Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
May 2, 2006

I. Call to Order
   a. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Vice President Steve Schuster.

II. Adoption of Minutes
   a. Adopted by acclimation

III. Adoption of Agenda
   a. Adopted by acclimation

IV. Action Items

   1. **Guest speaker** – Venture Out program – Scott Owen (10 minutes)
      a. Teambuilding and Adventure Programs at the University of Missouri. It is a part of Student life. They have team building courses (low and high ropes), Spring Break trip, happy hour, etc.
         i. Their programs are important for building relationships
         ii. Initiative wall that teams can do
         iii. Pipeline-birds on a wire
         iv. The Nitro River Crossing
         v. Alpine Tower Courses (groups of about 40)
            1. Enriching for all of those that participate and become closer to group members
         vi. Venture Games: competitive
         vii. Adventure Programs (Rock Climbing Course, Spring Break Trip, Backpacking Trip, and Wilderness First Responder Course)
         viii. Rock Climbing Course
         ix. Backpacking Trip on the Ozark Trail
         x. Happy Hour at the Alpine Tower- Recreational Programs; good for a social event
         xi. For More Information ventureout@missouri.edu email and www.ventureour.missouri.edu

Do these things cost money?
They do and there are ways of getting funding.

Point of information by Mark Beard
If your group is funded by ORG or a Student Government you cannot receive money for this. The reason he knows this is because we are considering of doing this in the Fall as a General Assembly activity.
Do you do this during the summer as well?
Yes, they have a busy summer and have times on the weekend as well.

2. **Discussion** – Graduate Student Housing (10 minutes)
   a. **Presented by Mark Beard, GPC president.** Regarding University Terrace apartments on the South side of the Hospital, located on Hospital Drive. There are housing units that house 140 families and graduate students. University Terrace is being taken down to build a parking garage and site for the hospital. This area has been looked at several times for building, many projects and this is not the first time. Currently, residential life currently only provides housing for 400 graduate and professional students (and their families). The University is asking that families leave the housing by June 30, 2007, which is an extension from the original plan. Last week there was a community meeting and there were a lot of concerns about the original December deadline. Currently Frankie Minor suggests that there is a yearly 25% turnover rate and he think that they will be able to relocate families in university housing. The GPC was turned to for assistance and these are things that we need to discuss. Students are worried about the pressure to move, the costs involved, the availability of student housing for incoming students, there are no future plans for new graduate student housing on residential life master plan (if so rent would have to be raised), and this does not support diversity on campus. He wants ideas to 1. Create a support structure for these students 2. What can we do to help push comparable pricing of housing for graduate students 3. Any other thoughts?

Discussion:
All are leased on a monthly basis and pay the rent for that month. At any point they find another place they can move. It is a lot lower in cost and utilities are included.

Did they come up with a plan to integrate apartments into a parking structure?
They looked at a lot of options including getting businesses to come in and offset half the costs of the structure. A big concern is the sense of community.

Can the hospital provide a subsidy to these students for having to move? Could they be moved to other dorms?
He does not know if we are looking for some sort of subsidy from the hospital. Chancellor Deaton is involved in the conversation. We could look to the “For All We Call Mizzou” campaign. Graduate students are vital to this campus and we need to take care of these graduate students. Another University built a structure for graduate students but the cost is so high they can’t fill it.
What is the demographic of the families?
He does not know the exact statistics. There was diversity at the community meeting.

Last fall there was a possibility of a campus facilities fee. What if we considered a resolution to take on more money to include creation of new graduate housing on campus?
That is a possibility but so far the renovations fee has been tabled, but that is something that should be discussed.

One issue is that of transportation and they do not have a way to pay for a car. Maybe the University could establish a shuttle system to another place.
They are considering shifting Undergrads to the Bear field area and providing shuttle services to those areas.

There is a petition here to urge leaders to include affordable graduate student housing in its Master Plan. This will be discussed at length at the Saturday GPLC meeting.

V. Old Business

1. **Katrina Victims Support Committee (KVSC) update** – Josh Holmes
   a. Nothing new for Katrina Victims. The time period given for the committee is expiring and the duties are being shifted to that of the National Issues Coordinator for next year.

2. **Constitutional Review Committee** – Mark Beard (10 minutes)
   a. At the last meeting we talked about a lot of the changes that we will be changing. Membership and representation has changed in that reps will be required to hold positions in an external or internal standing committees. Other changes were specific to certain offices within the council.

   What is the change in at-large reps?
   We have more activity from the at-large representatives than those that represent departments. We welcome those that want to be involved in our community.

   The Constitution Review changes approved by more than 2/3 majority.

3. **GPC Officer Elections** – Lucas Kunce
   a. Motion passed to forgo speeches for all those positions running unopposed.
   b. President: No new nominations, Mark Beard voted for President
   c. Vice President: Jennifer Holland withdrew her nomination. No other new nominations.
d. Treasurer: No new nominations. Al Ludwig

 e. Secretary: No new nominations. Erica Racen

 f. Publicity and Programming: Jennifer Holland nominated and accepts. No other nominations. Jennifer Holland


 h. State Issues Coordinator: Brent Beshore withdrew nomination. Damon Ferlazzo nominated. Damon Ferlazzo

VI. New Business

1. Resolution 0506-10: Resolution to oppose the passage of Missouri House bill 1865 – Lucas Kunce (15 minutes)
   a. House bill was about higher education funding but they included a section that all state universities would have their funds frozen and would be so at the 2002 levels. The senate left in the scholarship program, which ultimately takes money from public universities and gives it to private universities. We oppose this capping of funds as well as public university funds being given to private institutions. If this is passed we will send this to state officials.

