Student Government senate.truman.edu



Lower Level Student Union 100 East Normal Avenue Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

**Student Government Resolution 121.007** 

A Resolution Supporting Survivors, Protests, and Action List of University of Missouri Sponsored By: Joshua Grandstaff, Health Wellness, and Safety Commitee Co-Chair: Tori Woods, Health Wellness, and Safety Co-Chair; Esther Fox, Sexual Assault Prevention Designee; Oscar Marten, Health Wellness and Safety Associate Senator

## 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
- Based on RAINN ( (Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network)) statistics, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the Annual Report from the University of Missouri Office for Civil Rights and Title IX and Truman State University's 2021 Annual Security and Fire Report, sexual violence is pervasive across college campuses in the United States, as well as on campuses in Missouri; and
- According to RAINN, 26.4% of female undergraduate students and 6.8% of male undergraduate students have experienced rape or sexual assault<sup>1</sup>; and
- According to the 2019-2020 Annual Report from the University of Missouri Office for Civil Rights and Title IX, there were 76 cases of sexual misconduct and 11 reports of the use of "predatory drugs/alcohol" at the University of Missouri<sup>2</sup> and fraternity locations; and
- According to Truman State University's 2021 Annual Security and Fire Report, there were 5 reported cases of rape in 2019 and 6 cases of rape in 2020<sup>3</sup>; and
- According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, over 90% of sexual violence on college campuses in the United States goes unreported<sup>4</sup>, meaning that the actual unmber of sexual misconduct reports is potentially much higher; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://civilrights.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/2019-2020-Annual-Report-4.15.2021.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://police.truman.edu/files/2021/09/2021AnnualDPSCampusReport.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications nsvrc factsheet media-packet statistics-about-sexual-violenc e\_0.pdf

- On October 5th, 2021, there were large scale protests regarding the incidents of drugged drinks<sup>5</sup> and sexual assault at the University of Missouri<sup>6</sup>, University of Missouri-Kansas City<sup>7</sup>, Kansas State University<sup>8</sup>, and University of Kansas<sup>9</sup>; and
- There has been a list of demands published by the group "Mizzou Without Rape;"<sup>10</sup> and;
- According to Truman State's Complaing Reporting & Resolution Procedure, the University will act on reported incidents or information, or formal complaints of prohibited discrimination; and
- Tolerating acts of sexual violence undermine and run counter to Truman State University's mission to protect students and support their quality of life; and
- Truman is firmly committed to free expression and academic freedom and to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy, and harassment free environment for all members of our community

# THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Generally supports the ideas the petition demands of the petition,
  - especially, creating a pathway to academic support for survivors without requiring a report to Title IX;
  - Requiring additional education for all members of an organization whose members perpetuate any form of violence or discrimination; and
  - Require all fraternity and student-athletes to participate in online and in-person (in-person to ensure engagement beyond the standard "Not Anymore" and "Greeklife.edu" training, when safe) courses about gender-based violence, bystander intervention, and toxic masculinity; and
- Urges Truman State to adopt certain demands listed in the petition such as:
  - Preparing instructors to provide additional academic support for survivors regardless of their choice to report, the outcome of their case, or their ability to provide documentation;
  - Reassuring students that they will not be punished if their report involves underage drinking when reporting to Title IX, the student health center, or campus law enforcement;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/higher\_education/mus-title-ix-office-logs-13-reports-of-possible-drugg ed-drinks-involving-students/article\_21d711ba-26d1-11ec-bc1f-b3fa3fd558fb.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>https://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/higher\_education/mu-students-demand-support-for-sexual-assault-survivors-at-mizzou-without-rape-protest/article\_2a47f3be-25f5-11ec-b0aa-1372563ae3d8.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://apnews.com/article/university-of-missouri-university-of-kansas-kansas-columbia-missouri-c3f810d2c47851 a4d9aa691a52a88609

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>https://www.ksnt.com/news/local-news/students-advocates-rally-at-ku-k-state-against-sexual-assault/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://lawrencekstimes.com/2021/10/05/ku-admin-protesters/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>Mizzou Without Rape: Demands - Google Docs</u>

- Eliminating female and heterosexual centered language, messaging, and resources; victims come from all sexualities and gender identities and deserve to be heard, represented, and respected; and
- Providing compliance training for employees.
- Commits to support, empower, and advocate for every student and survivor on Truman State and all college campuses; and
- Urges for more policy education to help encourage student reporting; and
- Encourages other public universities in Missouri to bring awareness of sexual misconduct to other universities by working with their student governments to form resolutions addressing these issues;

#### THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; Brooks Miller, Chair of the Truman State University Board of Governors; Dr. Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Janna Stoskopf, Dean of Student Life; Scott Alberts, President of Faculty Senate; Ernie Hughes, Vice President for University Advancement; Tyana Lange, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing; Melissa Garzanelli, Director of Human Resources; Donna Liss, Chief Information Officer; Ryan Nely, Title IX Coordinator; All Department Chairs and Secretaries; The Truman Media Network and University Archives; Missouri State Student Government Association, University of Missouri-Columbia Missouri Students Association, University of Missouri-Kansas City Student Government Association, Missouri University of Science and Technology Student Council; University of Missouri-St. Louis Student Government Association; Harris-Stowe State University Student Government Association; Lincoln University Student Government Association; Missouri Southern State University Student Senate; Missouri Western State University Student Government Association; Southeast Missouri State University Student Government Association; University of Central Missouri Student Government Association; Washington University in St. Louis Student Union; and the St. Louis University Student Government Association.

