



Student Government Resolution 091.018
Resolution Endorsing the Signing of the Truman State University Sustainability Initiative

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The Strategic Plan outlines the University’s vision that “Truman will be America’s premier public liberal arts and sciences university;” and that Truman, “...resolves to extend its reach to provide our students the knowledge and experiences necessary to become creative, socially responsible leaders and engaged world citizens who will be able to deal successfully with global challenges in a future world that we can barely imagine today;” and
- Truman’s mission statement affirms that “intellectual integrity, celebration of difference and diversity, informed ethical values, and courageous aspiration toward the best for oneself, one's family, one's society, and the world”; and
- The Curriculum Commission directs that “Truman graduates will be creative, socially responsible leaders, and engaged world citizens,” and, “students will develop better understanding of the natural, socio-cultural, and historical forces that shape our world...with big questions, active involvement, and real world challenges;” and
- The International Panel on Climate Change, who received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winners and represent the UN, state that, “unmitigated climate change would, in the long term, be likely to exceed the capacity of natural, managed and human systems to adapt. Reliance on adaptation alone could eventually lead to a magnitude of climate change to which effective adaptation is not possible, or will only be available at very high social, environmental, and economic costs”; and
- Truman State University consumes more total energy (in kWh) and per capita energy (in kWh/person) than 13 countries listed in the CIA’s World Handbook (Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Niue, Cook Islands, Nauru, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Kiribati, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Montenegro, Comoros, and Gaza Strip); and
- As of April 5, 2009, 620 institutions have signed the President’s Climate Commitment (PCC) while Truman State University has not acted upon the recommendation of Student Senate (Feb. 24, 2008) or the President’s Environmental Advisory Committee (March 4, 2008) to sign the PCC; and
- As of April 5, 2009, 23 out of 27 peer institutions have signed commitments, 18 of which hired sustainability coordinators and 5 created project-driven University wide committees. Truman State University, while having a presidential environmental advisory committee, is aligned with the four peer institutions that have done none of the aforementioned items; and
- The majority of the existing environmentally-based projects on Truman’s campus are student driven and would not be in existence without the persistent action and determination of the student body; and
- The Truman State University Sustainability Initiative (TSUSI) mission statement suggests that “The impacts of our economic, environmental, and social behaviors compel us to demonstrate leadership in the realm of sustainability. As a public institution of higher education, Truman State University represents a significant nexus of resource use and economic activity, and thus assumes a moral obligation to model sustainable practices. By incorporating the voices of both the university community and Northeast Missouri residents, Truman State University will inspire an ethic of stewardship and awareness of the local and global scope of our practices”; and

- The TSUSI has been reviewed by the PEAC and given a non-vote approval to move forward with the creation of funding mechanisms, leadership structure, and the initiative's timeline; and
- Over 80% of students agreed with the signing of a sustainability commitment for TSU according to the 2009 Environmental Affairs committee survey.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

- Student Government recognizes the existence of climate change; and
- Student Government recommends the signing of the Truman State University Sustainability Initiative.

THEREFORE BE IT DIRECTED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- Presents their endorsement to Faculty Senate and Staff Council; and
- Deliver this resolution to President Krueger, Provost Paino, the President's Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Truman Media Network.

Passed April 5, 2009
By a Vote of 11 – 0 – 1

Anna Elizabeth Esfeld
President of the Student Association