Graduate Professional Council General Assembly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

11/5/2013

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.

I. Call to Order (Eric Hucker)

II. Adoption of the Minutes (Motion: Kristina Haug, Agricultural Education; Second: Megan Murphy, Biological Sciences)

III. Agenda Adopted (Motion: Megan Murphy, Biological Sciences; Second: Jordan Hoyt, Public Health)

IV. Officer Reports
   A. Technical Coordinator (Patrick Spencer)
      1. Nothing to report
   
   B. State issues Coordinator (Salama Gallimore)
      1. Nothing to report
   
   C. National Issues Coordinator (Jesse Kremenak)
      1. December 4, 2013: Call Congress event for Grads Have Debt 2
      2. MU GPC has won the NAGPS regional member of the year
   
   D. Programming and Publicity (Michael Steska)
      1. Halloween Déjà Vu: November 8, 2013; 7-11 P.M.; $3 bottomless cup
   
   E. Secretary (Michael Burfield)
      1. Nothing to report
   
   F. Treasurer (Hallie Thompson)
      1. Awarded about $15,000 in travel grants
   
   G. Vice President (Eric Hucker)
      1. External Committees still have open positions
      2. We will be introducing our first resolution tonight
         a. General Assembly Representatives are welcome to introduce resolutions
   
   H. President (Jacob Wright)
      1. Strategic Plan
a. Sets goals for GPC for 3-5 years
b. We would like your input

2. MU GPC is in the top five of all NAGPS chapters
   a. We have submitted a bid to host the NAGPS national conference

3. Patrick Spencer is stepping down as Technology Coordinator at the end of the semester
   a. Hired position, not voted upon by the General Assembly

4. Great Circle Holiday Drive

   V. Liaison Reports
      A. (None)

   VI. Special Orders
      A. At-Large Representatives
         1. Nominations
            a. Joanna Eleftheriou, English

   VII. Old Business
      A. (None)

   VIII. New Business
      A. Great Circle Holiday Drive (Jolyn Sattizahn)
         1. Formerly Boys and Girls Town
         2. Support abused and neglected children
         3. Provide basic needs for the children
         4. Try to make holiday season special for them
         5. Jolyn brought about 20 wish lists for children
            a. Will distribute to representatives
            b. Take back to your graduate student organization and raise funds or buy items from wish lists
         6. Bring items and money to December GPC General Assembly meeting

      B. Graduate Student Insurance (Karen Gruen)
         1. gruenk@missouri.edu
         2. Visit gradschool.missouri.edu
            a. Visit 'Financials'
            b. Can enroll in insurance from here
         3. Make sure personal information is up to date in Myzou
         4. Can go to Aetna Student Health Website from Grad School Website
            a. Now able to print ID card directly from website
         5. There are two insurance representatives at the Student Health Center
            a. They can help with claims and information
            b. Dana Briscoe, 882-1412
            c. Jack Hanney, 882-2541
C. Discussion: New Graduate School Dean
   2. Kristofferson Culmer, Computer Science: Open forums for Dean search so that students can express their interests.
   3. Monica Kearney, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology: Candidate should stand up for students.
   4. Kristina Haug, Agricultural Ed: What is the job description for the position?
      a. Jacob Wright: Job description was distributed in The Chronicle, inputs from members of search committee. Suggestions from students were taken very seriously. There may be a copy of the description on the Grad School Website. If you have a nomination, please send it graddeansearch@missouri.edu

D. Resolution to support Grads Have Debt 2
   1. Options upon consideration of a resolution
      a. Move for more discussion time
      b. Adopt resolution as written
      c. Amend the resolution
      d. Refer resolution to a committee for further review
      e. Table the resolution to a later General Assembly meeting
      f. Table the resolution indefinitely (i.e. “kill” it)
      g. Take no action (resolution won’t adopted but it can be reconsidered)

   2. Resolution (following pages)
Resolution 1314-01

A Resolution in Support of the GradsHaveDebt2 Campaign

WHEREAS, in 2013, over 70% of graduate and professional students graduated with student loan debt, and

WHEREAS, the eligibility for graduate and professional students to access subsidized Stafford loans was removed in 2012 by the United States Congress, and graduate and professional students had been paying 6.8% interest rates for the past seven years, and

WHEREAS, the average cumulative debt for an undergraduate degree is $23,800, while the average cumulative debts for a Master’s is $52,000; for a doctoral degree, $72,000; and for a professional degree, $113,000,1 and

WHEREAS, during the Congressional student loan debates in the summer of 2013, very little attention was given to graduate and professional student loan debt and the inequality of setting interest rates based on the level of education rather than financial need, and

WHEREAS, the current federal student loan plan sets interest rate caps for undergraduate loans at 8.25%; graduate and professional student loans at 9.50%, and grad plus loans at 10.50%, which represents the first time in history that Congress has set different rates for student loans based on the level of education rather than financial need, and

WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget projects that the graduate interest rate will surpass the pre-2013 rate of 6.8% by 2015, and continue to increase toward the 9.5% cap, as the economy improves, and

WHEREAS, the graduate-professional student default rate, as reported for the 2010 cohort, is significantly lower (6.1%) than the overall default rate (17.6%)2, making graduate-professional student loans a safe financial investment for the federal government, and

WHEREAS, GradsHaveDebt2 is a national campaign conducted by the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) and its members, with the purpose of raising awareness and educating legislators and the public about graduate-professional student loan inequality and the large debt burden the average graduate or professional students faces, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Professional Council, the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri, officially endorses the GradsHaveDebt2 campaign, and

1 Cumulative debt calculated by FinAid.org for 2013 graduates.
2 Budget Lifetime Default rates, based on dollars for a projected cohort life of 20 years. Source: U.S. Department of Education.
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Professional Council pledges to support the GradsHaveDebt2 campaign by participating in its activities, such as call-in events, letter drives, and social media campaigns.
3. Monica Kearney, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology: How does this affect those who don't have student loans?
   a. Jesse Kremenak: May not affect those without student loans directly, but it may affect colleagues and morale
4. Discussion
   a. Kristofferson Culmer, Computer Science: Fully support resolution and he can echo Jesse's claims about the effects on others
   b. Joann El, At-Large (English): We want to teach the best students, not the richest. Students should not have to live in fear of student loans.
5. Point of clarification (Alex Howe, At-Large): There will be no added responsibilities for General Assembly Representatives
6. Motioned (Kristofferson Culmer, Computer Science)
7. Seconded (Shelli Homer, English)
8. Motion passes unanimously

IX. Open Forum
   1. (None)

X. Adjournment
   1. Motion: Salama Gallimore, Law School
   2. Seconded: Alex Howe, At-Large

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 P.M.