Passed by unanimous consent, December 5th, 2021

Shania Montúfar, President of the Student Association

#### Appendix A: Action List for the The University of Missouri

The students of the University of Missouri desiring improved student safety responded to a call to participate in a nationwide campus protest to "demand that students no longer leave college enduring the life-long trauma of sexual violence." We believe that Rape Free Campuses are possible; although it takes all of us: students, alumni, faculty, and the community to ensure that students don't also become survivors. Additionally, we believe that the university has a responsibility to survivors to create supportive, trauma-informed spaces where they can heal and seek justice in ways that are meaningful to them.

#### **National Demands:**

- Rewrite Title IX to be more survivor-centered
- Write new legislation that allows Universities to increase protections for students who have experienced interpersonal violence.

#### Universities:

- Participate in NASPA's Culture Of Respect Collective if you are not already to evaluate and restructure university policies and practices to better support survivors.
- Mandate instructors provide additional academic support for survivors regardless of whether or not they choose to report, the outcome of their case, or their ability to provide documentation.
- Reevaluate and rewrite housing policies to be more survivor-centered and protect marginalized individuals.
- Provide more transparency regarding Safety Escorts (beyond stripes including pedestrian) to any student who feels unsafe on campus. Offer reassurances that students can use these resources (in particular pedestrian escorts) if they are under the influence without repercussions.
- Institute stricter control over student organizations through stricter alcohol abuse enforcement, transparency about events being hosted anonymous reporting options for students to file complaints against student organizations.
- Create a well-funded educational campaign to educate the student body about what reporting through the University looks like and what resources they have available to them through the university and the community. Rebuild trust with students.
- Require all fraternity and student-athletes to participate in online and <u>in-person</u> (in-person to ensure engagement beyond the standard "Not Anymore" and "Greeklife.edu" training, when safe) courses about gender-based violence, bystander intervention, and toxic masculinity

- Ban student organizations and fraternities with a history of violence. Compile cases of hazing, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and alcohol/ drug related complaints to create a well-rounded idea of the culture within that student organization.
- Require additional education for all members of an organization whose members perpetuate any form of violence or discrimination.
- Develop once a semester listening forums for students to vocalize their needs to university administration and create dialogue for how to make a safer campus

## **FSL Organizations:**

- Revoke Charter from any organization with a report of sexual/interpersonal violence or hazing. Where there is one report, there are many more survivors.
- Send in Nationals to have discussions with their members about what greek culture looks like on their campus regarding alcohol, drugs, and sexual violence.
- Create stricter rules regarding membership. Any known information about repeated, informed, and intentional derogatory remarks towards women, racism, homophobia, antisemitism, other bigotry towards people with marginalized identities, or a history of violence should result in the immediate removal of membership and an informational report made to the University.
- Increase transparency in your organizations.
- Require members participate in an in-depth bystander intervention and consent education during the first week of the semester.

## **Demands of Mizzou:**

- Be forthcoming and democratic regarding decisions about the social justice center.
- When notifying students of increased incidences of assault, provide resources and reassurances that make victims feel SAFE.
- Add more self-defense classes. Student's sense of safety on our campus has declined dramatically and courses are inaccessible for the foreseeable future. Currently, organizations/ students with resources are able to look outside of Mizzou for self-defense training but for many students this is not an option. Either pay the current staff to offer more times or hire additional staff.
- A content warning on public safety announcements going out. A simple "content warning: sexual assault" on announcements like those the student body has received in previous weeks could make a big difference. (Many students on Mizzou's campus have already been affected by sexual assault. It is extremely important for them to know of present dangers on and around campus but it is also important to protect the wellbeing of those who may be struggling with PTSD and allow them to open the safety announcement in their own time.)

- Work with the RSVP Center on crime notifications like the ones that have been sent recently to eliminate language that blames victims while still notifying the community of the danger.
- Expand student access through University Hospital to procedures like rape kits, and optional drug testing for students who have been attacked for free.
- Expand free and expedited counseling resources for students who have been attacked.
- Train health staff on how to complete Male and Trans confident rape kits as well as respecting student pronouns and names even if they differ from their legal name.
- More survivor sensitivity training for MUPD, Counseling Center, Title IX, including training on how to be respectful of LGBTQIA+ survivors.
- Eliminate female and heterosexual centered messaging and resources, victims come from all sexualities and gender identities and deserve to be heard, represented, and respected.
- Reassure students that they will not be punished for reporting, whether reporting to title IX, visiting the student health center, or reporting the incident to MUPD students need to be reassured they will not be punished for actions such as underage drinking if they need to report an attack.
- Overhaul "Not Anymore" training. Sexual assault or harassment has never been okay and the way you introduce that concept is bewilderingly insulting to survivors.
- Provide an alternative training option or loophole for survivors (that training is extremely triggering and we already know) ((could potentially be accessed by request through the RSVP Center or your advisor.))
- Create a pathway to academic support for survivors without requiring a report to Title IX.
- Establish a transparent system of existing (and new as needs become apparent) resources and reassurances accessible to students who report. Make this system transparent so it can be taken into consideration when a student is deciding whether or not it is safe for them to report.
- Revamp the organization suspensions page so that students can easily tell which organizations have been cited for all types of violence instead of lumping it in with drug and other policy violations.
- Work with the RSVP Center to implement a requirement for student organizations to have a policy on how reports of sexual assault and harassment are handled by the organization.

## Sincerely,

University of Missouri Students Advocating for Improved Student Safety