

### **Student Government Resolution 115.010**

## **A Resolution in Recognition, Support and Celebration of 100 Years with the Bulldog as the Campus' Mascot**

**Sponsored by Vice President of the Student Association, Molly Turner**

### 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
- Truman State University Pickler Memorial Library has documented University Traditions in the 1 University Archives collection including a brief explanation of the school mascot<sup>1</sup>; and
- According to Truman historical documentation, the term “Bulldog” was originally used as a description of the Missouri State Normal School of the First District’s football team by Coach O.C. Bell in 1909<sup>2</sup>; and
- The description of the Missouri State Normal School of the First District’s football team as Bulldogs was further noted by President Emeritus Walter H Ryle<sup>3</sup>; and
- In 1914, according to team member and later football coach H.L. “Curly” McWilliams, the Missouri State Normal School of the First District’s football team had “several losing seasons – and no wins at all in 1914,” but students still supported the team by giving them “hearty sendoff[s],” and “were at the train to greet them when they returned”<sup>4</sup>; and
- A committee was formed a year later to brainstorm ways to rekindle Missouri State Normal School of the First District’s enthusiasm, in which student Walter Ryle was a member of<sup>5</sup>; and
- In 1915 the Bulldog was adopted as the team mascot “because of his tenacity and ability to hold on and fight desperately until the end. A Bulldog does not quit...” similarly to the Missouri State Normal School of the First District’s football team, stated by McWilliams<sup>6</sup>; and
- In the spring of 1916, the baseball team identified as the Bulldogs for the first time<sup>7</sup>; and
- In the fall of 1916, the football team also premiered under the Bulldog name ; and

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<sup>1</sup> Please see <http://library.truman.edu/archives/mascot.asp> and <http://www.truman.edu/about/history/> for more information.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

- One hundred years later, Truman State University head football coach, Gregg Nesbitt, who also played for Bulldogs football in 1986 through 1980, says that Bulldogs are still an accurate description of the team: “The definition for a Bulldog’s temperament is equable, kind, resolute, and courageous! The current Dogs fit this description very well. They have done an amazing job in the community and university with community service in recent history... [while showing] persistence and hard work...on the field;” and
- During the 2015 football season, the Truman State University fighting Bulldogs were victorious six of the ten games they played and ranked third in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and have had two consecutive winning seasons, along with the best two year winning percentage since 1970 and 1971<sup>8</sup>; and
- Truman State University Bulldogs have over time risen to the eighth winningest program in division II college football, are the winningest National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) football playing University in Missouri with fifteen participating schools; and
- In the one hundred years that separate the committees’ decision to adopt the Bulldog as the official campus mascot, the campus name has seen four different titles, but the Bulldog as the official mascot has remained the same<sup>9</sup>; and
- For a century, the Bulldog has appeared as a symbol of both Missouri State Normal School of the First District and Truman State University in human and canine form to cheer athletic teams on to numerous victories and has supported them through their defeats<sup>10</sup>; and
- One hundred years later, another committee has been formed—initiated by Student Activities Board Member, Sydney Slavin—to plan the celebration of a century with the Bulldog as the official University’s mascot that consist of Public Relations Director, Heidi Templeton; Director of Alumni Relations, Denise Smith; Senior Graphic Designer and Student Activities Board Advisor, Winston Vanderhoof and Chair of the Communication and Development committee, Olivia Louderman; Student Government Vice President and Cheerleader, Molly Turner; and Student Mascot, Alex Scherr.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Commends student Sydney Slavin for her recognition of one hundred years of the Bulldog and seeking to celebrate while taking initiative on the matter; and
- Was happy to see Truman faculty, staff, students, alumni and alumnae wearing purple for the week of March 30 through April 3 of 2015 in celebration of Truman’s tradition; and
- Suggests that collectively, the Truman State University Campus revives the traditional Truman chant that our Football Team chants following every victory: “Bulldogs, Bulldogs, Bow Wow Wow! Big Purple Team! Bulldogs, Bulldogs, Bow Wow Wow! We’ve got the steam. We will fight fight fight! And Never Say Die, Onward to Victory!

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<sup>8</sup> Please see <http://trumanbulldogs.com/custompages/Football/Stats/Stats/2014/teamstat.htm> and <http://www.glvcsports.com/index.aspx?path=football> for more information.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Please see <http://www.truman.edu/about/history/ournamesake/changingthename/> for more information.

Bulldogs, Bulldogs, Bow Wow Wow! Big Purple, Big Purple, Big Purple Team!” beginning for the 2015-16 academic year at various sporting events; and

- Had a wonderful time watching the Truman State University double header Baseball game against McKendree University from Illinois on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the Bulldog Baseball Park, at twelve noon and three post meridian, where Spike threw the first pitch to current University President, Dr. Troy Paino for the baseball pregame thirty minutes prior for “Spike’s Ceremony”; and
- Attended Spike’s Birthday Party on Thursday, April 2, 2015 from five to seven post meridian, in the Student Union Building HUB, where there were Bulldog and paw print cookies, notepads, and birthday hats, while eating an exquisite Bulldog decorated birthday cake with Spike and took photos. Entertainment was provided by the Truman State University Football Team, University Swingers and Sweet Nothings A Capella group; and
- Extends a special, “Thank You” to faculty members Heidi Templeton, Denise Smith, Winston Vanderhoof and Lora Cunningham for their support in making the week of events possible; and
- Celebrates Truman faculty, staff, students, alumni and alumnae for wearing purple, showing and communicating their spirit for Truman on National Spirit Day which annually falls on the first Friday in April and was held this year on April 3, 2015; and
- Hopes to see many more years of Truman State University school spirit; and
- Encourages the campus to keep the Bulldog as the official mascot.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are distributed to the University President, Troy Paino; Provost/Vice President of Student Affairs, Susan Thomas; University Board of Governors; Dean of Student Affairs, Lou Ann Gilchrist; Director of Public Relations, Heidi Templeton; Director of Alumni Relations, Denise Smith; Senior Graphic Designer and Student Activities Board Advisor, Winston Vanderhoof; Lora Cunningham; Director of Athletics, Jerry Wollmering; Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Jeff Gall; Assistant Athletic Director and Director of Athletic Communications, Kevin White; Associate Athletic Director and Compliance, Linda Anderson; Head Athletic Trainer, Michelle Boyd; Assistant Director of Athletic Communications, Tyler Madsen; Athletics Administrative Assistant, Jeri Speak; Head Football Coach, Gregg Nesbitt; Associate Head Football Coaches, Thomas Kearney, Kellen Nesbitt, Jay Davis, Andy Ball, and Jed Paulsen; Head Baseball Coach, Dan Davis; Assistant Baseball Coach, Chris Fletcher; Truman State University Students Sydney Slavin, Alex Scherr, and Olivia Louderman.

**Passed Unanimously on April 6th, 2015**