Minutes for GPC General Assembly Meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2000

I. Call to order at 5:01pm

II. Adoption of Agenda—passed

III. Adoption of Minutes (skipped today due to lack of the minutes being present).

IV. **Discussion Items:**

   A. *Health Insurance:*
      - Adam Brown (President) included a Facts sheet on page 2 in the packet. There are concerns about whether students are actually getting the health care insurance. The grad school is making a list about different illnesses and kinds of coverage available with assistance by the Department of Risk Management. It will be addressing contact information problems, such as with the providers.
      - What would we like to do about this problem?
      - GSA put out an information newsletter titled, “The Fine Print.” It talks about what administration doesn’t want us to know. Be wary that it may be bias. However, it does bring up some subjective discussion, such as the lack of dental and eye care.
      - Co-payments aren’t going to change.
      - Presently, 700 people out of the total 4100 graduate/professional students are using the health insurance plan.
      - The insurance plan has ½ million dollars budgeted.
      - People aren’t getting exactly what they were promised. The are getting 25% coverage for half time, and 50% coverage for full time.
      - What would you like us to lobby for???

   Discussion
   - Andrew Kerr (ASUM Rep): Find out the cost for adding options. The biggest problem is that there is no prescription coverage at all!!

   - Adam: We are paying fees for the health clinic on campus in addition to the insurance. We have to go the health center to get a referral. They are not going to wave the fees because it’s not illegal to pay for both fees.

   - Floor: Concerned about coverage for spouse and children; for individual insurance plan per grad students.

   - Adam: There is coverage, but it is currently not subsidized. An email will be sent out going through the cost. However, it is expensive if it is not subsidized. Who would you like us to bring in to talk about this? Karen Gruin? Someone from the health clinic?

   - Floor: Who can make a difference and get more of the plan subsidized?
-Adam: The Provost, Chancellor, and the Budget Director, but I don’t think that we can get all three to come.

-Floor: Try for the Provost

-Andrew: Jim Bunton would be willing to come.

-Adam: We’re talking about a money issue. The Provost would be making the ultimate decision.

-Richard Johnson (GPC Advisor): Try to get the administrator who is working on this project.

-Adam: Suggestions?

-Floor: Find people who are going to be affected, and bring them to talk to the administration. They would be more effective as opposed to someone who is already covered by their own insurance plan.

Adam: Oct. 16 at 4 pm is the Health Insurance Forum at the Town Hall Meeting (at the Jesse Wrench Auditorium). It will be very informative. Tim Harlan, the State Representative will be speaking.

A.1: Resolution
Julian Andebrhan (Vice Pres.): Would like to promote Health Care for students by passing a resolution (the same one that GSA passed) stating that GPC recognizes the inadequacy of the current health care policy.

Discussion:
-Richard: Are we familiar with the policy procedures? Who are you sending this to? Why are you going through this exercise?

-Adam: To support the rally which we are attending (which he hopes that we will all attend). We will then send this to the Provost’s office.

-Andrew: We should send this resolution to Dr. Pacheco and Chancellor Wallace, everyone, not just the Provost.

-Votes: In-34
    Against-0
    Abstain-2
-Resolution passed.
B. **GSA**

- Adam: Did everyone see the article in the Man-Eater? Wanted to clarify that we weren’t merging. The Articles of Cooperation between GPC and GSA we created for accountability. GPC needs four people to be a part of a committee for the Articles of Cooperation. Volunteer? Melissa Bechtel, Bob Laws, Jeff Langemend, and Steve Allen.

We are also forming a Health Insurance committee in conjunction with GSA that will be planning events, etc. This will be in lieu of us having our own standing committee. If you are interested, stay after the meeting and see Adam.

C. **Loan Forgiveness**

- Kristin Campbell (Secretary): Needs people to help out with investigating different avenues of loan forgiveness. See her after the meeting if you are interested.

- Julian: We are interested in having a lobbying organization look into this issue, either on a university, or state legislative basis.

D. **Travel Scholarships**

- Dehlia Garcia (Treasurer): Has received 5 applications, and the deadline is Oct. 13. This scholarship is to help grad students pay for their expenses when they go to meetings or presentations. Each student may be awarded up to $200. $4000 in the fall, and $6000 in the spring are allocated to this scholarship. We can keep the current system of applying or change to a rolling application process. The pros are that if we accepted submissions year-round, it may be easier on the students. The cons are that it is tough on the committee who must award the money, because they use a comparison between each application in order to award varying amounts to the applicants.

- Floor: Revolving applications would be more difficult because we need to be able to make those comparisons. How many applications do we usually get?

- Dehlia: 50 or 60 applications

- Floor: We should move the deadline up

- Richard: Have you had any expenditures left?

- Delia: No, all the money is awarded.

- Andrew: Suggested a provisional motion that allows for the extension of the deadline should not enough applications be turned in.

