Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
February 7, 2006

I. Call to Order
Meeting was called to order by Steve Schuster, Vice President, at 6:03pm.

II. Adoption of Minutes
Minutes from the December 2005 meeting were adopted by acclimation.

III. Adoption of Agenda
Agenda adopted by acclimation.

IV. Action Items

1. **Guest speakers** – MSA officers
   
   **Davy Holt, MSA speaker**
   
   a. Davy presented a few of the items that MSA and GPC are working on together. Currently, the Articles of Cooperation between MSA and GPC are being reformed. They are looking at clarifying the relationship between MSA/GPC/SFRC and looking to open up the SFRC to the campus (more influence from GPC voices and perhaps forming a chair from GPC down the road). They are also currently working on policies for how student groups receive monies from student fees. Finally, MSA/GPC are coordinating efforts on the proposed $5-10 maintenance fee coming up. He is open to questions and would like to be in communication with the graduate students.

   Christopher Long, Department of Student Communications also presented some of the activities going on around campus. He would like to see GPC reps or grad students getting involved with his committees. He distributed fliers of the MSA/GPC events to the graduate students. His committee would like to send out mass emails containing upcoming events on campus. They are working on campus safety, a new readership program to see if students like the newspapers that are provided around campus, ATM’s in residents’ halls, and finally, they are soliciting graduate help for the BIG FREE Music Festival on Saturday April 29th. He also advertised the stufftodo.missouri.edu website to inform graduate students of upcoming events.

2. **Guest speakers** – HES Extension – VITA program – Andrew Zumwalt (15 minutes)
**Free Tax Preparation services on campus.** MU extension lead partner and the Office for Financial Success. Taxes should be done prior to FAFSA applications. Their services are free to families and students with income of less than $40K. Non-resident aliens are not eligible nor if you have a complicated business. They see common tax problems such as Qualified Education Expenses, 1099-MISC for independent contracting, and fellowships that can be taxed. They ask that you bring SS cards, W-2, 1099s, 1098t, stock statements (if you sold stock), and a photo id. They are located at 61 Stanley Hall and are available T,W,TR< 4:30-8:00 and Saturday’s in April and February from 10:00-1:30. You can also go to Bank of Missouri for help. His email is Andrew.Zumwalt@mizzou.edu

April Orsborn: What about 2 students that are married with income combined over 40K?
Answer: These students may come in and they can try to help in these situations. Complicated tax issues are the bigger problem for them.

A question was asked about research costs that come from out of pocket expenses.
Answer: They can take a look at it and shouldn’t be a huge complication.

Question: Is owning a house a complicated issue?
Answer: Most likely they can take care of it. 90% good

3. **Tuition and Student Activities Fee presentation** – Mark Beard, President and Al Ludwig, Treasurer (10 minutes)
Graduate Student Activities Fees and where our money is going to. Al Ludwig, Treasurer, provided the breakdown of how these fees will be allocated. The present rate is $295.31 and upon approval will increase to $313.70/student. We spend more to divisional councils than the undergraduates do.

April: Are we still paying the Student Health fee?
Answer: We are still working on this, as they have proposed a 9% increase. There are some other issues with insurance that need to be addressed with Dr. Pam Benoit and she is helping us work on this.

Mark addressed the $2.00 increase in Transportation Fee. Chancellor Deaton felt it was appropriate for graduate and professional students to pay this fee. He also addressed the tuition increase proposal for the next year. Right now, President Floyd is looking at pushing a 6% increase in tuition. He encouraged reps to make students aware of what the increases will be. This will
probably be approved in March along with two supplemental fees (one for $31/credit hour and a science lab $10/credit hour). Mark will later talk about the $5-10 facility fee, in which we will need student feedback.

4. **Discussion – Sale of MOHELA – Mark Beard (10 minutes)**

Part of the Lewis and Clark initiative to enhance Missouri’s position and improvements as a research and science-oriented state. He is addressing why this campus and specifically the sciences in the state of Missouri are benefiting the greatest from the current allocation proposal. It will provide an endowment for Higher Education, new research facilities, and incubators for science development. Originally it was proposed as a sale to one buyer, for $425 million. Currently they are proposing an allocation to provide a new Medical School, a Life Science Incubator, a Plant Sciences Research center, and a greenhouse. These are some of the funds that would be seen on this campus. It would also provide $5 million for scholarships for students around Missouri. And monies would go for recruiting and keeping qualified professors. There is discussion on distribution of scholarships, etc. We would like to have a voice in this distribution and would first like to know what students are thinking concerning this issue.

Lucas Kunce mentioned the MU Campus Master Plan that shows some of these ideas.

April: How does this sale effect students that hold those loans?
Answer: 1% of our students hold these types of loans. Governor Blunt said he would not sell if it hurt our students.

