

Student Government Resolution 112.013
A Resolution in Support of Wet Tailgating
Sponsored by: President Ryan Nely and Senator Michael Baharaeen, Chairman of the
Presidential Task Force Committee on University Tailgating

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of the University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- Truman State University's current tailgating policy prohibits the consumption of alcohol in all circumstances; and
- Parents and alumni have approached the university about changing its policy regarding beer and wine at tailgate events on campus¹; and
- Football parents and members of the Touchdown Club have approached Athletic Director Jerry Wollmering about changing the policy as well²; and
- The University temporarily lifted the ban on September 10, 2011, for a trial "wet" tailgating event; and
- There were no reported incidents of negative behavior by those in attendance; and
- The Presidential Task Force Committee on University Tailgating of the Student Government was formed³ with the purpose of researching all aspects of wet tailgating policy; and
- The following are the findings of the Committee:
 - At least three other four-year institutions in Missouri are dry campuses that allow for wet tailgating: Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the University of Missouri-Columbia; and
 - As an example, Missouri State University's tailgating policy is as follows:
 - Alcohol may only be consumed in designated lots, no more than four hours in advance of the start of the sporting event, and all consumption must end at the start of the event; and
 - Only persons age 21 and older may possess or consume alcohol; and
 - All participating community groups must register three days in advance with the Athletics Development Office and all participating student organizations must register three days in advance with the Office of Student Activities. Any registered group that provides alcohol must also make available non-alcoholic beverages and food; and
 - No kegs or other large containers of alcoholic beverages are permitted in the tailgate area; and
 - No open containers of alcohol are permitted outside of the scheduled tailgate times and locations; and

¹ Retrieved from <<http://www.trumanindex.com/wet-tailgate-set-for-sept-10-1.2570943>>

² Ibid.

³ Presidential Executive Order, October 9, 2011

- Although a wet campus, the University of Central Missouri still maintains the following tailgating regulations:
 - Tailgating is permitted in these lots starting three hours before kick-off; and
 - The fencing designates the tailgate area, and you are to leave only through the designated entry and exit points; and
 - All alcoholic beverages must be placed in plastic cups, which can be provided. No cups or beverages of any kind may be carried out of the designated tailgate area; and
 - Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 will not be allowed; and
 - No tailgating is permitted in the designated lots listed above after completion of halftime; and
- Other schools with dry campuses that allow for wet tailgating include Indiana University, Northwestern University, the University of Minnesota, Pennsylvania State University, and Oklahoma State University; and
- In a 2007 study entitled, “The Impact of a Tailgating Policy on Students’ Drinking Behavior and Perceptions⁴,” researchers observed a mid-sized, four year public university in the Midwest contemplating the allowance of alcohol at tailgating events; and
 - The study released a survey to a representative sample of students at the university in the fall of 2003 regarding their views of wet tailgating; and
 - They released a second survey made available to the entire student body (approximately 5000 students) in 2004 to engage support for the same issue; and
 - The results showed that, after the wet tailgating policy was instituted, drinking rates among students who participated in the tailgating activities remained relatively unchanged; and
 - They also found that students professed to attend more football after the policy change, although not many as initially thought
- Students have requested said tailgating events be moved closer in proximity to Stokes Stadium; and
- The University’s 2010 Student Vision Document, which was passed by Student Senate with unanimous support, states⁵, “Truman is traditionally a dry campus; however, students have asked the administration to consider wet events on campus. Events including alcohol would not diminish the integrity of the university...wet tailgating would also be a way to increase school spirit at Truman. Many other public colleges and universities encourage school spirit at sporting events through tailgating. This could be accomplished by creating a sectioned-off area for tailgating events. By placing an age restriction on the area, monitoring would not be an issue. These events would not only increase attendance but possibly raise money for the university and student organizations”; and

⁴ Retrieved from <<http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/27957574/impact-tailgating-policy-students-drinking-behavior-perceptions>>

⁵ 2010 Student Vision Document: Beyond the Horizon

- The conclusion of this document reiterates three main points: actively listen to students; do not be afraid of action; be innovative; and
- Any potential extra costs accrued through services required for the tailgating could be negated through a nominal fee for non-students or through the request of a donation by attendees; and
- The Committee made available a survey to the entire student body regarding a potential policy change:
 - The results found that the student body was overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed change; and
 - A total of 1331 students responded to the survey; and
 - 91.3 percent of respondents expressed support for a second trial tailgating event on November 5th, prior to the football game; and
 - 91.8 percent of respondents expressed support for a lifting of the ban on alcohol for all future tailgating events at home football games; and
 - 68.9 percent of respondents stated that they would be much more likely to attend future football games were wet tailgating allowed; and
 - 14 percent of respondents stated that they would be somewhat more likely to attend future football games were wet tailgating allowed; and
 - Subsequently, several campus groups offered statements of support including Hillel, Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Kappa Lambda, and the Residence Hall Association.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Supports the findings and recommendations of the Presidential Task Force Committee on University Tailgating of the Student Government; and
- Supports lifting the University ban of alcohol for tailgating events prior to home football games; and
- Believes that, based on student responses to the administered survey, allowing for this change in policy would lead to an increase in attendance at football games and an increased level of school spirit; and
- Supports designating the parking lot behind Stokes Stadium for tailgating events; and
- Supports designating a section of the parking lot alcohol-free for those who wish to remain apart from individuals consuming alcohol; and
- Supports the presence of additional Department of Public Safety officers to monitor said tailgating events; and
- Supports either instituting a nominal fee per cup for non-students or requesting donations from tailgating attendees to cover any potential extra costs accrued through services required for the tailgating; and
- Supports the following rules and regulations for tailgating events:
 - Possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 will not be prohibited; and
 - Individuals consuming alcohol will be given adequate identification upon entering the tailgating area; and
 - Kegs, hard liquor, distilled alcohol, drinking paraphernalia, and games which promote the rapid consumption of alcohol will not be permitted within the designated tailgating area; and

- Individuals consuming alcohol may only use cups provided by the University; and
- Tailgating is permitted within the aforementioned confines starting three hours prior to kick-off; and
- Tailgating attendees are to enter and leave only through the designated entry and exit points; and
- No open containers of alcohol are permitted outside the designated tailgating area; and
- No tailgating is permitted in the aforementioned confines after the completion of the first quarter.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT,

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to every current member of the Truman State University Board of Governors, President Troy Paino, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Beth Kral, Director of Athletics Jerry Wollmering, Director of ResLife John Gardner, the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the General Counsel, and the Truman Media Network.

**Passed November 13, 2011
By Unanimous Consent**

**Ryan Nely
President of the Student Association**