Graduate Professional Council Agenda
General Assembly Meeting
February 8, 2011

I. Call to Order
Vice President, Graham McCaulley calls the December 7, 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 (Matt Mower, Physics and Astronomy)/ Second (?):
Minutes adopted

III. Adoption of Agenda
Motion to amend agenda to switch action items so that Bryan Goers from the Student Fees Review Committee goes first.
Motion to adopt agenda with amendment (?)/ Second (Milbre Burch, Theatre):
Agenda adopted

IV. Action Items

1. Bryan Goers, Student Fees Review Committee (10 minutes)
The Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) is made up of 12 students; five or six reps were graduate students this year. We are charged with reviewing student fees and making a recommendation to the Vice Chancellor of Student Fees; we review all non-academic fees; 2 reps go and talk to people in the various offices that we help fund; we hear their case and then we review our budget and decide how to allocate it. A big change this year was for the Counseling Center, where we increased funding to hire a new counselor; Reading program went down 25%, but that suggestion came from them because they had more than they needed; Student Life went down 5%; Student Health and Rec Center received inflationary increase; we don’t give inflationary increases on bonds; overall this amounted to about a 1.1-1.2% increase in undergraduate and graduate student fees. We went up less than any of the other University of Missouri schools.

Jordan Paul (Law School): I have a question about Readership Fee. Was this a trend over several years?
Matt Kotovksy (GPC Treasurer): I met with the director of that program and this was a trend over time and they were paying out and running a consistent carry over, which they
donated to organizations across campus, but they didn’t need that 25%. Student Unions have budgeted accounts to expand these programs.

Cfrancis (ABGPS): what’s the readership program?
Bryan: The readership program is all the newspapers you see on campus.

Matt Mower (Physics & Astronomy): Do we have any say over the fees? Do we have any say over undergrad fee changes? How are the two total rows (undergraduate and graduate) made up?
Bryan: It has to do with the rounding. For instance, the Student Activity Fee for grad students went up 1.3% and that is entirely because of rounding.

Ray Troy (Nuclear Engineering): Since these are fees, do we have any choice to opt out of them?
Bryan: Nope: They are based on credit hours.
Ray Troy: Why aren’t they just lumped into our bills?
Bryan: They are, but not if you’re on a grad assistantship, which doesn’t necessarily cover student fees. If you have fewer than 7 hours, some fees such as Student Health and the Rec Center are not charged, but you can opt in.

Jordan Paul (Law School): I’m not familiar with the parking garage line item.
Bryan: That’s for Hitt Street. We are paying the bond on the Hitt Street parking garage.

Jordan Paul: What about the new garage?
Bryan: I’m not sure, but it’s probably bonded.

Mohammad Sherafati (Physics & Astronomy): Why so much more funding for the counseling center? Is this based on the increase in demand in counseling or the number of new students?
Kristofferson Culmer (GPC President): They had 1 counselor per 3,100 students when studies suggest that one counselor per one thousand students is more effective. We have the worst student to counselor ratio in the Big 12, and traffic in the Counseling Center has increased exponentially over the past three years. Idealistically, we should have 21 counselors and we currently have about 10.5.

Resolution:
The last step in this process is GPC passing a resolution to support the increase in student fees. This has already been sent to the Board because they had an emergency meeting to vote on these matters and get them to the State Department of Higher education. Resolution 201011-01.

Matt Mower (Physics & Astronomy): Next to all the percent increases and decreases where it says an amount in dollars, are these all undergraduate amounts? I think it would be safer to change this from dollar amounts to percentages for graduate and undergraduate students.

David Heise (Computer Engineering): I will second Matt’s suggestions to remove the dollar amounts and include percentages for graduate and undergraduate students.

Matt Mower: Also, add “Revenue” in front of “decreases” in the Student Life section.

