



Student Government Resolution 120.008

A Resolution Encouraging the Suspension of Student Obligations on Election Day Sponsored by Kiren MacLeod, External Affairs Committee Chair; Dan Fox, Mike Owsley, Morgan Sprehe, and PJ Wuennenberg, External Affairs Committee Members; Warren Barge, Student Affairs Committee Chair; Rachel Holt and Owen Smith, Student Affairs Committee Members; Sam Myers, Purple Friday Committee Chair

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University's mission; and
- The Student Government recognizes that any registered voter wishing to vote should be able to easily do so; and
- Voting for the 2020 election is on November 3rd, a Tuesday; and
- A significant amount of the Truman State University student body is registered to vote in their home county, rather than in Adair County; and
- Students registered to vote in their home county may not be able to send in an absentee or mail-in ballot, or may have missed their county's absentee ballot registration deadline; and
- Students registered to vote in their home county may not be able to drive home to vote due to having classes during the day; and
- Students may face further challenges due to COVID-19 (such as longer lines at polling places); and
- A petition formulated by the Student Climate Union calling for the cancellation of classes on November 3rd has over 800 signatures as of the time of this resolution's passing¹; and
- Students already vote at markedly lower rates than other demographic groups², and;

¹ https://www.change.org/p/truman-state-university-truman-state-university-should-cancel-all-class-on-november-3rd-2020?source_location=topic_page

² <http://www.electproject.org/home/voter-turnout/demographics>

- Having no classes on election day would help foster a culture of civic engagement and to encourage voting³; and
- Synchronous classes are defined as classes where the student(s) and instructor(s) meet at the same time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Encourages all instructors with synchronous classes (whether they be in-person or online) scheduled for November 3, 2020 to cancel said classes to ensure that students have the time to cast their ballots; and
- Encourages instructors who have material essential to their courses scheduled for November 3rd to make these options available asynchronously; and
- Recognizes the difficulty in doing so for some instructors; and
- Encourages instructors who do choose to hold synchronous classes on November 3rd to not penalize students for absences on that day; and
- Encourages all instructors to minimize assignments due on November 3rd as much as possible; and
- Encourages all on-campus employers of students to give their employees however much time they need to cast a ballot; and
- Directs the Student Affairs and External Affairs Committees to work on developing a policy about Truman permanently having a day off on election days.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT,

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; Dr. Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Janna Stoskopf, Vice President of Student Affairs; Scott Alberts, President of Faculty Senate; Eric Davis, Payroll Manager; All Department Chairs and Secretaries; the Truman Media Network and the University Archives.

Passed 18-0-0, October 19, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Katie Alexander, President of the Student Association

³ <https://www.electionday.org/vote-friendly-policies>