Graduate Professional Council Agenda
General Assembly Meeting
October 5, 2010

I. Call to Order
Vice President, Graham McCaulley calls the October 5, 2010 meeting of the GPC General Assembly to order. As a friendly reminder, please remember to state your name and department when you speak.

II. Adoption of Minutes
Motion to adopt minutes (Jacob Wright, Philosophy) / Second (Marc Halusic, Psychology):
Minutes adopted

III. Adoption of Agenda
Any additions or corrections?: None
Motion to adopt agenda (Jacob Wright, Philosophy) / Second (Marc Halusic, Psychology):
Agenda adopted

IV. Action Items
1. LaNee’ C. Bridewell—MU Student Parent Success Center (15 minutes)
   Good afternoon. I’m LaNee’ Bridewell, and I am here representing Parent Link. That is my son [on the projector screen]. He is one and a half years old. I got pregnant my sophomore year of college. I was orphaned as a child, and my sister adopted me. When I got pregnant, I was completely alone, and I thought this was the worst thing that had ever happened to me. I went to my advisor and she gave me a hug and said she would pray for me. That was a nice sentiment, but it didn’t really help me. The help that I found was Medicaid and WIC. And as my pregnancy progressed, I got bigger and slower, and I was trying to balance pregnancy with school and my job. I didn’t find any support on campus and very little off campus.
   Then, I became a parent, which is exponentially harder than being pregnant. I was totally unprepared. There was no one to tell me how to do my homework, go to school, go to work, put my son to bed...how to get all of these things done in one day. I got kicked out of school and my home during my first semester trying to parent, work, and be a student. I got very proactive and began working on student-family advocacy because my goal is to give to people what was not given to me. We need to support people who are trying to get an education so that they can support their families, people who are trying to live without government assistance but who currently have very little support for their efforts.
That is the driving idea behind Cub Hub, which is what I’m here to tell you about today. Cub Hub is a new service offered through Parent Link. Two evenings a week we offer free childcare for student parents. We provide student parents with much needed quiet time to do their schoolwork while knowing their children are safe and entertained. Currently, Cub Hub is staffed by Service Learning students from the School of Education. I want to show you a short video clip to give you an idea of what it’s like to try to do your homework and care for your child at the same time.

Imagine trying to do your work in this environment. I created a pyramid to represent my priorities for my son. These are the things I have to have in place before I can even think about getting started on my own work. I want to make sure my son is safe, content, and distracted. After all of that is complete, I can do my homework. Any of this can change at any given time. The Cub Hub is practical. We’re not trying to do anything that is outrageous, although we are trying to get to a point where we can help people in an earth-shattering way, but right now we just want to help people be able to do their homework. Right now we are in dire need of basic supplies: cleaning supplies, toys, furniture, computer supplies, etc.

Q1, Milbre Brooks (Theatre): Where is Cub Hub?
A, LaNee’: At Parent Link at 4800 Santana Circle.

Q2, Amanda Muhammad (Textile & Apparel Management): Do you have volunteers?
A, LaNee’: Right now we are working with volunteers who are education students working through the service learning office.
Follow up, Amanda Muhammad (Textile & Apparel Management): This is an awesome thing. As a parent myself, this is an awesome thing.

Q3, David Heise (Computer Engineering): Is this open to anybody regardless of their situation?
A, LaNee’: As long as you’re a student. One of the things we’re going to start doing is having people show proof of enrollment, so that people aren’t just dropping their kids off and not working toward anything.

Q4, David Heise (Computer Engineering): How are you getting the word out to student parents about Cub Hub?
A, LaNee’: Through lots of channels. Mizfits (Mizzou Families Involved Together) have made Cub Hub central to their mission. SFD Undergraduate Assistance also shares information about Parent Link and Cub Hub with all student parents who come to their offices. We’ve also contacted parents through the Columbia Public School system and through Columbia College, Stevens College, and other area colleges.

Q5, David Heise (Computer Engineering): How can GPC help? How can we best assist?
A, LaNee’: Money is always excellent. Who can turn that down? We’ve been creative in our approach to funding. For instance, the child development lab is doing a toy drive for us. It’s a very new program and we’re really only beginning to find out what our specific needs are going to be.

Q5, Ashley Menezes (Vet Med): Do you have a website. How do we find out about you?
A, LaNee’: Not yet. We’re having a Tiger Family Festival; We also have a discussion group at parents.missouri.ning (if you have a child you can join this group); advertising through various channels to get the word out to parents.

