

## **Student Affairs Committee End of Year Report 2022**

Submitted by: Warren Barge, 2020-2021 Committee Chair

Submitted April 9th, 2022

### **Committee Members:**

Adam Bishop (Voting Senator)

Adam Woo (Associate Senator)

Alexa Kolesiak (Associate Senator)

AJ Jahjolli (Associate Senator)

## **Projects and Events**

*This committee was involved in the continuous fulfillment of the non-academic aspects of the University community. This committee also encourages updates/improvisations deemed necessary from the perspective of the Student Association.*

### **President's Roundtable**

This year, the President's Roundtable was organized by the Student Affairs Committee of Student Government. This event was held in a virtual environment. Like Presidents Roundtables in the past, it greatly expanded the amount of information that Student Government can receive from other organizations on campus (major points are shown below). To provide more personal communication with invited guests, we split up into groups, which for the most part had a ratio of two Student Government members to every 3 or 4 outside Presidents. While the experience was both pleasant and beneficial, there are a few ways for it to be improved to an extent. First, do not rely only on the mailing list from the U&I. We emailed every organization and leader on the mailing list and we still had leaders that had no clue the President's Roundtable was occurring. The second reform that is possible is for Student Government to have a President's Roundtable in both the Fall and Spring. The one downside to this is that it might lead to more organizations becoming tired of Student Government events, especially if we continue the organization meet and greet.

- Invitation to the President's Roundtable
  - Dear Student Organization President,

The Student Government would like to invite you to our fourth annual President's Roundtable! The President's Roundtable has become one of our favorite Student Government traditions and is an extraordinarily valuable way to discuss and address campus issues at Truman with leaders from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. This year we plan to host the Roundtable on November 11th in a virtual format.

Our goal is to create a space for presidents to discuss what they are doing to keep their members safe while also building community in their organization. Our hope is that participants will leave the Roundtable with ideas for how to connect with other student organizations on campus and what student government can do to better represent their organization members.

We will also be available to answer any questions you have about the University and to listen to your concerns and ideas. We will use discussion from the President's Roundtable to inform our efforts this semester and in the future. We meet weekly with President Thomas, and we will bring your feedback to her attention.

If you would like to attend the Roundtable, please fill out this form by next Friday, November 5th. You are also welcome to send a representative from leadership in your organization if you are not available. We look forward to talking with you!

Sincerely,

Warren Barge  
*Chair of Student Affairs*  
[wdb5833@truman.edu](mailto:wdb5833@truman.edu)

Shania Montúfar, *President of the Student Government*  
Ethan Kershaw, *Vice President of the Student Government*

- Key Points of the President's Roundtable
  - Vaccines
    - Many organizations believe there is a vast underrepresentation of the vaccinated population
      - Individual incentives may be better than organization incentives
    - Relatively high support for a vaccine mandate
  - More room for Student Government to interact with organizations
    - Most organizations have little interaction
    - Future Roundtables?
      - Hold more roundtables with more campus groups to connect more student leaders with each other

- Don't limit each roundtable to be a specific type of organization
- These could take different forms; town halls, open forums, topic nights
- Lack of University Outreach Felt by Organizations
  - Organizations do not feel like they have been properly supported by the administration in light of COVID-19
- COVID-19 is restricting membership
  - Some organizations are not being hurt as much as others

### **Organization Meet and Greet**

This was the first year in which the Student Affairs committee teamed up with the U&I to plan the Organization Meet and Greet. This event was meant to act as a more fun way to reach out to the leadership of organizations at Truman and allow for organization leaders to meet the leaders of other organizations. We had the event in the Georgian Room of the SUB and purchased roughly \$100 worth of food and drinks as well as borrowed from the U&I a wide collection of games that organization heads could play. In the end, we had roughly 15 organizations attend the event. While Student Government did not hear too much information from student organizations, we heard that it was a very enjoyable event for the students that attended. For next year, we should definitely reach out to more organizations to increase outreach as it seems that more students attending the event have exponential returns to the quality of the event itself.

- Invitation Organization Meet and Greet

Dear Student Organization,

The Student Government and Union and Involvement Services would like to invite you to our first Leadership Meet and Greet! This event will have games, snacks, and the opportunity for executive leadership of organizations to meet one another. We hope that this event will not only be fun but will provide an opportunity for organizations to develop relationships that they can utilize throughout this semester!

If you would like to take part in this opportunity please select at least two members of your organization's leadership team to attend the event. If two members of the leadership team are unavailable, we would love to see two members of your organization in their stead.

