

Truman State University Student Government
Sixth Session of the 2022-2023 General Body
September 11th, 2022

Convened: 5:06 PM

1) Preliminary Items

- a) Roll Call**
- b) Gallery Business**
 - i)** Warner: My name is Mairin Warner, and I am here because I am running for Voting Senator.
 - ii)** Coon: My name is Olivia Coon, and I'm here to see what Student Government is about.
 - iii)** George: My name is Kathryn George, and I am here to be appointed as an Associate Senator on the Environmental Affairs Committee.
 - iv)** Stein: My name is Kristen Stein, and I am here to be appointed as an Associate Senator on the Academic Affairs Committee.
- c) Changes to the Agenda**
- d) Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - i)** Approved.
- e) Membership Appointment & Resignation**
 - i)** Resignations
 - ii)** Major Appointments
 - (1) Appointment of Khoa Le as IT Director
 - (a) Cooper: He is a computer science major. He has built websites and has done web design before.
 - (b) Le: I am a computer science major.
 - (c) Approved.
 - iii)** Minor Appointments
 - (1) Kristen Stein as an Associate Senator on the Environmental Affairs Committee
 - (a) Cooper: She has been involved with Environmental Affairs in the past and has some good ideas. I think she will be a really good fit.
 - (b) Stein: I am a Biology major and minoring in Environmental Studies. I've been passionate about the environment since the eighth grade. I am excited for this opportunity and to serve the campus.
 - (i) Thornhill: What are any big ideas you have?
 - 1. Stein: I had an internship at a seed company and learned about how food production is

linked to habitat loss, so I would like to work on that on Truman's campus.

2. Thornhill: Have you thought about working with the Missouri Department of Conservation?

a. Stein: I've never heard of them, so I would look into it.

(c) Appointed.

(2) Kathryn George as an Associate Senator on the Academic Affairs Committee

(a) Cooper: Kathryn is coming into Truman with an Associate's Degree. She wants to work in the advising department with students who come in with a lot of credits. I thought that was a good idea because we've been hearing complaints about this for a while.

(b) George: I'm Kathryn; I'm an Anthropology major. I am focused on making the advising better for incoming freshmen with a high amount of credits. My experience during Truman Week was that they didn't really offer a lot of advice/accommodations for people coming in with a lot of credits.

(i) Thornhill: I think that's a really good idea. Do you have any specific ideas?

1. George: Maybe look into freshmen getting major-specific advice instead of a generic freshman counselor. Even if that's not the case, we could try to help students who have a time-specific timeline getting in/out of college.

(ii) Bono: I'm Santino, and I'm the other chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. I think your ideas are great, and I'm excited to see what you do on the committee.

(iii) Holst: I'm Hallie, and I'm excited. My sister was a transfer student, so I'm excited to work on this process with you.

(c) Appointed.

iv) Oath of Office

2) Executive Reports

a) President

- i)** Cooper: You should all tell your friends to run in the Student Government election. Let's increase engagement and get some of these positions filled.
 - ii)** Cooper: Voting is next week. We will have lawn signs that we need to put all over campus. Alicia and I are probably going to need help putting them up. If you are free Thursday or Friday in the evening, please help us.
 - iii)** Cooper: The LGBTQ+ Resource Center Advising Board had their first meeting. They brought back the volunteer program where at least one person is in the room at any given time. We are getting ready to plan the National Coming Out Day event. It'll either be October 11th or 12th.
 - iv)** Cooper: For retreat, all voting members and chairs are required to attend retreat, including executive staff and executive board. If you're not there, it counts as two unexcused absences and then one unexcused absence for the meeting. It is really important that you are there. We will provide lunch, and then there will be a break after lunch. Part of the retreat is we wear business formal attire for our pictures and meetings.
 - (1) Thornhill: Are you going to send a schedule in the Slack?
 - (a) Cooper: Yes, I'll send it this week.
- b) Vice President**
- i)** Fox: We still have open positions including Student Affairs Chair; Health, Wellness, & Safety Chair; Purple Friday Chair; and Legislative Director.
- c) Treasurer**
- i)** Owsley: We have the Fall 2022 Budget on the agenda. The budget process is two steps. We will first-read it today, and then we will second-read it next week. If we need to make any changes, we can do it in between meetings.
 - ii)** Owsley: We didn't go quite far with this last semester, but I am still interested in an expansion of the Student Health Center fee to cover University Counseling Services. I will start working on that privately to see how we can go about doing that.
 - (1) Kolesiak: Are you thinking of taking that money from the Student Government budget?
 - (a) Owsley: No. It would come from the student activities fee. I'm under the impression that it goes to fund the Student Health Center in general, but I would be interested in seeing it fund University Counseling Services as well.
 - (b) Cooper: The Student Health Center fee hasn't been raised in a very long time, so the main reason it needs to be raised is to cover costs to meet the demand of inflation. In the past, students wouldn't have had to pay as much out of pocket, but they are now. It isn't to raise it just to cover something new, but it is to cover what it always has been. I'm not sure if

students will still have to pay for therapy appointments and such.

(2) Barge: When I worked in student life, we tried to lower costs by having it run by a private entity, but that actually increased costs. I don't know how much increasing it by \$10 without any other institutional change will lower costs for students.

(a) Cooper: I think that's a valid point. The Organizational Activities Fees Review Board reviews the fees, so I can't give you a specific answer, but I think it would be good to keep an open conversation about this.