Q6, Jacob Redel (Med School): If I want to spread the word about this program, who should I tell people to contact?
A, LaNee`: Forward anything to me at lcbhx5@mail.missouri.edu

Q7, Carrie Schmitt (Biological Engineering): What kind of funding sources do you have?
A, LaNee`: Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Cathy Scroggs, and Dean of the Graduate School, George Justice, have provided a lot of start-up funding.

Q8, Carrie Schmitt (Biological Engineering): Any state funding?
A, LaNee`: We’re looking into that. There is a new bill making its way through government called the Pregnant and Parenting Access to Education Act of 2010 that has allotted this whole new amount of funding for programs like ours, but it’s being held up by bureaucracy, so we have no access to that as of yet.

V. Old Business
I. Robert's Rules of Order Protocol - Kristofferson Culmer (5 minutes)

We'll now begin with old business.

Last meeting there was a question about our parliamentary procedure and Roberts Rules of Order. In the GPC handbook that was sent out with last Tuesday’s email reminder about the meeting, on page 9, there are rules that outline our procedures. Our rules of order are derived from but are not the same as Roberts Rules of Order. GPC has developed its own parliamentary procedure. It’s what we need to do our business. Anything more would be overkill, and we believe it will prevent out work from being done efficiently.

Next I want to address the issue of serving on committees because I got several upset emails following the reminder email last Tuesday. I understand that everyone here is a graduate or professional student and everyone is busy with work, class, etc. The email that went out last week said that you will be asked to sign up for two committees. Our bylaws state that we request you to join two committees, but you are only required to sign up for one. It is encouraged that members of the General Assembly sit on one internal committee and one external committee. Internal committees meet very infrequently and those committees convey the business of GPC, and if someone is not a member of the General Assembly and tries to serve on one of our internal committees, they would be making recommendations about things they do not know anything about. We’re not trying to make your life hard; it’s just more practical that way.

Also, there’s a committee on campus called the Student Fee Allocation Committee, which allocates funds from students fees to projects around campus. GPC and MSA President choose someone to chair that committee. It is a paid position. Think about chairing this committee.

Finally, I want to follow up on Lanee´s presentation by acknowledging that the Student Parent Success Center, Parent Link, and Cub Hub are all points of interest for me and other org presidents across campus. We were contacted asking for $12,000 in start-up funds. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Cathy Scroggs, Dean of the Graduate School, George Justice, and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Jim Spain covered this, but we are still thinking about how to help. There is no immediate need because that was covered by the grad school and vice provost of student affairs. We are definitely going to watch and promote this group, but we need to wait and see how we can best help.

Old Business closed.
VI. New Business
1. General Funding Request – Human Development & Family Studies Graduate Student Association (5 min)

Q1. Liz Lance (Journalism): What’s the date of the event?
A. Richard Feistman: October 20.
Q2, Liz Lance (Journalism): Where’s it being held?
A, Richard: One building south of Memorial Union. Gwynn Hall
Q3, Milbre Burch (Theatre): How does one get to the luncheon?
A, Richard: It’s open to everyone. It’s right next to the child development lab. It’s on the first floor. There’s no prior sign up. You just come in and have a conversation and a sandwich.

Council Discussion following presentation:
Matt Kotovsky, GPC Treasurer, Finance Committee Recommendation: They came through with all of the appropriate information and defined a comprehensive advertising strategy. We believe that this would benefit the graduate students in their department as well as others around campus. Any discussion on the floor?
No Discussion
Motion (Jacob Wright, Philosophy)/ Second (Milbre Burch, Theatre):
Approved

2. At-Large Elections – Kristofferson Culmer (10 minutes)
Current At-large Members:
Ericka Evans (not in attendance)
Roland Holou (not in attendance)
Lei Wang Francisco: I was a GPC at-large member beginning in December last year. I enjoy being part of this community and would like to continue to be involved.
Mohammad Sherafati: I used to be President of my department’s Graduate Student Association. I want to continue to serve my community beyond the department.

Kristofferson Culmer: All in favor of electing Lei Wang Francisco, Mohammad Sherafati, and Ericka Evans by acclamation.

Motion (Jacob Wright, Philosophy)/ Second (Brittany Perrin, Public Affairs):
Approved

VII. Officer Reports
National Issues Report (KJ McNamara): A few months ago, the Educational Testing Service (ETS) announced that, at the request of the United States and United Nations, they are suspending testing in the country of Iran, which makes it difficult for Iranian students to apply for education in the United States. NAGPS that is beginning a special interest group to discuss this topic. If anyone would be interested in being on that committee, please let me know and I can get you signed up for those committees. Also, the US House of Representatives is discussing having additional restrictions put on the transparency and clarity of research funding. Be looking on our blog for information about that.

