

**Truman State University Student Government
Twenty-second Session of the 2021-2022 General Body
February 20th, 2022**

Convened: 5:01 p.m.

1) Preliminary Items

- a) Roll Call**
- b) Gallery Business**
 - i) Kolesiak:** I am here to be appointed as an associate senator to the committee of Student Affairs.
 - ii) Sitze:** I'm here to be appointed to the Environmental Sustainability Accountability Fee Committee.
 - iii) Woods:** I'm here to be appointed to the Environmental Sustainability Accountability Fee Committee.
 - iv) Bird:** I'm here to be appointed to the Environmental Sustainability Accountability Fee Committee.
- c) Changes to the Agenda**
 - i) Kershaw:** Move to move minor appointments up.
 - ii) O. Smith:** Move old business, new business, and discussion items ahead of executive reports— in that order.
 - iii) Approved.**
- d) Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - i) Approved.**
- e) Membership Appointment & Resignation**
 - i) Resignations**
 - ii) Major Appointments**
 - iii) Minor Appointments**
 - (1) Alexa Kolesiak as an Associate Senator on Student Affairs (O. Smith)
 - (a) O. Smith: Warren, Krishna, Alexa, and I were talking about how she already works on the committee and we thought it would be good to just get her appointed.
 - (b) Kolesiak: I have already enjoyed working on projects such as the meet-and-greet and student appreciation week. I think being part of the committee would be something I am already doing, so I would like to be appointed.
 - (c) Appointed.
 - (2) Gabrielle Woods, Jay Sitze, Keegan Bird as on the Environmental Sustainability Accountability Fee Committee.
 - (a) Kershaw: Gabby is a Save the Bees Representative, Jay is a Student at Large, and Keegan is a Environmental Campus Organization Representative. I think they are going to do great work on the Environmental Sustainability Accountability Fee Committee and they've already started working on projects with Drew.

(b) Appointed.

iv) Oath of Office

2) Executive Reports

a) President

i) Montúfar: No report.

b) Vice President

i) Kershaw: There is a volleyball game tomorrow night at 6:50 p.m. Please try to be there if you can.

c) Treasurer

i) Wren: We have three applications on the appropriations committee that we can bring to the general body next Sunday. Two are individuals for a conference and the other is a group seeking money for a project.

d) Secretary

i) Cook: No report.

e) PR Director

i) O'Reilly: We talked about posters this week.

ii) O'Reilly: Abby will take over the Instagram account sometime this week.

f) IT Director

i) S. Myers: No report.

g) Legislative Director

3) Advisor Reports

a) Staff Advisor

i) Bates: If you have things that you will need before the end of your term, we need to talk about that soon because some things are not in stock and some things are unavailable.

ii) Bates: If you did not get to go to the Spring Strategic Planning Assessment Workshop last Thursday, I encourage you to look at the website where the recordings and PowerPoint presentations should be uploaded soon.

iii) Bates: Conversation about the state budget is changing. Senator Roy Blunt is proposing federal funding which would take Greenwood over the top. There are many different stories about what would go in the Kirk Building and the university is pursuing two options for that. I hope the gym comes back.

iv) Bates: Ernie Hughes and Dr. Saint Rice updated the strategic plan in regards to diversity, equity and inclusion so that it is reflective of what the university is currently doing.

v) Bates: After I left, they talked about faculty salary and reorganization about the Academic Affairs. It was outlined in the presentation. If you care about the inner workings of the university, I encourage you to look at it.

vi) Bates: Tomorrow is an Admitted Students Event. They get to "Choose their own adventure" and we are encouraged to wear purple tomorrow. If you don't wear purple, please wear something related to Student Government. Please say "Hello!" to them if you see them.

vii) Bates: Tuesday is 02/22/22 so all day there will be paired snacks: coffee and donut holes in the morning and chips and dip in the afternoon.

b) Faculty Advisor

4) Old Business

a) [Resolution 121.010 - D&I Rules Changes](#) (Cooper)

- i) Cooper: Not much has changed from last week, but there were few suggestions that I included in the resolution.
- ii) R. Myers: If this resolution was not passed and changes were not made, what would the result be?
 - (1) Cooper: Essentially, I just wanted it to be in the standing rules so that it would be required that someone on the body will serve in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center Advisory Committee..
- iii) Montúfar: In future years, it would be good for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, LGBTQ+ Resource Center, and everyone else to know that we have a representative.
- iv) Approved.

