

External Affairs Chair Mike Owsley:

Committee Members: Colleen O'Reilly

The goal of the External Affairs Committee is, first and foremost, to improve the relationship with external operatives and the Truman Student Body. As an intern for the city government (through my scholarship job) much like our former Committee Chair Kiren MacLeod, I had ambitious goals. Those goals, quite frankly, faced difficult scopes. With the resignation of many committee members, as well as support staff such as our Legislative Director, my committee was limited to two people with too much responsibility. Still, I am proud of what we have accomplished in regards to this semester.

Our committee created hundreds of stickers for distribution, enticing students to register to vote on campus. We also revolutionized our voter registration effectiveness through the assistance of Purple Friday Committee Chair Santino Bono, by establishing voter registration fridays. This should be continued. Our voter registration initiative was reprioritized with the introduction of new state house districts, specifically one which combines all of Kirksville into one district.

While the election in Kirksville will not be competitive in 2022 (no Democrat filed to run against the incumbent Republican), it gives future members of this committee time to expand upon and continue voter registration efforts.

Truman at the Capitol, which was an idea we had originally ambitiously organized for, was largely unsuccessful in execution. The event initially seemed likely to happen in 2022, however, complications with committee staffing and commitment issues on the part of this Chair sank the

attempt. There were, however, things we did right. Firstly, the next External Affairs Chair should quickly establish a meeting time with President Thomas in order to get preliminary information on what the University will lobby for, as well as information to contact and establish a lobbying training program. The lobby training program should occur in December, so that students can be ready as soon as legislation is brought up in Jefferson City. External Affairs has to lay out as much of the ground work as possible in the fall, so that Truman at the Capitol can be easily inserted into any day in the spring.

Other projects that faced resistance include turning the SUB into a universal polling location. This is a project that should be more ambitiously pursued, however, it is also a project that has faced relative difficulty over the past several years. This Committee Chair recommends devoting minor resources to continue pursuing this project, so as not to drain willingness to work. Additionally, stickers sponsored by Truman for alumni to display on their businesses is both easy advertisement and an interesting way to involve our alumni community more in our organization. Future external affairs committees should continue to look more heavily at prioritizing alumni relations. A brief conversation with Truman's marketing director also yielded interesting information in regards to recruiting students, which did not go much farther than that. There may be more to pursue in the future, if future External Chairs seek to emulate that.