiving. I'll be talking with the eboard and reporting back.

4) Old Business

- a) [A Resolution of Continued Support of Establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center](#) (Cooper)
 - i) Cooper: A couple changes that I have made to the Resolution are that I have updated the number of signatures. Last week we were at around 300 signatures, and now we're at over 1,000, which for context is about 23% of our student body. I also updated the statistics of LGBTQ+ students on campus.
 - ii) Cooper: I would also like to clarify a few things. First is the funding: The Student Government does not have the authority to decide how the University spends money. Tuition is not the sole thing funding the center.
 - iii) Cooper: I will not be adding an opt-out option because I disagree with it and it would be a logistical nightmare.
 - iv) Cooper: There is still an issue with discrimination on this campus, and this Center would equip students with the tools they need to protect themselves from homophobia on campus and hopefully promote inclusivity on campus as well.
 - v) Wren: For those against the passing of this Resolution, I kindly ask you to consider the following situation that I'm going to share with you: A student on our campus comes out of the closet and they are kicked out of their home for being gay and they lose everything. They have no insurance and they lack financial resources and community support in general. I ask you to think

about where that student could go for resources right now on our campus or in the Kirksville community. From experience, I can tell you that there is no place, and if it wasn't for my lovely boss then I have no idea where I would be. That student could be your classmate, someone in your congregation, or someone in one of your campus organizations. The presence of a center like this will, unfortunately, not solve the problems of the LGBTQ+ community, but research demonstrates that the presence of LGBTQ+ centers on college campuses is correlated with lower levels of discrimination, less distress, and increased self-acceptance among LGBTQ+ students. Any step in the right direction is a good step, and I am proud of this Resolution and look forward to the day that I can attend an educational event sponsored by this new Center.

- vi)** Elias Burrough: It seems like we're doing a lot assuming, could you define instances of discrimination?
 - (1) Kennedy: One instance of discrimination that comes to the front of my mind is the petition that was created in opposition to the creation of this Center. In general, there are microaggressions that occur every day on campus.
- vii)** Kershaw: As Vice President, I just wanted to share my support for Kennedy's Resolution. It's very well-written and she put a lot of work into it. It is well-researched and Shania and I both support it fully.
- viii)** Grandstaff: I also want to come out and support this Resolution. There is a need for this on campus and this should not be a contentious issue. There are other schools in Missouri who do not have an opt-out option because it simply should not be done.
- ix)** Bishop: I think we should look at this from the University's perspective. The idea has been around for a long time and we need to consider why they haven't done anything yet.
- x)** Eli: I wanted to mostly clarify what I think are the terms that are the issue here. Going back to what Jesse said about the student who might have been kicked out... I see no reason why the resources couldn't be provided to the student body as a whole. If we truly cared about our students, we would find a way to care for them that wasn't laden with assumptions about life. It is just counterproductive to everyone. The Center seems to be more concerned with projecting a belief into the world than with caring for students.
- xi)** Rascher: I would like to voice my continued concern that there isn't an opt-out option. I don't think the need is sufficient enough to overlook the religious freedoms and rights of other students. To be supportive and to be inclusive, we need to look at it from all angles and not just the perspective of

the students it would be supporting. I would also like to push back on the idea that agreeing to come to this University is agreeing with everything the University does; I believe it is our right and our duty to object to things that we don't agree with.

(1) Woods: Point of clarification: The University takes the students' thoughts and opinions into account, so it's not that we're agreeing with everything the University does.

- xii)** Sprehe: I would also like to voice my support for Kennedy's Resolution. We have a very great community of LGBTQ+ students on campus, but we don't have great resources on campus, especially in regards to mental health. LGBTQ+ students suffer from higher rates of suicide and depression in regards to their straight counterparts.
- xiii)** Kyle Farrell: I wish to address the castigation of the petition that was put forward earlier this week. We are not in opposition of the Center, we are in opposition of the students funding such a Center. There is opposition to forcing religious students to fund the center. Lots of things are hard in life, so using that as an excuse to not include an opt-out option is wrong.
- xiv)** Wuennenberg: I would be in support of an LGBTQ+ resource center if there was an opt-out option. I know not a lot of money will be used, but it's still money. I would also caution talking about attending Truman being an opt-out option; it makes it sound like we don't want certain religious groups on campus, and everyone has the right to pursue a quality education.
- (1) O. Smith: This is not a resolution asking the University to spend their money any differently, and we are not spending any of our own money.
- xv)** Bono: Could you explain what a resolution is for anyone who doesn't know?
- (1) O. Smith: Our resolutions allow us to be in contact with the administration, but nothing that is said in any of our resolutions is something that the University will implement for certain.
- xvi)** Riley Wilson: I'm here in my capacity as President of the Jewish Student Union. I am now the third president in a row who identifies as LGBTQ+, and Judaism in general is very supportive of LGBTQ+ students. I am here to support this Resolution. On a personal note, I have experienced discrimination on this campus twice in the last calander year. This center would give me a safe space to go.
- xvii)** Cooper: How many people are left on the speaker's list?
- (1) O. Smith: Fifteen.
- xviii)** Rowan: I am a non-binary student who goes here, and I would love for this Center to be a resource for us. I have teachers who still misgender me, even

