Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
May 1, 2007

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Minutes
*No changes, accepted to change

III. Adoption of Agenda
*Motion to allow Alex to update on rec center
*5 minutes to Action Items

IV. Action Items
1. Presentation on Student Health Insurance- (10 minutes)
2. Alex-Hearnes Center Update (5 minutes)

*Million dollars to activity fee. Debating on this issue at last meeting (transferring all or partial money). Compromise accepted: 75% to student activities committee and 25% remains.

Al Ludwig: What chance is there the director will be accepting?

Alex: Currently working on this situation. Thought processes are being forwarded to Mike Alden. Doesn’t’ have a complete answer for this, but 50/50 chance.

Comment: Athletic director not too inclined to accept this.

Alex: Many hours have been spent debating merits of this issue, but overall strong opposition across campus.

Al: What is the effect on students if the athletic director declines the offer?

Alex: Not exactly sure. He should take committee’s decision strongly. Hopefully chancellor will see this too.

Al: Will the chancellor see it even if opposed by athletic director?
Alex: We’re pushing for it.

Steve: Do you agree with compromise?

Alex: I change my mind sometimes, but it forces Hearnes Center to use proper channels to receive funding and use that funding it’s given.

Mark: Possibly consider having GPC/MSA to draft a resolution on this issue in support of the compromise.

Jen Holland: Letter being drafted by MSA/GPC in favor of the compromised proposal.

Alex: If pushed and not committee’s decision, Hearnes will have to seek funding elsewhere. Several people making decisions, not just one.

3. **Open Forum** – Jennifer Holland (10 minutes)

1. Al: Exit counseling for financial aid. Law students have finals all this week and next week. Financial aid didn’t except this, so this needs to be brought up. Not everyone operates on the same schedule.

   Steve: Med school has full-time person who deals with this. Check to see if Law School does

2. Marjorie: Student going to international conference. Where are dates for travel funding? Can she get funded/reimbursed for trip?

   Phil: Going to present this summer. The student can email George Justice and can explain situation. They will work things out with her.

   Al: Spring dates are through June 30. July 1 or later travel will be eligible in the fall. You can still get money back.

   Disraelly: You might want to check the graduate school website—international travel fund.

V. **Old Business**

1. **Graduate Student Housing** – Erica Racen (5 minutes)

   Committee: Mizzou acquired Tara Apartments for student housing. GSA is continuing to collect info from students to find out what students want.
Marjorie: Are other students being forced out?

Comment: No, they are not.

Comment: If any grad student decides to live there now, you have 3 years to live there. This is supposed to be a bouncing board to get other housing.

Disraelly: What percent of people moving into Tara?

Mark: Talking to Dr. Scroggs and Frankie Minor. People had first choice to go to univ. supplied housing, but Tara more expensive. Percent going to Tara don’t know, but all should/will be housed by the end of summer. Already a waiting list before all this occurred and it is going to be an ongoing process for university. Grad student housing needs to be a topic and we need to look at other options.

Yve: Scary idea about a 3 year term.

Jeff: Not an interest in long term residents. Need new openings to keep grad students housed.

Mark: Tara is cheaper than it was and competitive with other prices. Understand it is a concern for international students to have these costs.

Disraelly: Go back and negotiate for 4-5 years. At least allow time for Ph.D. students to complete their degree. It is not there fault they had to move, so shouldn’t have to move again before they are done.

Comment: Before Univ. bought, did you have to be a certain age or status to live there?

Comment: The same rules that apply to other univ. housing applies there; not all students qualify. Not familiar with all requirements, but they are listed on the residential life website.

Disraelly: Before purchase, Tara was divided: undergrads and grads.

VI. **New Business**

1. **Resolution 0607-13-** Resolution in support of a campus sustainability plan- Chad Rittenhouse (10 minutes)
*Rep. to Env. Affairs committee. Involved for 2 years. First real effort that has come out of committee that could be brought to GPC. MU-many efforts for environmental sustainability issues. Many departments, etc. that are responsible for this. Over 15yr. period, assuming recent, campus grew by 34%, students by 59%, and greenhouse gas down 1%. MU won multiple national awards for this. Native plants display, reduces water, etc. Recycling programs-MU recycles 26% and wants to increase. Issues with composting, campus dining food, and agricultural waste. Started recycling programs at football games (19 tons of recyclable material from 7 games). Each of our campus units operates in isolation. Very little transfer of ideas between campus units, causing non-participation, repeats, and miscommunications. Provost Brina Foster made ad hoc committee to develop the campus sustainability plan.