5) New Business

a) [Diversity Informational Materials Money Motion](#) (Cooper)

- i) Cooper: My committee made a bookmark on how to be a better ally, along with a list of resources for people. There have been a lot of people who come to me and ask about resources on campus, so I compiled them in this bookmark and I would like to hand them out at events and Purple Friday. The design isn't finalized, but I will send it to Dr. Rice and have him look over it, therefore wording and such might change.
 - (1) R. Myers: You said that \$50 got you a lot of Land Acknowledgment bookmarks. How many of those bookmarks do we have left?
 - (a) Cooper: I think that we have a little bit leftover, but I think this is a good amount of money to spend on bookmarks and I don't predict we will have any leftovers.
 - (2) O. Smith: Just consider how much text is on these bookmarks and the bookmarks themselves are already small, so the text may be really tiny. I just don't want it to be overlooked or hard to read.
 - (a) Cooper: I did think about that, and I know the Land Acknowledgement ones have the same font size, and those are readable, so I think they are okay.
 - (3) Bates: I would make sure things are capitalized where they ought to be.
- ii) Approved.

b) [Resolution 121.011 - Nondiscrimination Policy](#) (Cooper)

- i) Cooper: I think that the nondiscrimination policy should include gender identity. A lot of schools that Truman is comparable to have it in their policy. I am meeting with Amy Clendennen, an official from the university's legal counsel, tomorrow to cover the legal aspects of this. The Faculty Senate has this on their agenda for this week, as well.
- ii) Montúfar: When we've had a conversation with the President and Board of Governors about gender-inclusive housing, they made a point to see the broad range of applications that this resolution would have. It may be helpful

to include that more students other than LGBTQ+ students would benefit from this.

- iii) Bates: The nondiscrimination policy is no longer a Board of Governors policy, correct? You might reference specifically that it is up to the President's discretion.
- iv) O. Smith: How much have you talked with Dr. Thomas about this?
 - (1) Cooper: After I emailed Dr. Thomas about this resolution, I got an email from Amy Clendennen with a request for a meeting, so, yes, I believe Dr. Thomas is aware.

- v) First read.

c) [Elections Poster Money Motion](#) (Montúfar)

- i) Montúfar: We had a meeting to start talking about elections so we figured it would be a good time to create posters. If you are curious why we don't have a poster for voting itself, we have yard signs and we send an all-school email as well. Owen added a link to the presidential debate poster.
- ii) O. Smith: We would like to have both of these in publications before spring break so we can hang them up and get people in the know as soon as possible. The important dates are: March 21st- Candidate declaration opens, March 28th- Active campaigning starts, April 1st- Voting starts, and April 10th- Transition.
- iii) Bates: Where did you get your image?
 - (1) O. Smith: There is a credit in the blue comments in the button.
- iv) Klamm: Is there supposed to be something in the blue box?
 - (1) O. Smith: Perhaps a QR Code for student submission on questions. I will also solicit you all for advice for presidential candidates.

- v) Approved.

6) **Discussion Items**

a) Mask Mandate Discussion (Kershaw)

- i) Kershaw: To provide some context, President Thomas wants feedback from the student body. The decision will be made this Friday on the 25th. We will take your comments to our meeting with her this week. If your opinions change, please say that as well. There are currently 16 active cases at Truman. The Adair County Health Department has been somewhat lacking in reporting every day.
- ii) Montúfar: We looked to other similar universities for their COVID policy, and Northwest Missouri State University, for example, has a policy where certain spaces have certain mask policies.
- iii) Cooper: I am in favor of keeping it in classrooms. I think we should keep it the way it is until after spring break because people will travel and possibly bring back COVID. Especially having masks in classes, it makes it more accessible and inclusive for people who are at high risk for COVID.
- iv) R. Myers: I am in favor of keeping it solely in the classroom because you can take precautions anywhere else and if you don't want to be around unmasked people, you don't have to be in that building.