if I'm wearing a pronoun button. There was never an objection to the Women's Resource Center, there was never an objection for the Diversity Center, there was never an objection for the religious organizations on campus. The Center is not going to force you to be gay or force you to be transgender. It's important for us to have a place to be. Many of the Christian students are in support of this, it's just the select few who are choosing to hate on individuals for who they are.

- xix)** Smeltzer: I fully support this Resolution. In December of 2020, the Board passed a strategic plan for this academic year. Calling for the Center would further their initiative.
- xx)** Kennedy: To address Adam's question about why nothing has been done in the past: that is a really difficult question to answer because there has just been a lot of discontinuity. People graduate and it's not passed on and it falls through the cracks. Another reason could be that when it first began in 2010, it was just a little idea. It takes a long time for things to occur at a university. Next is how would this actually aid the queer population of Truman State. Having a physical space where students can meet other queer students is valuable because college is an exploratory time where a lot of students are coming out to themselves. I understand that not everyone on this campus is queer, but that doesn't mean that it won't benefit you. The Center will be putting on events that will be for everyone.
- xxi)** Fox: I wanted to voice my support for this Resolution. I think it's important to have visibility for all students. When I was in high school we did have an LGBTQ+ resource center and I was disappointed to find that we did not have one here. The University mission statement says that we should have spaces that should benefit every single student on campus. You don't have to be involved with the Center if you don't want to, but you should not have the right to hinder students from getting the resources they need.
- xxii)** Barge: I want to address Adam's point about the University already doing enough. Voting against this resolution is not going to stop the pre-existing projects and programs, it just makes us less efficient with our money. I also completely disagree with adding the opt-out option. The university invests in fossil fuels with a portion of their money, and I know that a lot of people would opt-out of that if they could. It would be much too difficult to selectively implement opt-out options.
- xxiii)** Victoria Mayer: I'm here as Chair of the Women and Gender Studies Department. We've talked a lot about the importance of understanding rights and inclusion. The University is not giving special treatment to

anyone; they have a statement about everyone being able to have access to the resources to thrive.

xxiv) S. Myers: In the Spring of 2015, SAB funded an event called Spike's Epic Egg Hunt. This is an example of the University funding an event that not everyone would religiously agree with. You're going to have to pay for stuff you don't agree with. Suck it up.

xxv) Eli: This Resolution is not about the creation of a certain club or group. I think this is activism primarily and practical application second. It has been said earlier that an opt-out would be too complicated. I'm going to say good! Let that happen, because if it did happen, this body, and the College in general, would be more responsible to the people it allegedly serves, than to a certain group that wants to push an agenda on the country.

(1) O. Smith: Eli, please keep your comments limited to the resolution.

This is a Truman State resolution, not a nation-wide one.

(a) Eli: Don't play coy with me, this university isn't an island!

(i) *Eli is removed from the Zoom.*

xxvi) Austin: I'm hearing that there would be a very small amount of funds from actual students going towards this center. If an opt-out would be such a logistical nightmare, then why aren't the student funds eliminated altogether? I think freedom of conscience is something that the University should deeply cherish.

xxvii) Cook: I fully support this resolution and a lot of research has been put into it. The opt-out option is simply illogical. It's more of an issue that students at this University signed a document agreeing that our funds might go to things we don't support. I think a common argument might be citing the first amendment, but that doesn't apply because this isn't about a religious group putting their views on another population. Additionally, for the speakers remaining on the list, I would implore you to be conscious of what you are saying. A lot of people here have felt discriminated against tonight, and rightfully so, so please be careful with your words.

xxviii) Joseph : I just wanted to ask Kennedy or Jesse about the fact that the Resolution does not ask for funding from the School or anyone. I wanted to make it explicitly clear that an opt-out option would need to be discussed with the administration, and not here at this meeting.

