

Student Government Resolution 092.012
Resolution Endorsing an Experiential Learning Component in Future Curricular Models

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 the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- According to Arete (13), it is the belief of the student body that completion of an experiential learning component is in the best long-term interest of all Truman students; and
- The November 2009 Student Curriculum Survey* suggests that 18.0% of students had already completed and enjoyed an experiential learning component as opposed to 0.4% who had completed an experiential learning component and believed it had a negative impact; and
- The survey furthermore shows that 32.1% students were supportive of an experiential learning component, as opposed to the 1.5% of students who saw no benefit in it; and
- However, the survey showed substantial misgivings about the need or ability of Truman to properly implement such program; 30.4% of respondents opposed this on the grounds that everyone wanting such an experience was getting one and that there was no reason to require it of other people. Furthermore, most of the 6.1% responding 'Other' made comments expressing concern about the cost to students, the availability of acceptable opportunities or the potential for it to be harder to graduate in 4 years if this were implemented; and
- Furthermore, student opinion gathered in the October 2009 student forums suggest that the McNair Program, presentations at the Undergraduate Research Conference, and working at the writing center may provide an experiential learning component to their education at Truman State University; and
- The Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum Phase 1 Report suggests that any new curriculum should include a plan for demonstration of various types of student learning (21), and goes beyond just a list of courses (18).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

- The Student Government supports the inclusion of a required experiential learning component as an element of the next curriculum so long as it does not impose a substantial barrier to graduation in a timely way without incurring substantial debt.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to University President Darrell W. Krueger, VPAA/Provost Troy Paino, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, Faculty Senate, and Undergraduate Council.

Passed November 8, 2009
By a Vote of 14 – 0 – 1

JoEllen Flanagan
President of the Student Association