



Student Government Resolution 121.005

A Resolution of Continued Support of Establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center

Sponsored by: Kennedy Cooper, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair; Morgan Sprehe, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair; Mike Owsley, External Affairs Chair; Santino Bono, Purple Friday Committee Chair; Grace Rowley, Alexis Cook, and Blaine Smallwood, Voting Senators; Abby Knabe, Incoming Senator; Lizzie Cremer, Disability Rights Advocate; Jesse Wren, Treasurer

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University's mission; and
- The Student Government has been working on getting a resource center established since at least 2010, where it is mentioned in the vision document: *Beyond the Horizon*¹; and
- The Student Government has passed multiple resolutions indicating their support for establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center;
 - An unnumbered Student Government Resolution titled: A Resolution in Support of an LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+) Resource Center on Truman State University's Campus² was passed in December 2015³;
 - Student Government Resolution 116.025: A Resolution of Statistical Support for an LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer+) Resource Center⁴ was passed in April 2016;
 - Student Government Resolution 120.024: A Resolution of Support of The Proposal for a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center⁵ was passed in April 2021; and
- Although the Student Government has passed multiple resolutions previously, this resolution is establishing that many students still see the need for a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center on Truman's Campus; and

¹ [2010 Vision Document](#)

² [LGBTQIA+ Resource Center Resolution - Google Docs](#)

³ For some reason this is not included on the website, but the meeting minutes where it was discussed state that it was passed. Here is the link to [those minutes](#).

⁴ [Resolution 116.025](#)

⁵ [Resolution 120.024: A Resolution in Support of the Proposal for Gender and Sexual Diversity Center](#)

- Within the past few weeks, **1007** students have signed a petition in support of establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center, demonstrating significant continued student support for establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center (Appendix A); ⁶
 - Within the petition, there was an option for students to suggest ideas for the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center;
 - Some of these suggestions included:
 - Having jobs available for student workers;
 - Working with Identity-Based Organizations on Campus for events and programming;
 - Sexual Health Education for Queer Students; and
- When established, a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center should house already existing programs and events such as SAFE ZONE Training, Lavender Graduation, and events such as National Coming Out Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance; and
- Creating a Gender and Sexual Diversity would provide a space and community for LGBTQ+ students that is not currently available on Truman State University's Campus; and
- Establishing a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center is valuable on Truman's campus because Truman has a significant number of students that identify as LGBTQ+ for multiple years⁷, with that number being 20% in 2020⁸; and
- Many other schools in Missouri have a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center including Missouri State University⁹, The University of Missouri¹⁰, Missouri S&T¹¹ and the University of Missouri- Kansas City¹²; and
- A Gender and Sexuality Diversity Center would provide a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students and could increase retention of those students; and
- Existing research tells us that LGBTQ+ resource centers are essential for the following three reasons¹³:
 - Providing physical spaces;
 - Providing community and professional support;
 - Serving as symbols of LGBTQ+ support and inclusion; and
- Establishing a Gender and Sexuality Diversity Center could serve to attract prospective students to the University and increase future enrollment; and

⁶ [Student Petition/Signatures](#)

⁷ [Truman enrolls above average number of LGBTQ students – Truman Media Network](#)

⁸ [MACHB Gender Sexual Orientation Demographic Data.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

⁹ <https://www.missouristate.edu/MulticulturalPrograms/LGBT-Resource-Center.htm>

¹⁰ [About Us // LGBTQ Resource Center \(missouri.edu\)](#)

¹¹ [– Student Diversity Initiatives | Missouri S&T \(mst.edu\)](#)

¹² [LGBTQIA Resources | UMKC Women's Center](#)

¹³ Pitcher, Erich N., et al. "Affirming Policies, Programs, and Supportive Services: Using an Organizational Perspective to Understand LGBTQ+ College Student Success." *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, vol. 11, no. 2, June 2018, pp. 117–132. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1037/dhe0000048.

- Truman State University does currently provide a Women’s Resource Center and an Interfaith Center, which shows that they have provided resource centers for specific student groups in the past; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the creation of a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center at Truman State University;
 - Supports continued efforts to find a dedicated, physical space for the Resource Center; and
- Supports the creation of a Strategic Plan for the development of a Gender and Sexual Diversity Center; and
- Expresses interest in being involved in the planning process for the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center, alongside the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, the Women’s Resource Center, and other relevant offices; and
- Suggests the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center receive its own regular funding for events, and staff; and
- Commits to work with the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center on events and programming, if the Center is established; and
- Proposes that the Gender and Sexual Diversity Center be established by Spring 2022;

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; All Board of Governors Members; Dr. Janet Gooch, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Saint Rice, Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion; Ryan Nely, Institutional Compliance Officer; Lori Shook, Campus Planner; Tyana Lange, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Marketing; Jonathan Vieker, Director of Retention and Student Success; Janna Stoskopf, Dean of Student Life; PRISM; TruTrans; Beta Omega Beta; Queers of Color Collective; OSTEM; the University Archives; and the Truman Media Network.

Passed 17-3-0, November 7th, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shania Montúfar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Shania Montúfar, President of the Student Association

Appendix A: A Graph Representing Signature Growth of a Petition in Support of an LGBTQ+ Resource Center at Truman State University Across Time