(1) Cooper: He is correct, we do not control how Truman allots their funds.

xxix) Elias Burrough: To go back to that point, are you guys saying that once this issue leaves your guys' desks, it's not your problem? Are you saying that you don't care about the consequences after it happens?

(1) O. Smith: In short, as it relates to resolutions, yes. The great thing about being a member of this body is that it gets us closer to the administration, but none of our resolutions are binding except for when they're about our own rules.

(2) Elias: So what you're saying is that you're not responsible for the cost?

(a) O. Smith: I'm not implying anything about the cost of anything. The cost of the proposed center is not something that we have control over.

(b) Kershaw: Just because we pass a resolution does not mean that we stop working on it. Typically we continue working on those projects with relevant administration.

(c) O. Smith: Yes, we often work on projects internally.

xxx) Bishop: I want to go back to my original point about resources that are already available on campus. We have Prism and the Women's Resource Center, so I would like to ask generally, hypothetically, rhetorically, what would this Center bring to the table that is not already being done? I'm interested in discussing doing this privately, something that's not directly sponsored by the University, and I think that everyone on campus would be fine with that. Another thing to consider is where would we physically put this center?

(1) Kershaw: There has been discussion about a location in Baldwin Hall, where other centers like this are located.

xxxii) Meyer: I would like to draw everybody's attention to point three of the Resolution. We do plan on continuing on this, it's in the resolution. I'm going to restate that the opt-out discussion is silly; there are a lot of other things on this campus that I would like to opt-out of. The fact that this is even being called into question tells me that we need this Center.

xxxiii) Sammie: I would like to point out that this year, on the third day of Truman Week, I put my bi flag on the door and I was hate-slurred. That really deterred me from returning to Truman. I only built up the courage to file a Title IX complaint three weeks ago, and I was set up with a counselor who was not sensitive to LGBTQ+ concerns. The creation of this Center would not only give me a place to go, but it would allow me to feel safe on this campus.

xxxiiii) Chebolu: While I'm not a religious person, I know a lot of Hindu and Islamic students do not eat certain kinds of meat, but that meat is still served on campus. If I cannot eat cow or pig, then I eat something else. Freshman

students are required to live on campus, so that money is going directly to the preparation of cow meat. It's just like the Center.

xxxiv) Jacob: I have two points that I would like to make. One, there are already programs and processes in place on this campus. What that means is that you are already supporting this Center, you just don't know it yet. Why are you complaining to the Student Government? All this would do is centralize that money so that it would be used better, and we need that, we clearly need that. Second, as the resolution points out, about 23% of the student body has signed it. To all the Senators here, your job is to support the needs of the student body. I am a straight white male and I am terrified of public speaking, but I am seeing friends, colleagues, classmates, professors, and people I consider my family hurt by people on this campus, have nowhere to go. Give these people what they deserve as human beings.

b) Passed. 17-3-0.

5) New Business

a) [A Resolution Recommending Truman Raise the Institutional Wage](#) (Owsley)

i) Owsley: The institutional wage right now is \$9.40 an hour, and I believe it should be brought up to Missouri minimum wage. There is a loophole right now in U.S. law that makes it so that this wage can exist with certain stipulations.

ii) Chebolu: If the resolution is implemented next year, will it match the new Missouri minimum wage? Because I think it's going up.

(1) Sprehe: In the Resolution it says that we recommend they raise the wage to the new Missouri minimum wage.

iii) Barge: Is there a reason that the administration is not raising the minimum wage?

(1) Bates: If you look at Mike's chart, there are current professional staff members that only make \$10.30/hour. My understanding is that when the new law went into effect, student wages increased and we got no extra money in our budgets. Student wage was adjusted to a smaller degree because of compression.

iv) Joseph: Is there any analysis in regards to how students aren't being paid for scholarship jobs?

(1) Dr. Edwards: When they change the minimum wage, they change the number of scholarship hours that are required. It changed from 58 to 55 recently and it was 90 when I first got here.

v) Kershaw: This is kind of a restatement, but did you leave out scholarship jobs on purpose?

(1) Owsley: I left them out on purpose because I specifically wanted to talk about institutional wages. I figured we would talk about them because they are important. I know that it's definitely an issue, but I didn't know how to properly address it.