Lucas Kunce: People who have these loans already will not be affected. They are only selling half of the student loans through this sale. If they do not get that amount of money they won’t sell it. He also added that the capitol projects that are being planned are unusual to what is being sent by the legislators. This will help with University memory and the fact that they need to be giving capitol investments to the universities.

Are the funds for professorships for the sciences and medical?
Answer: Probably, although we want to get students in these discussions to consider the allocations of funds for professorships.

Lucas Kunce: This is just a proposal right now and can be changed.

The director for the Natural Research believe that there will be higher competition for the endowments.

Mark Beard: Whatever programs are most vocal and active in finding matching donors may help send funds towards a particular
department and fields. We are not pushing any legislation at this point but he is encouraging representatives to post information to students and to get concerns/feedback that may then be forwarded to Chancellor Deaton.

V. Old Business

1. Katrina Victims Support Committee (KVSC) update – Josh Holmes

Josh Holmes is the new chair for the KVSC. He spent winter break in New Orleans and realizes that there is still a need down there. One way we could renew efforts would be a Day of Solidarity with the gulf coast region (show documentaries on campus, sell buttons, and have a speaker from New Orleans). He has spoken with a writer from NPR and believes that he would be willing to speak at this effort. Other schools could look at this day as a model and look to Mizzou as a model of the need for awareness. It could give leverage to the GPC with the legislature and administration. If anyone is interested in joining the committee please talk to him.

Al Ludwig mentioned that there are a lot of buttons left and if anyone has ideas for pushing the sale of these buttons please let us know. There are still plenty of buttons down in the bookstore, etc.

VI. New Business

1. Funding request: Graduate and Post-Doctoral Women’s Reception – GSA, PDA, Status of Women committee

Presented by Rachel Popelka-Filcoff. She emphasized that it is open to all graduate, professional, and post-doctoral students. It is supported by several sponsors and would like GPC support as well. They welcome participation from many and expect about 100-120 attendees. Men are welcome to attend, as are women. Their goals are to facilitate a meeting of these women across departments, they want to understand and document the issues faced by women at Mizzou, and open up communication between participants and policy makers. They will meet Monday April 2, 6-8pm in Stotlar Lounge and will be apart of the Graduate Education Week (and will be included in this publicity). It is a low-cost event and is being modeled after the Faculty and Staff Women’s Events. A tentative schedule includes introduction of sponsors, a 10-15 min keynote speech by Cathy Scroggs, small group discussion, large group discussion, and a summary of notes and report prepared to present to the Status of Women Committee, Graduate School and Dr. Michael Middleton and Dr. Brady Deaton. This report will also be available online. Their budget request is for $300. They will need $230 for food, $50 for MUINFO publicity, and other monies for room equipment and smaller items. Their total proposed budget is $350.
Their future goals include making a summary report that will go to various university offices and organizations will continue to work on issues identified.

Al Ludwig: Would you accept less from the GPC if you find funding from other outside sources?
Answer: Yes

Do you have any fund raising events to help support this?
Answer: No. They have approached the student organizations since it caters to those involved in the organizations.

Discussion on the funding request.
Al Ludwig, Chair of the Finance Committee, first discussed if all students would be allowed to attend, including men. The group agreed that men will be allowed to attend the event. The committee recommend that the assembly fund the request.

Funding request passed by majority.

2. **Elections**: National Issues Coordinator

Mark Beard announced that we need a replacement for National Issues Coordinator and therefore decided to hold an election at the February meeting. Due to the short notice, representatives were made aware of the opening via email and were encouraged to consider running for the position.

Floor opened for nominations:
1. Josh Holmes
2. Damon Ferlazzo

Nominations closed at this time. Each nominee is given 3 minutes to discuss why they are running.

Damon Ferlazzo: He is in the masters in Public Administration Program. He wants to reach out to graduate students to find out what they want done. He plans to construct a legislative policy list by meeting with students and discover the issues that they would like addressed. There are a lot of issues out there that benefit both graduate and professional students. The legislative acts have cut budgets for student loans and support of higher education.

Josh Holmes: Focused on qualifications rather than legislation. He has experience as a research assistant for a professor in the law school since September. He knows how to search the legislation and how that affects students. He has access to professionals who could help with insight and access to people with influence. He is a salesmen and able to sell as a lobbyist the changes that we want to the legislature in Washington. As duties with KVCS these work hand
in hand. Lisa Rathje encouraged him to run and he has a close relationship with the members of the board.

Floor opened up for questions:

What kind of experience do either have with meeting with legislators? Josh Holmes, has not met with them directly but has met with high profile people at conferences. He was a business man for a year. Damon Ferlazzo, has not lobbied before but has experience in Jefferson City about MSU name change and did work in lieutenant governo’rs office.

