

**Truman State University Student Government  
Nineteenth Session of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee  
March 30th, 2022**

**Convened: 7:03 p.m.**

**1) Preliminary Items**

a) Roll call

**2) Auxiliary Reports**

a) Speaker of the Student Senate

b) Academic Affairs Committee Chair

i) Purinton: Academic Accolades are happening April 7th at 7-8 p.m. so please try to be there! Interviews will be done, voting will take place, and awards will be given. The Department Chairs and Deans have been notified.

ii) Purinton: The emails for Spring Commencement will be sent out tonight.

(1) Montúfar: Do you think you'll need any help from ExComm for picking the Commencement speaker?

(a) Purinton: Possibly. I know we'll need the Zoom, but I'll get back to you about help.

iii) Purinton: The plaques have been ordered.

c) Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair

i) Cooper: Diversity week has been going well! There were quite a few people at the Faith and LGBTQ+ panel, but more at the Racial Equity Recap Discussion. Tomorrow is the movie, and Mike and I will do voter registration during the event.

d) Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

i) Smallwood: I have another money motion coming this weekend because we need to buy the rights to show the movie. I'm excited for the show!

(1) Kershaw: Are the rights for the movie given to us indefinitely or is it for a certain period of time?

(a) Smallwood: Disney only gives rights to the movie for a certain amount of time.

ii) Smallwood: The stickers are taking some effort to get ordered, but we're working on getting them approved. The posters are an issue because the President's Sustainability Action Committee put their names on it so Laura isn't approving it yet.

iii) Smallwood: The Environmental Sustainability Fees Accountability Committee had their last meeting of the semester so they'll be bringing a slate forward soon. They have about twenty-four proposals.

e) External Affairs Committee Chair

- i) Owsley: We have a voter registration event tomorrow night.
- ii) Owsley: Next week are Student Government elections, but arguably more importantly, are local elections where we are electing three new city council members. I'll be making some graphics for that and sending them to Colleen.
- iii) Owsley: We have another voter registration event on April 8th with Santino for Purple Friday.
- iv) Owsley: I'm going to reach out to you all about the External Affairs newsletter. I'll message each of you and ask about things your committee has done.

**f) Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee Chair**

**g) Student Affairs Committee Chair**

- i) Barge: I'm really excited that we got the budget passed during the last meeting. My committee has decided to do the event during the last week of classes which is good because what we're wanting to do doesn't require a lot of people to come at the same time. I'm hoping to talk to Jesse about candy. My committee and I are working on stickers and posters.

(1) Montúfar: Are you mostly planning on doing the events in the Quad?

(a) Barge: Yes, right outside the Student Union Building will be nice. If we need to shift it, we can discuss that too. We talked about the vouchers and making sure it's not first-come-first-serve. We talked about spending the wheel once a day which encourages people to come back and try again.

(i) Kershaw: How would you keep track of it? You would write names down?

1. Barge: Yes.

(2) Montúfar: I think we should incentivize people to engage with Student Government, too. Maybe if they answer a Student Government prompt, they get two spins, or something like that.

**h) IT Director**

i) Myers: No report.

**i) PR Director**

i) O'Reilly: No report.

**3) Executive Reports**

**a) Treasurer**

**b) Secretary**

- i) Cook: We had a conversation a couple meetings ago about the office hour policy and I mentioned it to Owen about bringing it up as a discussion item

at a future time. I don't really want to push it to next semester because I don't want it to be confusing for the new senators.

(1) Montúfar: With the way elections are going right now, it looks like we may only have one new member to the body.

**c) President and Vice President**

i) Kershaw: I sent a resolution that I want to propose in the chat. I'm presenting that this weekend to be first-read. It's from the Environmental Policy Forum that Drew Arends and I hosted.

ii) Kershaw: Don't forget to run for Student Government elections and encourage your friends to run! We don't have all of the voting senator positions filled.

iii) Kershaw: Don't forget to write your end-of-year reports!

(1) O'Reilly: Do the end-of-year reports have to be super formal?

(a) Kershaw: Not necessarily. Although, you should write everything down because that helps the next person in your position carry things out for next year.

iv) Montúfar: I'm focusing on retreat and transition at this point. We are thinking about doing a Superlative Kahoot! with different awards for the body.

v) Montúfar: My plan for the Organizational Activities Committee review board information is to pass it on to the next administration.

**4) Discussion Items:**

a) Montúfar: An issue that is going to continue to be an issue is: engagement. I want to have a conversation about this, either at ExComm or at General Body. I want us to talk about ways we can improve engagement.

(1) Smallwood: What do you mean by engagement?

(a) Montúfar: We just want feedback about how to encourage people to get involved with the university. Ethan and I had a conversation with President Sue Thomas about the lack of participation. Part of that is the pandemic, but we want to brainstorm how to get those engagement numbers back up. We normally have a lot of engagement campus-wide— for example, our Student Government numbers are normally a lot higher than what they are currently. We have six members running for voting senator, but there are fifteen seats.

(i) Smallwood: I would put some urgency on it. I tried to get people to run, but they don't necessarily know what Student Government does.

- (ii) Montúfar: Yeah, I know that's an issue. Also, A lot of the people I talk to say that they don't have a brain cell to spare, which makes sense because the work that we do on Student Government is *work*.
- (2) Owsley: It's a hard sell to get people to give up Sunday going to the general body meeting, plus committee meetings, and the weekly office hour. I think we should workshop how we can pitch that to people because I think the way it is working right now, is not working.
  - (a) Montúfar: I think part of the issue is that students have to put in free work.
- (3) Owsley: I wonder if there's a conversation we can have with the administration about making a scholarship job out of being in Student Government because it is a lot of work for the betterment of the university and we aren't being compensated for it.
  - (a) Montúfar: This is something I've been thinking about for a while. From the administration's perspective, our membership hasn't been hit because of the lack of a scholarship job. Except, with the numbers looking the way they are now, hopefully that shows there is a need for some sort of push to get people on the body.
  - (b) Smallwood: It is literally four hours per week at minimum which is the requirement for the scholarship job requirements. Plus, most of our members put way more than four hours per week into Student Government.
- (4) Purinton: I don't know how I feel about it being a scholarship job, I also don't know if it's fair for Laura to take this on as well. I think if it is a scholarship job, people will actually have to get it done. I would support it more if it's tracked by what all projects are getting done, not necessarily the four hours per week, because I don't always spend four hours each week on things and sometimes I spend over four hours each week on things.
- (5) Owsley: I do think there is a benefit to having student-run political parties— it creates an institutional, interorganizational purpose to encourage people to run. Currently, the burden is on us to recruit new members. It puts more politics into Student Government which can be good or bad. I think putting political parties back into Student Government can be good.

- (a) Barge: I think the parties idea makes sense, I just don't know how to go about it. The thing is, parties form to get some sort of advantage or resources that a certain institution can do, and the main problem is that the student body doesn't necessarily know what Student Government can do. The problem is we will write resolutions that don't have an official authority.
- (6) Kershaw: I think we could do an exit interview from people who are leaving the body at retreat and ask why they are leaving, why they joined, what they got out of being on the body, etc.

**Adjourned: 7:46 p.m.**