- vi)** Bishop: You referred to the act as a “loophole” in U.S. law. I think you should refer to it as the Fair Labor Standards Act and I also think you should link directly to that Act instead of linking to Teen Vogue.
- (1) Owsley: I think that’s a fair point. Changing language like that to be more direct is something I will do.
- vii)** R. Myers: I think it’s not as simple. A lot of these institutional jobs are not laborious, you can just sit at the desk and do homework. We should separate Sodexo and those kinds of jobs.
- (1) Chebolu: Sodexo is a different company so you can’t compare them as easily.
- (2) O. Smith: Hall desk jobs cannot be institutional, only work study or scholarship.
- viii)** Dr. Edwards: If you’re going to take an ethical stance on this, there is a really big elephant in the room of employees who are not making enough money who have to work at Walmart on the weekend. If you’re going to use these ethically loaded words, I would rampt that language back and play it more fair and equal.
- (1) R. Myers: I very much agree with that. Students have access to resources and lines of funding from the government. The students have the option to borrow money.
- (2) O. Smith: I am also concerned with the language of things. I think we should be cautious about applying one ethical standard to something.
- ix)** Joseph: I think it’s important to note that this would benefit everyone. I did not personally know that the wage translates to how many hours are worked for students with scholarship jobs.
- x)** Bates: Something that’s not in here that I think you need to think through is adjusted wage rates. Students closing buildings make \$9.90/hour. When the base minimum is adjusted, those positions are also adjusted. What happens to those roles and responsibilities of students who went through advanced training? If the adjusted wage stays, then that means we’re going to have students making more than professional staff members.
- xi)** Barge: My main concern is thinking about positions that we have right now... if we raise the fiscal wage, we might lose some positions, or we might not be able to create some positions that we wanted to create. I think we should go along with what the University goes with as the best course of action.
- xii)** Rowley: Laura, when you say professional staff members, do you mean students trained as professional staff members?
- (1) Bates: No, I don’t mean students. All hourly employees are adjusted as of January and it means that you would have some students making more than the housekeepers do.
- xiii)** R. Myers: The thing is that we represent the students primarily, so when we compare that to the professional student staff that is being paid less than minimum wage, that highlights a larger issue.

- xiv)** Jacob: Could we not raise all the employees wages to minimum wage? It seems that there is inequity between student wage and professional wage. We do represent the student body primarily, but we also represent the entire student body to some degree.
- (1) Meyer: While our primary concern is student interest, we have, in the past, advocated for professional staff so we could look into adding that into this resolution.
 - (2) R. Myers: I would support that.
- xv)** Barge: If we raise the minimum wage, we might see that students are not allowed to work as many hours and that might ultimately affect their income. If we're already budgeted to the max and we're not expecting the state of Missouri to be giving us more funding, it might not be wise to differ from the University's position. We might want to recognize that the University knows their finances more than we do.
- xvi)** Montúfar: I think what Warren was saying is similar to what I was thinking of saying. We need to have a more direct conversation with people in payroll and HR, so I think it would be nice to bring it up as a discussion item to assess need.
- xvii)** Bates: I get multiple analyses for the budgets every year, and I have to think about where I put that money. Do I get to buy toilet paper, or do I employ a student? We don't get state funding and I'm happy to show people what we do if they're interested.
- xviii)**
- b) [Org Rep Constitutional Amendment Proposal](#) (O. Smith)**
- i)** O. Smith: We wanted to better define how this position works with our body. Essentially, what this amendment does is change the definition of the membership of Student Government for organizational representatives.
 - ii)** Kershaw: Are we voting on this as an amendment?
 - (1) O. Smith: There is nothing in the Standing Rules that says that these amendments have to be brought to the body in the resolution. It was my personal opinion that because this had already been debated on and passed by the Student Association, I didn't think it was necessary to bring it as a resolution.
 - iii)** Joseph: I'm a little unclear about what organizational representatives do.
 - (1) O. Smith: We do have a spot in our agenda for organizational representatives so that they have time to give a report. They can contribute to discussions just as anyone else can, but the main thing that differentiates them from Associate Senators is the spot on the agenda for reporting.
 - iv)** Joseph: Can one person represent only one organization? I don't see the need for all of them to have individual spots.....
 - (1) O. Smith: Firstly, this motion is not designed to change the purpose of the organizational representative, it really was just a wording oversight. We have limitations on organizational representatives, but there is nothing that says that one person cannot represent

multiple organizations. We would love to have more people from different organizations.

- v) Dr. Edwards: Please don't decide that you're going to make the Constitution better because nobody ever does it.

c)

6) Announcements

- a) Dr. Edwards: I went to something called TruSolutions and you should go when they have another.
- b) Bishop: There is a food drive that is starting tomorrow in all the dorm halls, so bring non-perishables or feminine hygiene products to donate if you can.

Adjourned: 7:07 p.m.