

Student Government Resolution 122.008

A Resolution Stressing the Importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education at Truman State University

Sponsored by Kennedy Cooper, President of the Student Association; Esther Fox, Vice President; Mike Owsley, Treasurer; Alexis Cook, Secretary; Chris Williams, IT Director; Yasmine Ghenima, Diversity and Inclusion Chair; Marcia Humphreys, Health, Wellness, and Safety Chair; Mairin Warner, Environmental Affairs Chair; Santino Bono, Academic Affairs Chair; Joseph Denklaus, External Affairs Chair; Colleen O'Reilly, Student Affairs Chair; Jay Sitze, Parking Appeals Chair; Chase Strub, Ethan Kershaw, Sal Niemeyer, Voting Senators; and Abigail Knabe, Associate Senator.

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interest of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University mission; and
- The Student Government at Truman State University has been consistently committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion through creating policy, programs, and events; and
- The State of Missouri has multiple bills going through the state legislature looking to ban or remove requirements for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) education. These include:
 - H.B. 489/S.B. 410, "Do No Harm Act"- does not allow required DEI education in Universities, Medical Schools, and Public Health Certifications; and
- The "Do No Harm Act" would establish that each institution of higher education receiving state funding, health care provider, health care-related professional licensing board, or recipient of a state health care-related contract or grant shall certify to the Department of Health and Senior Services, as described in the act, that it does not and shall not require students, applicants, employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, or agents to ascribe to, study, or be instructed with Diversity-Equity-Inclusion (DEI) ideologies or materials; and¹
- SB 410 defines Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion education as:

"Diversity-Equity-Inclusion" or "DEI", education or training requirements or programs that instruct people on the subjects of antiracism, implicit bias, health

¹ [SB410 - Establishes the "Do No Harm Act" relating to diversity-equity-inclusion requirements \(mo.gov\)](#)

equity, social determinants of health, and any other instructions related to the relevance of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, and national origin relating to access to care or treatment by health care providers²; and

- Truman State University prides itself on providing an exemplary undergraduate education to well-prepared students, grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, in the context of a public institution of higher education³; and
- These bills interfere with Truman State University's Dialogues curriculum, which requires students to take a social perspective class, which is focused on helping students:
 - Explain social institutions, structures, and processes within one's own culture or across a range of historical periods and cultures;
 - Develop and communicate hypothetical or causal explanations for individual human behavior in the large-scale historical or social context;
 - Explain what constitutes evidence in the social sciences or history and how social scientists or historians utilize empirical observations for drawing inferences and conclusions;
 - Draw upon the social sciences or history to evaluate contemporary social problems;
 - Apply critical thinking skills and analytical capabilities in the social sciences or history
 - Describe and analytically compare social, cultural, and historical settings and processes other than one's own;
 - Articulate the interconnectedness of people and places around the globe⁴; and
- Many of the Social Perspective classes currently offered at Truman State University include some aspect of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion education⁵; and
- Not requiring students to take social perspectives classes could reduce the quality of education at Truman State University; and
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education is becoming increasingly important to finding jobs after graduation, and receiving a well rounded education⁶; and
- Incorporating DEI education into university classes, as well as faculty and staff trainings can help to create a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment; and

² [SB410.pdf \(mo.gov\)](#)

³ Truman State University Strategic Plan (Mission Statement)- [Strategic Plan | Truman State University](#)

⁴ [Dialogues Curriculum - Truman State University - Acalog ACMS™](#)

⁵ [Program: Dialogues Requirements \(42-61 credits\) - Truman State University - Acalog ACMS™](#)

⁶ [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Matters | EDUCAUSE](#)



Student Government
senate.truman.edu

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT,

- Believes that diversity, equity and inclusion is an essential part of a well-rounded modern education; and
- Urges senators and representatives to vote against the bills discussed in this resolution, including S.B. 410, H.B. 498, and future bills looking to limit or ban Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education at universities and other institutions of higher education; and
- Suggests that Truman State University continues to value the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion education; and

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution be disseminated to Sue Thomas, President; the Board of Governors; Vanessa Alexander, Center for Diversity and Inclusion Director; Ryan Nely, Institutional Compliance Officer; Kathryn Brammel, Faculty Senate President; Scott Thatcher, Undergraduate Council Chair; Candy Young, Professor of Political Science; Representative Doug Richie, Special House Committee on Government Accountability Chair; Representative Tony Lovasco, Special House Committee of Government Accountability Vice- Chair; Representative Maggie Nurrenbern, Special House Committee on Government Accountability Ranking Minority Member; Senator Andrew Koenig, Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development Chair; Senator Rick Brattin, Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development Vice- Chair; and Senator Lauren Arthur, Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development Ranking Minority Member.

Approved by Unanimous Vote on March 26th, 2023.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads 'Kennedy Cooper'.

Kennedy Cooper, President of the Student Association