This event will be held in the Georgian Room B on February 10th from 6 to 8 pm. If you would like to attend this event, please fill out this form by next Tuesday, February 8th. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please reach out to [orgs@truman.edu](mailto:orgs@truman.edu)

### **Student Appreciation Week**

Description: Student Appreciation Week will be held in the Spring 2022 semester, a change from 2021, in which it was held in the Fall semester but Spring is more historically prevalent. I think that if elections stay at their current time in early April, then having Student Appreciation Week in Fall is likely the better option. As a result, Student Appreciation Week will be held from April 25th to the 29th. We will be tabling each day during the event in front of the SUB. We will be handing out \$5 Sodexo vouchers, custom Student Appreciation Week t-shirts, candy and other StuGovmemorabilia. It will also be providing free food in the SUB. Student Government was provided funds for the t-shirts from Residence Life, the Baptist Student Union, U&I, Fraternity and Sorority Life, SAB, the Student Public Health Association, the Student Rec Center, the Resident Hall Association and Alpha Phi Omega. I recommend that the Student Affairs Committee continue to work with outside clubs and organizations on Student Appreciation Week as it greatly expands the influence Student Appreciation Week can have on students on campus.

### **Future Project Suggestions**

*These are projects that we were unable to complete. These would be good to look into at the beginning of the first semester.*

#### **Communicating with RHA**

Description: Student Affairs is tasked with providing a representative to Residence Hall Association (RHA) meetings. Their meetings are once every two weeks. They occasionally provide programming for the residence halls on campus and create policies for the halls as a whole. They are an important source of communication and outreach, as they send monthly emails to all on-campus students. Our relationship has been unsteady at best, as many of our members are busy and can't make it to their meetings. However, coordinating with them will allow us to reach a greater proportion of the student population and target our events to the most easily accessible group of students—on-campus students. Reach out to the RHA President and officer board to get this relationship started.

#### **Establishing connections with clubs across campus**

Description: Student Government is the voice of the entire student body to the administration. Unfortunately, StuGov isn't representative of the entire body. To that effect, we discussed several times over the semester the idea of connecting with the clubs across campus. We dismissed the idea of going to each club in person, as there are over 230 clubs and only a couple of us. But there can always be more we do to get in touch with people so we can address their concerns. While an idea could be to email student leaders of each club, this runs into the same problem that was discussed earlier, which is that the email list does not seem to always be up to date. Nevertheless, reaching out to the student body in any way possible is a goal for this committee!

### **Work with the Center for International Students on Projects**

Description: International Students often feel uncomfortable giving their voice at Truman State University. The Center for International Students is a cool organization that represents these students. The Student Affairs Committee should continue to find ways to improve the Truman experience for international students.

### **T-Shirt Cannon/Launcher**

Description: Our committee wanted to find a way to bring some more excitement to Student Appreciation Week. Tabling is great and all, but it's somewhat dull. We continued our discussion of buying a t-shirt cannon or launcher, but ultimately decided that the safety concerns may be too high. It is worth noting that gas-powered cannons will have recurring costs because you need to refill the gas canisters...but they are also super cool. There are other slingshot-type launchers that are cheaper and would still be cool, too though. This should certainly remain a major concern for the Student Affairs Committee, as there may be some safer t-shirt cannons that we did not find.

## **Notes and Suggestions for Future Committee Chairs**

- Communicate with members of your committee
  - Your committee members have some incredible strengths that you should take advantage of. If you do not clearly communicate what you want them to do, then it is difficult to get the full value of their service.
- Bond with members of your committee outside of meetings
  - It is difficult to understand where they want to take the committee without getting to know them personally. Talking over lunches and dinners can do wonders for building a personal relationship.
- Communicate with outside clubs and organizations for ideas
  - Student Affairs is such a broad topic that it can often seem as if most tasks should instead be handled by other committees. I believe that while External Affairs is currently the committee in charge of communicating with clubs and organizations,

it should instead focus on non-Truman organizations and institutions.

Communicating with these clubs would be a task for Student Affairs. These clubs and organizations could be the lifeline between the student body and Student Affairs but we currently do not have relationships built up.

- If you have a plan of action, bring it up with your committee after you have it halfway thought out.
  - Sometimes your committee can be antagonistic to ideas that you bring up if you are just mentioning a concept. Having both the concept and the practical method you are thinking about doing to apply that concept can significantly increase the chances that your committee will accept it.
- Remember that committee meetings can be to your length in time
  - If you want longer meetings where you are off-topic often and just bond, you can do that. If you want short and concise meetings, you can do that too. It is really up to you to decide what you want your meetings to look like.
- Enjoy being a committee chair
  - Being a committee chair can sometimes be stressful. Remember that you are doing a lot of great things that are improving the student body. Also remember that this is allowing you to meet some tremendous people that you would not meet elsewhere. If you are really finding the position overwhelming, communicate with one of the senior chairs at Truman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Barge

2021-2022 Student Affairs Committee Chair