Josh Holmes won election by majority.

VII. Officer Reports

Dan Robinson: He presented upcoming events; including a Bowling Night and Latin Dance Night in February. He is currently working on putting together the RCAF events to be held in March and encouraged representatives to advertise this to their departments.

Lucas Kunce: He brought the ASUM bill tracking update, very few of these have to do with graduate students. He had dinner with President Floyd a few weeks ago and talked about the 6% tuition increase. President Floyd is making a 10% administration cut across the board. They talked about fee increases that will be pushed to the Board. Lucas told them that fees were a hidden way to cover tuition costs and make it difficult to budget as students. They also talked about MOHELA and recently had a student show case down at the capitol. All of the legislatures came through and there were about 30 booths. One of the UMSL nursing. Graduate student show case is coming up and he encouraged people to take projects down. Loans recently did get cut. Loan limits have been increased by about $1000 for undergrads and this could be a trend for graduate schools. Any questions send him an email.

Al Ludwig: The website had a major overhall during the winter break and he encouraged representatives to check it out. The finance committee is meeting Saturday March 18th where they will discuss next year’s budget and travel scholarships (which are due March 10th). He hopes to award all travel scholarships if possible. Al wanted to encourage GPC voice on SFRC.

Steve: He wanted to highlight Rollins society on TAP day in April, and event to recognize outstanding graduate students. The deadline for Rollins is March 10th. The Gold Chalk Awards will be April 6th to recognize outstanding educator during the Graduate Education Week, and deadlines for nominations are April 9th. He would like to encourage nominations for these awards. Steve would like to encourage people to join standing committees and will be compiling a report on the activities of these committees. He will also be
attending the NAGPS meeting this next meeting in Miami. Also, he would like input on what can be done differently.

Mark Beard: Encouraged representatives to think about running for GPC officer positions. He asked reps to talk to current officers and find out about the position and to let people know that you are interested in running. We would like to educate people on the nominations to make more effective elections.

Rolla is in trouble financially and they have a proposed a per student fee increase for renovations across the UM system. Our campus so far is not in favor of such a large increase. We do need money for renovations but the question is how much should come from the students. Chancellor Deaton would like us to be in support of a $4 increase. Mark encouraged us to talk to students for feedback so that we can draft a joint resolution with MSA to be voted on next month. He asked representatives to consider how the $4 increase will affect students in their departments.

A discussion on insurance will be coming up soon. Another issue in GPLC that came up is a lack of equipped mentor and advisors. Deaton has asked us to form a forum that involved students and mentors to discuss issues to be resolved. We will be working with the graduate school and GSA to facilitate this.

GPC has been asked how we should interact with post-doctoral students, because post-docs can be faculty and students as one. GPC continue to keep relations as they have been.

There is a concern about the GPC serving alcohol at events. It isn’t really a problem, but we need to include in our budget alcohol expenditures and need support from general assembly that we are using student fees appropriately. He would like representatives to provide thoughts and comments on the issue.

He mentioned the new Monthly newsletter and Weekly updates and asked for feedback regarding these emails.

February 21, RAMS. They are hosting a jail and bail and Mark will be jailed. This event will be held in Brady commons.

Question: Do we know average salary of post-docs?
Answer: We do not know. They do not receive ORG funding and we help co-sponsor some of their events. They are trying to get faculty benefits (health benefits, etc.) It sounds like they are trying to get the best of both worlds.

A few things coming up that representatives need to keep on their radar include the fee increase and SFRC. Next month’s meeting will be busy at we look at many of these issues.
VIII. Liaison Reports

ABGPS: Their first meeting is this Saturday. They are celebrating Black History Month and this Saturday are hosting a kid reading event. Also, they will be sponsoring a professional development seminar.

GSA: They are involved with Graduate Education Week. There will be fliers soon advertising these events including the various speakers, awards for graduate student, and the inventors and educators fair. The fair will be to encourage students to prevent their research in and interesting way and focusing on the ability to present to students between 3rd-8th grade. April 21st is graduate award night and they will be recognizing outstanding graduate students in various department. They also have reports on policy changes regarding graduate faculty. For more information you can go to their website.

GSP: Not present

PDA: Not present

MUCFR: They are currently working on volunteer activities.

MSAC: Their semi formal was last Saturday which was put on by 2nd year students.

SBA: Their annual formal is coming up on the 25th. Also on Mardi Gras day they will be hosting a talk on legal issues.

Vet School: Their blood drive is Monday, February 22 in the Adam’s Conference Center.

IX. Announcements

Sunday at 10am on Stankowski field the journalism students play soccer and would like to recruit other graduate students to join them.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.