Took time looking over resolution. Summarized goals into topic areas.

Comment: Just a motion to support and form a committee?

Resolution passes by majority.

2. Resolution 0607-14- Resolution in favor of establishing policies regarding required course materials- Jennifer Holland (10 minutes)

*Establish policies regarding course materials. Most of you have probably experienced buying a book and getting little to nothing back. What this resolution is trying to do is, along with research done by Dr. Zilingda, while respectfully understanding that departments can/should be able to design course materials, it encourages everyone to be thoughtful and to make costs as low as possible. Dr. Zilingda has also gone to MSA. Want to have guidelines set to what is allowed and not allowed, getting materials in on time, and use unbundled course materials. Make sure everyone is aware of what all costs are and that departments are held accountable for getting lowest costs.

Dr. Zilinga: Language is combo of own design and other schools’ efforts for textbook cost decreases. Missouri is and island in that it’s the only state trying to control textbooks. Hopefully this will get to Jeff City and they will try to help students with material cost. Bookstore not in charge of cost; it is the department and publisher.

Comment: I am hesitant about having faculty know more about publishing. It could be one more thing for faculty to have on their plates to deal with.

Dr. Zilinga: Code of ethics being created. Suggesting bookstore staff to get out there and meet with faculty to keep all of these things in mind.
Motion to accept as written.

Resolution passes by majority.

3. **Resolution 0607-15** - Resolution advocating the divestment of University investment funds from companies operating in non-humanitarian activities in Sudan - Jennifer Holland (5 minutes)

*Other schools have done this statewide. Acknowledging that terrible things are going on in Sudan by having the Univ. pull funding that could potentially support this activity through companies there.

Al: Do we know if any offending companies are getting money from MU?

Comment: Trying to not make big deal of this, but asking. Movement right now polite and telling Univ. to pull. If Univ. does not do this, more strong movement to ask Univ. to publically list if funding is there.

Al: Have there been requests refused?

Comment: Seems board of curators “too busy” to work on this and not sure if there is money going there at all. At this point, seems preliminary. Better to take a polite route than bash heads.

Comment: Is there a time table?

Comment: Reason that it is just Sudan? Reason for not a broader area?

Jen Holland: Better to give specifics at this point.

Chad: Because this is specific, it would set a standard and could be followed with other examples later. If not, it could get buried and not see light of day.

Comment: Not sure how curators’ work, so should try to work around there schedule to get a chance for this.

Steve: Doesn’t think a timeline is necessary. Hopefully this will move it up and not make it very much pressure.

Yve: If we don’t provide timeline, do they feel GPC would follow up?

Mark: Continuing to work with them, and they should know there would be follow-up. The President of GPC would do this.

Resolution passes by majority.
VII. Officer Reports

*Damon/Yve: Write for Higher Education. More successful than last year. Besides letters, got more info out about who we are and what we do. Registered about 5 people to vote and 132 letters. Also, had some other events with ASUM and students had chance to meet with student legislators. Encourage people to attend these types of events. Blunt said more funds will be switched to do cancer research here, but not sure if bill is going through. Intellectual Diversity Act may not be brought to stage. Encourage grad students to get involved and stay involved. Students working on advanced degrees sometimes get overlooked and need things 4yr students do not need.

Maggie: Please sign attendance sheet and let us know if you will not be a rep next year. Also, please remember to say name before speaking for recognition.

Al/Eva: Student fee review committee-application out on website. We have 2 seats on SFRC. Deadline says tomorrow, but does not know if that applies to us. Will be meeting with new SFRC chair, but will be done next week. Will discuss things for next year. Al discussed, but will be revising travel awards (discuss over summer).

Steve/Erica: Gold Chalk and Rollins were very successful this year. Going to try to continue and build from these ceremonies. Next year assignments for standing committees (keep ones you are interested in mind). If any schools have orientations, GPC likes to get involved if possible. If any programs would like to have us speak, let Erica know.

Jen: Programming-Evening around the world went well. Should have pictures up soon. Last event Friday night. Mass email coming out tomorrow. Voo Light (live music and patio extended at Voo). $6 bottomless drinks and appetizers. Event will be from 7-10pm since the band is coming. If you have any ideas that are new, let Carly know.

President-Implementing open forum/discussion page on website. Thinking of trying out for semester. Looking for webmaster applications.

VIII. Liaison Reports

No reports

IX. Announcements

No announcements

X. Adjournment