   The scholarship that this is funding. Why was this being supported?
   It caps UM funding until the access of Missouri is fully funded which gives $1000/student attending a college. About half would end up going to private institutions.

   Was there talk to use MOHELA funds for this?
   Yes, there was talk of this. We are against public funding going towards private school funding. As far as MOHELA goes

   Is this for students who go to schools outside of the state?
   This is for students who have a GPA of 2.5 or higher and are staying within the state.

   Al Ludwig: we drafted this before the bill was gutted. This resolution still speaks to the idea that we are paying attention to what is going on at the state and that we don’t want these things occurring.

   We are worried about future ideas brought about by the state. If they cap funding and stop giving funds to the University than we will be in the whole. We would not as a University consider going private and stop accepting funds from the state. Tuition would have to increase significantly to cover costs.

Resolution 0506-10 passed by majority.
2. **NAGPS Regional Conference** – Mark Beard (10 minutes)
a. Steve Schuster, VP, attended the NAGPS national meeting in February. He found that we are one of the strongest graduate and professional groups in the nation. It has been discussed that we would like to help strengthen our region. In the fall (September or October) we would like to host a regional conference on the MU campus, and make MU the flagship campus. We would invite private and public institutions. There would be a lot of schools if this were a strong event. This is going to take a lot of work and effort and we would love to do something like this. We are looking to the reps to form committees during the summer to help in the execution of this program. We will need to get a schedule of events, programming, have the Déjà vu event coincide with this conference. We would take this conference and allow states to divide and discuss issues going on in their state. He is interested in hearing ideas and getting people to sign-up to help.

Discussion:
Do you know anyone from KU that could help us?
Not specifically from KU. Our regions was supposed to chaired by OSU, but they were not as organized. There were no leaders from KU, but Wash U and Nebraska seemed to have strong groups.

Rolla is the only other campus in the system that has a graduate council. We would look around the state

How many regions are there?
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What else did you see at the conference?
There were quite a few delegates looking at making their communities stronger but are looking for leadership. These observations really drove our idea. A few of the other regions seem to be pretty strong. Our region was one of the poorest. Many of the other schools are searching for ways of running there own GPC.

Has this conference been done before?
We are supposed to but it hasn’t happened before. And it should be held

What type of activities? And time span?
Weekend (Friday-Sunday). Social, discuss issues pertinent to region, then individual states, maybe a formal banquet with speakers. We need to give them a direction.

Do we have money to do this?
There will be a conference fee and will not costs the GPC any money. We would also be looking for sponsorship both on and off campus.
Where is this entire event take place? Hotels, banquet rooms, there is a lot to do if we are going to pull this off. We have the union to hold meetings. As soon as we finalize a weekend we need to get those facilities. Sign-up sheet going around and we will move forward with this over the course of the summer.

VII. Officer Reports
a. Lucas Kunce: House bill was the most disconcerting issue. Also the photo id bill for voting is an issue. ASUM itself is having a restructuring proposal which was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. What they are thinking of doing is changing the number of representatives that are allowed from each campus. The new proposal is to have 2 members from each campus (rather than being proportional to the size of the campus, MU currently has 6). The financial aspect is a concern. The concern for GPC is that we currently have a seat on the board of directors but with the decrease we may loose that position. According to our articles of Cooperation we are entitled to a seat.
b. Joshua Holmes: Letter to state people have been sent off and hopefully will make an impact. He was at the ASUM meeting with Lucas. During the meeting they were able to get a seat on the Constitutional.
c. Al Ludwig: Direct questions from students regarding Travel Awards to him.
d. Dan Robinson: Thanked everyone who turned out to Harpos. This past week they had the 5 Minutes of Fame at the Artisan. The last event of the semester is this Friday- the party at the Vu. There is a $5 cover and will be from 6-9pm.
   -Is it still grad students for $5? It is our event.
   He appreciates the help of his committee members and for the turnout from reps and departments.
e. Steve Schuster: Robyn is requesting ideas regarding the IAC and if students have issues with them (their meeting is next Monday). In regards to standing committees there are some that will be over the summer. The Gold Chalk and Rollin awards were very successful.
f. Mark Beard: GPLC is meeting this coming weekend. If you have any issues that need to be brought up please let him know. We have really met a lot of the goals that we set at the beginning of the year and we plan to continue working on these goals to make GPC a stronger organization (activities, communication, campus-wide involvement, make GPC known across campus). We have come a long way this year and is looking forward to a great next year.

VIII. Liaison Reports
a. ABGPS- participated in the Clean-up Columbia, they had their scholarship banquet, and they have a new representative for next year
b. GSA- elected new officers and changed constitution. Their minutes will be going into the University archives, and everything we send is being forwarded to GSA and going to their listserv.
c. SBA- they had the Tim Heinze run two weeks ago, it was a successful event with over 300 participants

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment- meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm