

**Truman State University Student Government  
Fifteenth Session of the 2022-2023 General Body  
November 13th, 2022**

**Convened: 5:00 PM**

**1) Preliminary Items**

- a) Roll Call
- b) Gallery Business
- c) Changes to the Agenda
- d) Approval of Previous Minutes
  - i) Approved.
- e) Membership Appointment & Resignation
  - i) Resignations
  - ii) Major Appointments
  - iii) Minor Appointments
  - iv) Oath of Office

**2) Executive Reports**

- a) President
  - i) Cooper: I'm trying to schedule a meeting with Ryan Nely.
  - ii) Cooper: The Faculty Senate has a big meeting this week. They're considering adding a Journalism minor, Rehabilitation Master's Degree, Environmental Studies major, and Music Therapy minor, in addition to the resolutions we're considering this week.
- b) Vice President
  - i) Fox: No report.
- c) Treasurer
  - i) Owsley: We're figuring out how to get access to Google accounts.
- d) Secretary
  - i) Cook: No report.
- e) PR Director
  - i) Hammock: No report.
- f) IT Director
- g) Legislative Director

**3) Advisor Reports**

- a) Staff Advisor
  - i) Bates: There will be a spring budget. If you're a committee chair and have a budget, think about what you will be spending. If you will be planning an event at the beginning of next semester, you need to pass a money motion in these next couple of weeks. The university will be closed over break, so you need to get these notices in now.

b) Faculty Advisor

**4) Old Business**

**5) Discussion Items**

**6) New Business**

a) [Attendance Policy Resolution](#) (Cooper)

i) Cooper: Last year, we changed the absence policy. Before last year, it was basically three absences and you're kicked out of Student Government. We thought that was ridiculous, so we changed it to have excused and unexcused absences. We defined excused absences as an excuse submitted to the Secretary 48 hours in advance. We decided to update the attendance policy to fix some of the wording issues. The first thing we're doing is refining the definition of "necessary obligation" to be "something that you are required or expected to attend. Members who miss a meeting for any event not considered a 'necessary obligation', or a Truman sanction event, or an emergency, will be given an 'unexcused absence'." We're changing the class conflict section to include Truman-sanctioned events because we understand there are sports and co-curricular activities that require absences. We are also limiting the number of absences you can have for a necessary obligation. If you want to go to a wedding or funeral or any other necessary obligation, we are limiting that to three per semester.

ii) Zelk: Those three absences for necessary obligations, will that include multiple time commitments in one day or just the day in general?

1) Cooper: We will consider that when the Governing Documents Review Board committee meets this week.

2) Zelk: I think if you're going to a wedding on a Sunday, you will miss the General Body meeting and Executive Committee meeting and that's already two excuses.

(a) Cook: This is a good point, but if we amend the Standing Rules to fit this, we will have to amend all other absences to fit this standard. If that's what we want to do, that's fine, but we just need to be consistent.

iii) Bono: I am personally against this current resolution because if you look at the resolution from last year, it was passed by unanimous consent. Also, I think that removing the Zoom option has resulted in better attendance. It hasn't been long since we removed the Zoom option, so maybe we just need to give it more time to see the effect.

1) Cooper: The resolution we wrote last year in the Governing Documents Review Board was a long process. We had members of Student Government that got really sick and had to miss quite a few meetings, but they were still contributing members of the body. We, as a body, decided they should not be removed. We also agreed that

the attendance policy at that time was unjust because it was forcing us to bring valuable members of the Student Government to be removed. We tried to change the absence policy to be more accepting for people if they get sick. The issue I have with this current policy is that it allows you to miss a meeting for whatever reason you want. If you want to miss a meeting for any random reason and it was 48 hours in advance, it would be an excused absence. We are still allowing unlimited absences for sickness, class, etc., but we are having issues with people missing meetings for reasons that they shouldn't miss the meeting for. We have been struggling with having quorum meetings lately. I think this new resolution still allows our members to be absent

iv) Warner: Santino, what is your objection to this policy?

1) Bono: I am a big proponent of an unlimited excused absence policy. I think having unlimited excused absences is a good thing.

v) Owsley: I support this resolution. Alexa highlighted a piece of the resolution where she said it didn't make sense, and I added a comment to try to clarify it.

1) Stout: I think that is a good suggestion. We are accepting Mike's friendly amendment.

vi) Bono: In regards to people missing meetings for things that don't matter, I do believe this is a problem. The culture of Student Government last year was a lot of people on Zoom, but recently, it's been a lot better in regards to participation. At the end of next semester, if people are still submitting absences for things that they shouldn't be missing meetings for, I'd be willing to bring this up again. I think the Student Government culture is changing.

vii) Stout: I think this resolution is a happy medium between the absence policy from a couple of years ago and now. We currently have nine people missing, we are one vote away from not having quorum. In regards to policies other organizations have, I think we are being fair. Under this resolution, we do still have unlimited excused absences, with the exception of absences that aren't

viii) Hamill: How does this fix the issue of people not showing up for poor reasons?

1) Cooper: I think it will help eliminate the frequency of these kinds of absences.

ix) Cooper: We are supposed to have many open positions next semester which means it's even more important for people currently on the body to stay on the body. We may not have enough voices to discuss the issues we need to discuss. I think this resolution attempts to account for more voices and get

more perspectives on things. I think we need to make sure this absence policy is prioritized.

- x) Cook: I'm in support of this resolution. As it stands, if anyone wants to miss a Student Government meeting for any reason, as long as it is submitted in time, I have no reason not to excuse it. That's not fair to the people who don't make excuses to miss meetings, and they show up each time. I think this resolution cracks down on the people that miss meetings just to miss meetings, but it also is still lenient to our members.
- xi) Fox: I am in support of this resolution. Over time, we've seen that absences are an issue to Student Government. Testing this out, along with the Zoom option, would be a good idea.
- xii) Bono: Alicia, you said there would be unlimited excused absences, but we have a very kind Secretary and Speaker who are lenient this year. I feel like the clause that said "emergency" could be interpreted differently under different people in positions. If we had a more strict Secretary that didn't include sickness under emergency clauses, that could bring up trouble.
- xiii) Ghenima: If you only have three absences, and if missing one day gives you more than one absence, I think that's a problem. Other than that, I have no issues with this resolution.
- xiv) Barge: I understand the problems we have now, but the one question I have is whether it will have the intended effect to increase participation of Student Government or it will lead to a lot of people dropping and have the opposite effect. If we see Student Government being smaller as a result of this policy, there's a point to be made that says we now have more quality members. However, Student Government is already small and this could make it harder to have a good conversation.
- xv) Cooper: The Governing Documents Review Board is on Wednesday at 11 AM and you are more than welcome to join if you have more ideas or discussion about this resolution.
- xvi) First read.
- b) [A Resolution in Support of a Cannabis and Natural Medicine Major](#) (Cooper)
  - i) Cooper: Since we last looked at this resolution, I added more information and citations to address concerns you all had, and concerns the Undergraduate Council had this week. I didn't change too many things.
  - ii) Bates: Is there an intended Department Chair for this?
    - 1) Cooper: It'll be under the Biology and Agriculture Science Department Chair.
      - (a) Bates: I would talk to Tim Walston about it then.
  - iii) First read.
  - iv) Motion to Suspend Standing Rules.

- 1) Cooper: The reason why we want to suspend the standing rules is because we want to have a formal resolution to share to the Faculty Senate before their next meeting.
  - 2) Barge: I wish we had a different source to support a point on the resolution other than an interest group. It's the source that relies on "1 in 10 jobs in Missouri are in the cannabis industry".
    - (a) Bono: We're just discussing the suspension of the standing rules right now, but we can look into the validity of the source during our next discussion.
  - 3) Owsley: I think suspending the standing rules to pass this is a good idea.
  - 4) Approved 11-1-1.
- v) Ghenima: Concerning what was said about the source from an interest party, what can we do to change it?
- 1) Bates: What we could do is offer a friendly amendment to the resolution. If the primary sponsor denies it, it turns into a hostile amendment, which doesn't happen frequently. If they accept it, that becomes part of the resolution.
- vi) Holst: Would you accept a source from NPR? I found a source about how the cannabis industry is growing at a rapid rate and adding jobs to the market.
- 1) Cooper: Can you add that to the document?
- vii) Cooper: I am accepting Hallie's friendly amendment to the source.
- viii) Ghenima: I think once we fix that, it should be a good resolution to vote on.
- ix) Second read.
- x) Passes 10-1-2.
- c) [A Resolution In Support of a Legal Studies Minor](#) (Bono)
- i) Bono: Academic Affairs was contacted by Dr. Nely and Professor Wiles about adding a Pre-Law minor. I will be attempting to second-read this resolution today, too, because they want to be able to present this to the Faculty Senate meeting this week.
  - ii) Bono: There is a course catalog in the document, and I predict a lot of your questions will be answered there.
  - iii) Bates: In your second bullet point, you said "There is significant interest." What is "significant"?
    - 1) Bono: When we introduced this, no one had any suggestions or disagreements. Plus, we have a pre-law concentration already.
  - iv) Bates: What department will this be based out of?
    - 1) Niemeyer: I think the Justice Systems Department will be moved to Legal Systems.
    - 2) Bates: I would suggest adding that, then.
      - (a) Bono: I'm hesitant to add that because it isn't for sure.

- v) Holst: The second bullet point about significant interest could be changed or removed altogether.
- vi) Cooper: I'm adding a friendly amendment to add Professor Wiles and the Dean of Social and Cultural Studies in the dissemination list.
- vii) Holst: In the course catalog, should we add more footnotes?
  - 1) Bono: I think we're okay.
- viii) Cooper: I think this is a really good idea. From the Faculty Senate Executive meetings, they seem in support of this. I know there isn't a citation for this, but it does appear to have a lot of support for this minor.
- ix) Hammock: One of my biggest reasons for coming to Truman was the high rate of acceptance in law schools, so I was surprised that we didn't already have this minor.
- x) Bates: How many Truman graduates are going to law school? That would be a really good source to add it.
- xi) Ghenima: It seems like a good time to have it. We already have a pre-law fraternity and a pre-law concentration.
- xii) Holst: If anyone can find the percentage of students that end up going to law school, please leave a suggestion to the resolution.
- xiii) Cook: Would we be okay with passing this resolution without this exact statistic?
  - 1) Bono: I don't know if we would have objections, but this would be a good statistic to consider.
- xiv) Nichols: Is this a situation similar to the last resolution where we suspend the standing rules?
  - 1) Stout: Yes.
- xv) Bates: The Career Center has a list of common outcomes. On [careers.truman.edu/annual-reports](https://careers.truman.edu/annual-reports), it says "In 2017, 4% of our students went on to law school." It seems that 2017 is the last year that has information up.
  - 1) Bono: I would be open to accepting a friendly amendment with this 2017 statistic.
- xvi) First read.
- xvii) Motion to Suspend Standing Rules.
  - 1) Approved.
- xviii) Bono: I'm adding the friendly amendment with the data point from the Career Center website. I'm taking out the "significant interest" point.
- xix) Passes by Unanimous Consent.

## 7) Committee Reports

- a) Academic Affairs Committee
  - i) Bono: We passed the Legal Studies minor resolution.
- b) Diversity and Inclusion Committee

- i) Ghenima: We will be tabling for Native Heritage Month after Thanksgiving. We'll be giving out stickers and bookmarks. Please sign-up to the table for that. It is to inform campus about the land we are living on.
  - ii) Ghenima: We'll be sending the form about food options.
    - (1) Warner: You could try to get that in the Truman Today newsletter and have a link on the TruView website.
    - (2) Cooper: Every week when they send the Truman Today out, there's a link at the bottom that lets you submit information.
  - iii) Ghenima: Kerrion asked us about hosting something for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. They have a meeting this Tuesday, so I will talk to them about that.
  - iv) Ghenima: A few organizations came to our committee meeting this week. We are thinking of having something similar to Diversity Week where we have a LGBTQ+ workshop and mini activities fair.
    - (1) Warner: I think something we could do is an environmental racism event.
- c) Environmental Affairs Committee
- i) Warner: We heard back from the City of Kirksville and are in the process of selecting a portion of the highway for street cleanup. We would be in charge of picking up trash two to four times a year and it is a 3 year commitment.
  - ii) Warner: The seeds we are planting at the farm are going to get planted soon.
  - iii) Warner: I'm working on stopping food waste on campus, so I will look into presenting that. I have a meeting with someone this week from Sodexo.
    - (1) Bates: For food waste, are you talking about food that is cooked, packaged, and available?
      - (a) Warner: Mainly food that has been cooked and available.
      - (b) Bates: Ultimately, J.D. Smiser and Tyana Lange would be good contacts to talk to about this.
        - (i) Warner: We're looking into all of that.
  - iv) Warner: We're working on getting a recycling bin in the library near Starbucks.
- d) External Affairs Committee
- i) Barge: My committee will meet with Zac Burden this week to give him an idea of the kinds of things we would like to focus on. I hope to talk to him about using dining dollars off-campus. This is not set in stone; it is just to collect opinions. I won't be asking him to help me with this project just yet— I only want to see what information he would give to me. I would just like to explore how this partnership would operate, and if he has any advice.
    - (1) Cooper: Have you reached out to Sodexo?
      - (a) Barge: I wanted to reach out to the mayor first. I would like to see if it works from the side that I think would be more

favorable to it before I talk about it with the side I predict I will have more resistance with.