Two big things: First, voter registration for November elections ends tomorrow. Second, one of the things we’re working for (along with AAUP and several other organizations) is to get the Missouri House of Representatives to have a debate about issues in higher education. We’re trying to have two candidates come this month to talk about issues in higher education; get them to come before the election to talk about issues in higher education.
Some of the other things we’re working on are as follows:
1. Landlord tenet bill regarding energy efficiency and security deposit language for renters; insure that prospective tenets get provided with the averages of utility bills.
2. Greater legislative support for science, technology, and mathematics research
3. Vote for a student curator on the Board of Curators. There is a student curator, but she doesn’t have voting rights.
4. Want to survey grad and professional students regarding legislative initiative and where people stand on increasing state taxes on alcohol and cigarettes and using that to fund University.
5. Insurance: new Health Care Bill has instituted several changes as of September. For instance, students can remain insured under parents until the age of 26 no matter what the dependent relationship is.

Programming and Publicity (Jacob Holt):
Last Friday we had our second event of the year, and it was our largest event ever. October 30 we will host a bowling night. This is a family friendly event. Bring yourself and your family from 7:00-9:30 at the bowling alley on Providence.

Treasurer (Matt Kotovsky):
Travel Funding Awards due October 15. As your position s as reps, please inform your students. I would love to give them money to go places.

Vice President (Graham McCaulley):
If you have not signed up for a committee after this meeting, I will be signing you up for one.

President (Kristofferson Culmer):
Met with Dean Justice and Vice Chancellor Scroggs, discussing financial state of the University. The University has to rethink how they do things financially. As they rethink their financial priorities, I am reminding them not to forget grad students with RA and TA stipends. We’re addressing stipend levels, which are very low compared to our peer universities. We don’t want them to forget stipends as things get better for the University.

Insurance: Last year there was a campus-wide committee who looked into grad/prof students getting to buy into faculty/staff insurance. We will be drafting a letter in the upcoming weeks that addresses the possibilities and ramifications of extending this opportunity to grad/prof students.

The university, last year, decided to go to a smoke free campus next academic year. There is a committee that is responsible for doing this. We have a spot on that committee. Please let me know if you know anyone who wants to be on that committee.

VII. Announcements

Brittany Perrin (Public Affairs): I just wanted to tell you all about the Mizzou Leadership Academy on Saturday, November 6. It is organized by the Office of Leadership Development. Applications are due this Friday. It’s a one-day conference on Nov. 6. The Mizzou Leadership Academy will feature breakout sessions, a welcome address from President Gary Forsee, closing remarks by Chancellor Brady Deaton, and a special keynote speaker. Go here for more information: http://academy.missouri.edu/
David Heise (Computer Engineering): Parking and Transportation Committee: off campus parking permits are coming due; grad students can apply starting October 17 (for that week, only grad students can apply).

Milbre Burch (Theatre): 2nd annual 24-hour play festival was held in September. It’s a pretty remarkable event, so please look for it next year and support us because it’s one of our annual fundraisers.

Lei Wang Francisco (At-Large): Free event if you’re interested: Chinese Talent Show on October 14 at 7:30 in Jesse Auditorium.

Amanda Muhammad (Textile and Apparel Management, ABGPS): Filling in for Cfrancis Blackchild. Three points of news. First, ABGPS is starting a mentoring program for undergraduates. It is open to all undergraduates. Under-represented minorities and first generation undergraduates are especially welcomed. If anyone is interested in being a mentor, please get in touch with ABGPS President Anthony James. Also, Dr. Burns-Wallace inaugurated ABGPS’s professional development series. The event was well attended by a responsive audience. Finally, we are exploring the possibility of hosting an interdisciplinary conference in Spring 2011. More information on that event, and perhaps a request for budgetary support will be forthcoming.

Stephanie Kartalopoulos (GSA): In our last meeting, which was a week ago, we discussed Parent Link and Cub Hub and are very interested in helping also. Like GPC we want to wait and see where our assistance can be most helpful. We are also going to revisit the insurance issue that Kristofferson mentioned earlier. Also, in case your department’s GSA reps aren’t doing their job, please let students in your department know that our deadline to apply for travel funding is November 2.

Grad Students as Parents: ?
Post Doc Association: ?
Council on Family Relations: standing in for GOC rep; there’s no update
Med School: nothing to report
Student Bar Association: ?
Vet Med: nothing to report
Mizfits: ?
Any affiliate groups that I didn’t call?

IX. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn (Brittany Perrin, Public Affairs)/ Second (Mustapha Alhassan, Social Work): Meeting adjourned.