

Student Government Resolution 112.015
A Resolution in Support of Extending Equal Benefits to Same-Sex Partners of University Employees
Sponsored by the Student Affairs Committee, Aaron Malin, Chair

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
- More than 300 colleges and universities now offer some kind of domestic partnership benefits¹; and
- These benefits include, but are not limited to: insurance policies (health, disability, life), tuition remission, child care, family and bereavement leaves, and retirement plans¹; and
- The ACLU calculates that more than 150 of the nation's 530 individual state-funded universities provide benefits to employees' same-sex partners²; and
- The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has taken the position that "domestic partner benefits programs make good business sense"³; and
- The AASCU has also stated that "[domestic partner benefits programs] increased use [i]s a competitive lever to attract a diverse, top-caliber workforce"³; and
- Seventy-four percent of the top fifty national four-year institutions as ranked by *US News & World Report* provide domestic partnership benefits⁴; and
- Truman State University is currently ranked number eight in national university rankings by said report⁵; and
- In a survey conducted among faculty between 11/07/2011 and 11/11/2011, with 71 faculty responding, 77.46% of them favored allowing same-sex partners of Truman faculty members the opportunity to purchase health insurance through the university; and
- In a survey conducted among students between 11/07/2011 and 11/11/2011, with 775 students responding, 83.87% of them favored allowing same-sex partners of Truman faculty members the opportunity to purchase health insurance through the university; and
- Faculty members in the aforementioned survey indicated that their decision as to whether or not to remain at Truman in the coming years will depend on whether or not their partners are able to purchase health insurance through the university; and
- The 2010 Student Vision Document, which passed Student Senate unanimously in the spring of 2010, dictates that "Truman...needs to provide equal insurance policies for same-sex faculty and staff couples."⁶

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Supports extending all of the same rights, privileges, and benefits to which opposite-sex spouses currently are entitled to same-sex partners of faculty and staff members; and

1 "Resolution on Domestic Partner Benefits," Passed unanimously by the University of Missouri Faculty Council, on March 4, 2010
<http://facultycouncil.missouri.edu/minutes/09-10/03-04-10.html>

2 ACLU Website, Feb 5 2002. http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights_hiv-aids/aclu-sues-montana-universities-gay-partner-benefits

3 American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Higher Education Policy Brief, October 2007.

http://www.aascu.org/uploadedFiles/AASCU/Content/Root/PolicyAndAdvocacy/PolicyPublications/domestic_partners07%281%29.pdf

4 "Appendix B: Prepared by the LGBT Advisory Committee." April 10, 2006. University of Wisconsin.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/lgbtadvisory/projects/upload/Marriage-Amendment-Info-Sheet.pdf>

5 US News and World Report, <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/truman-state-2495> 2010

6 Student Vision Document: *Beyond THE Horizon*

- Endorses the resolutions passed by the University of Missouri-Columbia (as passed in 2010) and the University of Missouri-Saint Louis (as passed in 2009) that promote similar goals.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY DIRECTS THAT:

- Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to each current member of the Truman State University Board of Governors, President Troy Paino, Dean of Student Affairs Lou Ann Gilchrist, Executive Director of Human Resources Sally Detweiler, and the Truman Media Network.

Passed November 13, 2011

By a Vote of 14-1-0

Ryan Nely

President of the Student Association