- v) S. Myers: Most people don't care either way... it would be great to wear masks, but it's also no harm, no foul. I would just like to take it off for the Student Recreation Center.
- vi) Bishop: I don't think we should use the point that people will go away and come back because that argument can perpetuate things forever. Additionally, there is pending litigation against the university about the mask mandate.
- vii) Barge: I do not mind masks in classrooms, but we could consider having a set standard of when the Student Government would support reversing a mask mandate. The unvaccinated people aren't likely to get vaccinated in the near future, so unless the university gets a vaccine mandate, I don't see how the situation will change. I think we should have a standard for when we should be back to normal.
- viii) O. Smith: Laura, can you provide more information about the pending litigation that Adam referred to?
 - (1) Bates: All I know is what is posted on CaseNet, which is limited information.
- ix) Owsley: I am OK with extending the mask mandate until forever if that is what it takes. I don't think things will get much better, but I think it can get much worse than this. I think that taking away one of the chief tools we have in fighting this pandemic could lead to it being much worse. I am on the side of us wearing masks everywhere.
- x) Bishop: I think we need a more definite standard of when to remove the mask mandate, because if we don't, then there are arguments to extend it forever.
- xi) R. Myers: I think the reality is that we are required to wear it, but people spend the most time on campus where they are unmasked. It is only really enforced in classrooms.
- xii) O. Smith: The enforcement mechanism of the mask mandate is pretty nonexistent. Outside of classrooms, it isn't enforced. Inside the classroom, it isn't enforced either. It is frustrating, but if it isn't going to be consistent, then I question its efficacy at all.
- xiii) Barge: I think it is fair to make these things temporary, but I have an issue with saying it is permanent. I don't think mask wearing is a solution to ending COVID; I think it is a trade-off. I don't think it is fair to say we are curing COVID this way.
- xiv) Fox: I am in favor of continuing this mandate. I think that lifting all restrictions all at once is very dangerous. A realistic way to compromise is to do it slowly— starting small by keeping classrooms, possibly removing it at the Student Recreation Center first. I think doing it gradually is best.
- xv) Cooper: I don't know how I feel about us setting a time to remove the mask mandate. We keep getting new variants and they have new traits. We cannot predict how that'll play out in the future.

- xvi)** R. Myers: I think that the all or nothing approach is good. We can say that we should require vaccinations or require nothing. The mask isn't even stopping Omicron, it's just us virtue signaling. It is left to all of the students.
 - xvii)** Bishop: I would like to remind you that there is a population of students that are vaccinated but are not reported. I think that there are more people that are vaccinated, but haven't filled out the survey. Mandating vaccines and dropping the mask mandate doesn't make too much sense because there are some vaccinated, unreported people.
 - xviii)** Barge: The costs have fallen on a small minority with the mask mandate. COVID should be treated like every other disease that we require vaccines for. Like I said, I am fine wearing masks, but I just don't think it will end.
 - xix)** Bono: Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Board of Governors didn't reach out to us regarding the quarantine time.
 - (1) O. Smith: Correct.
 - xx)** Bono: Moving forward, I would like to see discussion about the Board of Governors changing the quarantine times.
 - xxi)** O. Smith: Generally, more people would be in support of keeping the masks in all spaces after using a straw poll of the body's opinion.
- b)** Academic Affairs Committee
 - c)** Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i)** Cooper: We are doing a ribbon cutting for the resource center very soon.
 - ii)** Cooper: We are showing Power to Heal on Wednesday in the Planetarium
 - iii)** Cooper: We are planning Diversity Week soon!
 - d)** Environmental Affairs Committee
 - e)** External Affairs Committee
 - i)** Owsley: We had a meeting last Friday where we went over voter registration on campus. I am very happy to get it in the Student Government Buzz Column— thank you for your help, Colleen! I got Paul Wagner's email so I am going to set up a time to meet with him. Shania talked with me about a resolution to formalize voter registration as a part of Truman Week, so I will look into it.
 - f)** Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
 - i)** Fox: Tori and I will have a weekly meeting so that the transition can go smoothly.
 - ii)** Fox: We will start planning Wellness Week some more. Monday will be advertising day, Tuesday will be meditation/yoga, Wednesday will be sexual health where we'll hand out the dental dams, Thursday will be a University Counseling Services presentation with counselors there, and Friday will be rabbits and goats coming from the University Farm.
 - g)** Student Affairs Committee
 - i)** Barge: Student Appreciation Week T-shirts are happening! I think we are bringing it up as a money motion next week. We will be buying about three hundred shirts, which is an increase from last year which was one hundred. Student Affairs will be spending the same amount as last year, but tripling the amount of shirts we get. Once we get the shirts purchased, I will be

working with the sponsors to see if there are any activities they want to see during the week.

- h) Purple Friday Committee**
 - i) Bono:** Thank you for reserving spots to table for Purple Friday. Please wear your purple or Truman gear on Friday and Monday for the Admitted Student Event.
 - i) Parking Appeals Committee**
 - j) Athletic Fee Accountability Committee**
 - k) Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee**
- 7) Auxiliary Reports**
 - a) Speaker**
 - i) O. Smith:** No report.
 - b) Board of Governors Representative**
 - c) Organizational Representatives**
 - i) FAC Representative**
 - ii) RHA Representative**
 - iii) SAB Representative**
- 8) Announcements**
 - a) Bono:** Come to College Democrats tomorrow! It is Game Night and it is at 8 p.m.
 - b) Bates:** Leadership Recognition Program (LRP) nomination forms are out! Please fill it out, and consider including people outside of this body.

Adjourned: 5:59 p.m.