- Floor: See’s no problem with extending the deadline

- Motion to extend the deadline to Oct. 27 for the Travel Scholarship applications
E. GPC/MSA Articles of Cooperation
- Adam: 60% of our budget ($63,000) is allocated to MSA b/c grad students are allowed to use their free services. Every year we have to go through the Articles of Coop. (which is in the back of your binder). Do you think that we are getting enough out of this relationship to make this 60% worth it? For example, we weren’t getting notified of certain activities (such as Activities Mart). Grad students just don’t seem to be getting targeted.

Discussion
- Floor: Do we have input on what they do?
- Adam: We can participate, but I don’t think we get involved in the planning
- Floor: Can we get information prior to events before the Man-Eater and the rest of the public are notified?
- What kind of things do they do?
- Student Legal Services, $$ to the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Group, Smart Right Program, etc.
- Can they give presentations to our council? Perhaps a list in advance of their activities?

- WebMaster Dave Bourdon: We can get a list from the group and post it on the GPC web site. They put on cultural events, theatrical events, musical events, etc.
- Floor: Would like a better idea of what MSA does so next year we can make some suggestions to them.
- Adam: MSA puts on events all the time. Do we want to include them in assisting us in putting on events? Such as getting a D.J., etc.?
- Gabrielle Grant (Publicity and Programming): We need to define this relationship. How is it benefiting us? We don’t know about these events (from MSA) in a timely manner.
- Floor: What will be expected from us (GPC)?
  - We (GPC) want assistance in return for the money.
- Richard: They (MSA) have a sound stage group that sets up for events. Doesn’t think that it would be a problem in getting assistance..we have just never asked.
- Floor: Why are we giving MSA money? Does any other organization give them money? Why 60%?
-Richard: No other organizations give MSA money. We are student government. That way GPC doesn’t have to reproduce all of the student services for the grad students.

-60% is just an arbitrary number. The other 40% of the GPC budget is listed in your folder. It pays for such things as RCAF (Research and Creative Activities Forum), advertisements, Gold Chalk Awards, Rollins Society, and other things that are aimed only at grad/professional students. MSA has a budget of around one million dollars. The $63,971 that GPC contributes less that 10% of their total budget. There are 4100 grad/prof students, and 17,000 undergrads. MSA contributes $5000 to RCAF. If you are interested in negotiating with MSA about this issue, see Adam after the meeting.

V. **Action Items**

A. **Appointments**
- If you are interested in serving as a co-chair on the Campus Recreation committee, see Julian after the meeting.

B. **Events**
Gabrielle: As representatives, you get to choose events we plan for the year. So far we have not had a major event yet. List the ideas you would like, such as sporting, family activities, etc. We will be seeking committee members to help plan these events. Some events in the past we’ve had are the Pub-Crawl, volleyball, basketball, bowling, and billiards. We used to put on grant writing workshops that were co-sponsored with GSA.

VI. **Officer Reports:**

- Delia (Treasurer): Needs committee members to help review the travel scholarship applications.

- Don’t forget that there is an envelope on the GPC door (A022 Brady) to put notices in that you would like included in the packet.

- Gabrielle: If you don’t have a binder, see her.

VII. **Announcements:**

- Andrew: 8-10pm clear Friday nights at the Observatory. 5th floor of the Physics building. GPC money went to this.
- ASUM meeting—nothing big.
- Intercollegiate Sports has met once
- Hearne’s Committee hasn’t met

- **Webmaster** Dave: there were once two computer committees that have now merged into the MU IT Committee. People from this committee include those
from the Law school, the Med. School, the Vet school, etc. It affects grad students because they can decide on what the appropriate use for computer technology is and what were entitled to. If you look at our budget, we pay for resources that undergrads use. Example: We used to use mass email list for grad gatherings, etc. You were allowed to use mass email for anything over 1,000 recipients. Now the mass email has been restricted to official business that is either for emergency, crisis, traffic reports, or planned disruptance of the computer system. Now no campus groups can use mass email. Snail mail takes up to 3-4 days. Mike McKeen, who is the chair, wants to hear from us.

Richard: How serious are they about the appropriate use clause?

Dave: The clause was just revised last year

Richard: Some of these emails are mistargeted. For example, I received an email about the career fair. Can they say who the emails are supposed to target?

Dave: Who’s to say what’s appropriate and what’s not. Now we can’t send out an email about RCAF.

Floor: Can you opt not to get these emails?
-Just hit the delete button.
-I don’t even want to see these emails.
-Suggestion: Our graduate department has a list serve.

Oxana: The Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology will be hosting a training for consultation for grad students of color.

Richard: Take these committee positions back to your departments, and see if anyone else would like to participate. There is one more committee that needs filling: MSA Student Fee Reviewment Committee. For example, the Rec. Center needs improvement and as a result, student fees may increase.

Melissa Bechtel: Volleyball every Thursday (except when there is a GPC meeting, we will play on Wednesday) at 4pm. If you want to be on the email list, see Alan Niedermann.

VIII. Adjourn: 6:02 pm