Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
March 7, 2001
Minutes

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice President Julian Andebrhan.

II. Adoption of Agenda. A motion passed to adopt the agenda as printed.

III. Adoption of the Minutes. A motion passed to adopt the minutes of the General Assembly Meeting of February 7, 2001.

IV. Discussion Items.

A. Referendum on Graduate Student Priorities. President Adam Brown presented a new version of the graduate student priorities survey which included revisions based on input from representatives. Accurate cost information for supplemental insurance options is still not available. Adam asked that representatives provide further input for revising the survey.

B. Requests for Funding. Treasurer Delia Garcia explained the funding request process. Organizations present requests to her. Delia presents the requests to the Finance Committee for their approval. Requests approved by the Finance Committee are forwarded to the General Assembly for final approval. There is $2500 left to support requests this semester.

1. Habitat for Humanity. Brad Finnegan, Vice President of the Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity addressed the General Assembly. The organization’s mission is to alleviate substandard housing by providing a “hand-up” through interest free loans and recipients providing service hours to build their homes and the homes of others. To date, they have helped build seven homes in the Columbia area. The current goal is to raise $32,000 for a house start this coming fall. To date, $10,000 has been raised. The campus chapter involves 150 students, and is open to graduate student participation. The request was for what GPC could afford. Treasurer Delia Garcia reported the Finance Committee was in favor of making a donation. A motion to approve $500 for Habitat for Humanity was defeated with 7 votes for and 12 votes against. A motion passed to approve $300 for Habitat for Humanity with 14 votes for and 6 votes against.
2. Center for Multicultural Research. Oxana Flathman, graduate student and Helen Neville, Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational and Clinical Psychology addressed the General assembly. Each year the department brings in nationally known speakers. This year the invited speaker is Dr. J. Manuel Casas, a multicultural psychologist from the University of California-Santa Barbara. He will be on campus for two days and will discuss issues of recruitment and retention of ethnic minority students in universities. The presentations will be of interest to a wide range of graduate departments on campus, and Dr. Casas will also interact with MU administrators. GPC provided funding for the guest speaker last year. The request was for $700. Treasurer Delia Garcia reported the Finance Committee was in favor of funding this request. A motion to fund this event with $700 was made and withdrawn. A second motion to fund the event with $700 was passed with 15 votes for and 4 votes against.

2. Greek Week Steering Committee. Mark Mast and Jeff Turner addressed the General Assembly. During the month of March, the Greek community raises money for local charities and participates in service projects in the Columbia area. Last year, $48,000 was raises and given to eight local charities. The request was for $600, which would get GPC advertising on t-shirts and programs. A motion was made to fund this event with $300 dollars. This funding level would get GPC advertising in programs only. The motion was withdrawn and no further motions were made on this issue. GPC will not fund the Greek Week Steering Committee.

V. Action Items.

A. GPC/MSA Articles of Cooperation. Resolution 2001-1 to amend the Articles of Cooperation between GPC and the Missouri Students Association was presented by President Adam Brown. This resolution contains the same wording as the Bill passed by the MSA Senate on February 7, 2001. The amended Articles will improve communication between the organizations, insure greater GPC input into programming by MSA, insure that MSA will sponsor at least one event per year that is targeted toward graduate students and give 50% of the GPC student activity fee to MSA rather than 60% as has been the case previously. This will result in approximately $8000 more going directly into the GPC budget. Adam pointed out that a 2/3 vote would be required to pass this resolution. A motion to adopt Resolution 2001-1 passed with 20 votes in favor and no votes against.
B. New Basketball Arena. Resolution 2001-2 for GPC to not support a state bond issue to pay for a proposed new basketball arena was presented by President Adam Brown. Adam wrote the resolution based on graduate and professional student opinions that were expressed to him. Andrew Kerr, GPC representative to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, saw no harm in GPC supporting the bond issue and encouraged the General Assembly to defeat this resolution or table it for further discussion at a later meeting prior to leaving the meeting due to a teaching obligation. The Hearnes Center would remain for use by other athletic programs other than basketball as well as for other events should the new arena be built. A motion to adopt Resolution 2001-2 was passed with 20 votes for and no votes against.

VI. Officer Reports.

A. Webmaster. David Bourdon asked the General Assembly to provide information on events of interest to graduate students so he can post them in the announcements section of the GPC web page.

B. Treasurer. Delia Garcia announced that applications for Winter Semester Travel Scholarships were due on Friday, March 9, 2001 by 5:00 PM to the GPC office.

C. Vice President. Julian Andebrhan asked all members of the Gold Chalk Awards committee to meet with him after adjournment. He will try for an update on transfer of post-masters credits next meeting.

D. President. Adam Brown reminded the General Assembly that they could e-mail their concerns to him at any time.

E. Programming and Publicity. Lamara Warren thanked all those who attended the Back to School Party in February. There were 106 graduate and professional students at the event. Lamara noted that session chairs were still needed for the RCAF being held on Saturday, March 10, 2001. Session chairs should arrive at 8:45 AM to be briefed. A Graduate Gathering will be held on Friday, March 16 from 5:00-7:00 in the Physics Library. A drawing was held to select the sponsor for the April Graduate Gathering. The event will be held in the Forestry Department.
VII. Announcements.

A. The English Department is sponsoring a visiting writer who will do a reading on Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 PM and give a lecture on Friday, March 9 at 4:00 PM. Contact the English Department for more information.

B. The Communication Department will be holding a seminar on Friday, March 16 in Switzler 311 to discuss the process for obtaining Internal Review Board (IRB) approval for research projects involving human subjects.

C. GPC Volleyball is now being held on Friday afternoons at 4:00 PM at the Rec. Center.

VIII. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.