- (i) Bates: I see where you're coming from, but the dining dollars are Sodexo's. I think there's a corporate policy to see how they are used. I know they've bought from external people before, but they had to have special insurance to cover that. I would be cautious getting Zac excited and then find out that it isn't a good idea.
- (ii) Cooper: I don't think Zac has a lot of authority on this issue. I think small businesses have more authority.
  - 1. Barge: Something I worked on during my scholarship job last year was increasing tax dollars for things similar to this. In regards to working this program out with small businesses, I think Zac would have a lot of good knowledge. I think talking to him first is supplying me with information, and talking to Zac would be a way for him to tell us what he is looking for. If I don't talk about this with him, I might not get the chance later. I think getting dining dollars to be used off-campus would be a good idea to explore.
- (2) Warner: Raising community support for this first before going to an international corporation is a good idea.
- (3) Fox: Do you have a list of businesses that you are thinking about talking to?
  - (a) Barge: No, not specific businesses. I think we could have a discussion about dining dollars not being used at all businesses, but just some. I have seen the process using dining dollars used outside of the university— such as George Washington University.
- (4) Bates: I do think it's dangerous to incorporate the city and have them latch onto the idea before looking into corporate policy. Looking at other schools is great, but I would look into if they are self-food serviced. There are three big food companies for universities.
- (5) Zelk: For a long time, you couldn't use meals or dining dollars at Mein Bowl. In the past, Sodexo has been very strict about letting other companies use that.
  - (a) Bates: Mein Bowl is a restaurant that Sodexo recognizes, but doesn't produce. Chick-Fil-A is a franchise that has been



negotiated with Sodexo. We are in certain parameters for that. Tyana is the official person for all things related to this.

- ii) Barge: We are working on a transition for next semester since I will be resigning from my position.
  - e) Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee
    - i) Fox: No report.
  - f) Sexual Assault Prevention Designee
    - i) Zelk: Tuesday at 4:30 PM in the SUB Georgian Room A is the Health Science Capstone project “Kits for Campus: Educational Event and Expert Panel”. If you’re interested, you should show up!
  - g) Student Affairs Committee
    - i) O’Reilly: The Presidents Roundtable is actually going to be a First Year Students’ Roundtable! We want to get their perspective on things Truman does that the rest of us may not even think about anymore, as well as open up communication and get information about Student Government out to people who may not know about it. We’ll probably be doing an organizational happy hour in the spring that will target organizations, but that’s a ways away. That being said, if you know first year (freshmen or transfer) students, encourage them to come! There will be snacks! We’d love to hear their opinions. Same time, same place as I’ve been saying before.
  - h) Purple Friday Committee
    - i) Cooper: I know we said we were having Purple Friday last week, but there weren’t any indoor tables available. I think we’re in the same position this week. I will try to get a table reserved after Thanksgiving Break.
  - i) Parking Appeals Committee
    - i) Sitze: No report.
  - j) Athletic Fee Accountability Committee
  - k) Environmental Sustainability Fee Accountability Committee
- 8) Auxiliary Reports**
- a) Speaker
    - i) Stout: Shout out Warren for pro-temping this week and last week!
  - 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: If you’re interested in working on political campaigns centered around progressive ideas, College Democrats will be having a meeting tomorrow with a guest speaker from LeadMO.

- i) Owsley: I worked for LeadMO and that helped win an election in Wisconsin.
- b) Cooper: There will be no meeting on November 20th. We will be having a meeting on November 27th.
- c) Cooper: The Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center are collaborating on an vigil in observance for Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 15th at 6:30 PM in SUB 3201. It would be cool to have Student Government members there.
- d) Owsley: I am putting a link in the Slack that allows you to pre-order a book that my short story is in, in case any of you are interested.

**Adjourned: 6:20 PM**