(3) Owsley: This is just to lay the groundwork now that it is something I'm pursuing.

iii) Owsley: Appropriations is a committee that I chair. If you are interested in delegating money to some organizations, please let me know. We need one student not affiliated with the Fees Allotment Council, two voting senators, and two students-at-large.

d) Secretary

i) Cook: Office hours seem to be going well! I will print off the office hour schedule after ExComm tonight to post outside the office, and then I'll update it once we have newly elected members.

ii) Cook: Please do not forget to submit an excuse if you cannot attend Retreat. It counts as two unexcused absences, and most of you are only allowed three.

iii) Cook: Speaking of excuses, I wanted to talk about our absence policy a little bit because chances are, you don't know what it entails unless you looked it up in our Constitution. As of last session, you are given an unlimited amount of excused absences and a specific number of unexcused absences. The unlimited amount of excused absences only applies as long as you aren't missing every single meeting and not contributing to Student Government. The unexcused absence number comes from how many weekly time commitments you have. For example, if the only time commitments you have are general body meetings, committee meetings, and your weekly office hour, you are given three unexcused absences. If you have all of that but you are required to attend Executive Committee meetings, you are given four unexcused absences. If you have all of that and you are on another committee, you are given five unexcused absences. If you exceed the amount of unexcused absences you are given, it is in the Constitution that I have to bring you to removal in a general body meeting. You do have the chance to object to being removed, and you can state your case why you should stay on the body, but if you either don't attend that meeting or don't object, you're basically kicked out. I had to do it last session, and it wasn't fun. I felt really

bad. But, to avoid that, you just have to fill out the absence form at least 48 hours in advance.

- e) PR Director
 - f) IT Director
 - i) Le: No report.
 - g) Legislative Director
- 3) Advisor Reports**
- a) Staff Advisor
 - b) Faculty Advisor
- 4) Old Business**
- 5) Discussion Items**
- 6) New Business**
- a) [Fall 2022 Budget](#) (Owsley)
 - i) Owsley: I made some changes from the Fall 2021 budget that might be evident. We eliminated the Diversity Week line item. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee still has to pay for it, but it's not that specific amount of money. The Environmental Affairs Committee, Sexual Assault Prevention Designee, and the Academic Affairs Committee got more money. The Student Affairs Committee lost some money. We are running close to keeping that reserve secured. I don't think we will use the money that we have allotted for specific things such as Truman Week. I changed the section for conferences such as the Women's Leadership Conference and TedX Conference into a general "Conference" category.
 - ii) First read.
- 7) Committee Reports**
- a) Academic Affairs Committee
 - i) Holst: We had a meeting with the Institutional Compliance Officer Ryan Nely where they are hoping to establish a Pre-Law minor. Him and Professor Elizabeth Wiles in the Justice Systems Department are working to get this as an official minor. We want to have someone on the committee to meet with them every week to give them feedback.
 - (1) Bono: Usually this is a year-round process, but they're trying to get it through by January.
 - (2) Cook: I'd be interested in attending those meetings.
 - ii) Bono: We're excited to work with Kathryn.
 - iii) Bono: We're working to get a Faculty Advisor in place.
 - b) Diversity and Inclusion Committee
 - i) Ghenima: I reached out to Kerrion who is the head at the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to discuss what they want our help with and what events they are planning.

- ii) Ghenima: If you recall that project I mentioned a couple of weeks ago about having a coffee and tea time for people to socialize and have a safe space to hangout in... I called Sodexo to ask how it would work and if they could provide coffee and tea, and they gave me some options. Other than that, I'm waiting for committee assignments.
 - c) Environmental Affairs Committee
 - i) Smallwood: Instead of Sustainability Week, we're doing an overall Sustainability Month. I will likely have a money motion for some stickers and such related to that.
 - d) External Affairs Committee
 - i) Barge: The communication I've had with JD Smiser is about lawsuits regarding the Missouri voter law. I want to be sure that we understand this law before we are making broad strokes about this. If you are under the age of 18 and registering people to vote, that's a felony under this new law. I know there are related lawsuits, and we'll see how that changes the interpretation of the legislation.
 - (1) Cooper: I had a discussion with President Thomas, and she said that if you needed any help, she would reach out to the University lawyers to look into it, too.
 - (a) Barge: JD has a J.D. degree, so they are already employing him in that position.
 - e) Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
 - f) Student Affairs Committee
 - g) Purple Friday Committee
 - h) Parking Appeals Committee
 - i) Sitze: I got into contact with DPS this week and have picked up the first set of appeals. These are being processed currently. I am also looking for members of the Student Government to join my committee, so if anyone is interested please contact me and Kennedy to learn more.
 - i) Athletic Fee Accountability Committee
 - j) Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee
- 8) Auxiliary Reports**
 - a) Speaker
 - i) Stout: I am serving as the Elections Administrator. If you have any questions about the elections handbook or about anyone running, I will be happy to answer them at stugovelectionsadmin@truman.edu.
 - b) Board of Governors Representative
 - c) Organizational Representatives
 - i) FAC Representative
 - ii) RHA Representative
 - iii) SAB Representative

- d)** Black Student Representative
- 9) Announcements**
 - a) Bono: College Democrats meet tomorrow night at VH 1010 at 8 P.M.
 - b) Owsley: Political Science Student Association meets 7 P.M. in VH on Mondays.
 - c) Klamm: If you know any professor interested in the environment, Dr. Sieg is looking for more professors to be on the Environmental Affairs Minor committee.
 - d)** Cooper: Please don't forget to fill out the committee preference form. I would like to get that squared away soon.
 - e)** Ghenima: The Truman Symposium class and the International Student Office are putting together a Language Culture fair on October 3rd at 4:30 P.M. on the Quad. I think it would be cool for Student Government to show up and be there for them.

Adjourned: 5:49 PM