Motion to pass Resolution 201011-01 (Jacob Wright, Philosophy)/ Second (Matt Mower, Physics and Astronomy):
Resolution 201011-01 passed.
2. Angela Rehagen, American Cancer Society/Relay For Life (25 minutes)

Lots of people have heard of Relay for Life. First, I would like to show a short advertising video for this year’s Relay for Life. Mizzou had a record-setting year last year; the number of teams, the number of survivors, and the number of dollars raised all went up last year. Founded in 1985 in Tacoma Washington by a colon/rectal surgeon doctor who walked or ran 24 hours to raise thousands of dollars. It is required to be overnight to symbolize what a cancer survivor goes through when they get their cancer diagnosis. It is 38 days away and you can register online. Graham has my information. It’s a lot of fun. It’s indoors at Mizzou Rec from 6pm to 6am, from March 19-March 20.

Chavon Robinson (Human Development and Family Studies): Did the fee go up?
Angela: Yes, it did and it will stay that way. In the past it had to be 8-15 team members. Now, it is unlimited. To get a t-shirt, you and every one of your team members have to raise $100 each.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

1. General Funding Request - MU Cross-Disciplinary Project (5 min.)
Q1, Chavon Robinson (Human Development and Family Studies): What time does it start?  
A, Joanna: It’s from 9-5.
Q2, Deepika Menon (Learning, Teaching & Curriculum): What kinds of things are being presented?  
A, Joanna: Ethics of brain imaging, mutations in ape anatomy, performance studies, Broadway, to name a few.

Council Discussion following presentation:
Recommendation from Finance Committee (Matt Kotovsky, Treasurer): The finance committee recommended the full $600. They’ve actually gone out and sought the support of many programs. They’ve applied for more funds than they require, but due to budgetary constraints, we feel like we should fund the full amount because they probably won’t get all the money.

Catt Freid (SISLT): How much have we given in the past?  
Matt: Maximum amount. The previous limit was $500.

Milbre Burch (Theatre): I always plug this conference as a former panelist and former plenary speaker. It’s a great chance to talk to people and learn things outside of your discipline.

David Heise (Computer Engineering): I move that we approve the full recommendation.

Milbre Burch: Second  
Funding for the full amount of $600 approved.

2. Community Project- Graham McCaulley (10 min.)
This is just an idea at this point, but we’re thinking about doing a community service project this Spring. We are considering engaging in this project with West Boulevard Elementary. This year they’re doing a “everybody goes to college” project to encourage all of these students to see themselves as future college students. We feel like these goals are in line with diversity initiatives coming out of the Chancellor’s Office.

Cfrancis Blackchild (ABGPS): I’m not getting a sense of what it is exactly. Who are these kids? What will the project entail?  
Milbre Burch (Theatre): How long are you thinking of having the kids on campus?  
Graham: Probably three or four hours.
Milbre Burch (Theatre): Have you talked to anyone at the school about this?
Cfrancis Blackchild (ABGPS): Do you have a template of what the tour used to be?
Graham: It used to just be like a generic school tour, but we are hoping to do more to make college seem accessible and to have activities that will engage the kids on the tour rather than just taking them from place to place.
Deepika Menon (LTC): In the physics department we have a department open house when professors show kids-friendly experiments and it’s open to the public. Some schools also bring their kids to the observatory.
Paige Wallace (Vet School): Talk to the bookstore about donating something tangible that students can take home from their visit.
David Heise (Computer Engineering): Just a general comment: I think it’s a good idea for GPC to look at things like this. I think being more proactive in the community is a good thing. I’ve talked with people who have a strong sense that there’s a disconnect between the university and the community, so I think there are a lot of win-win situations here. It’s hard to find opportunities to do that, but I wonder if it wouldn’t be good to form a committee to look into community involvement and specifically opportunities like this, identifying projects like this that we can help support. A broader vision of involvement might be appropriate.
Graham: Excellent suggestion.

3. At-Large Nominations and Election – Kristofferson Culmer (10 min.)

VI. Officer Reports

Kristofferson Culmer (GPC President): A few things to let you know. A Board of Curators meeting a couple of weeks ago where the curators voted on tuition increases for four campus. Our tuition (undergrad) will increase by 5.4% [check this #].

Next meeting we open up nominations for next year’s exec council, so if you’re thinking of running for any of these positions, please come to the next meeting where we will entertain nominations. We will vote in April.

This week we’re going to send out some emails regarding nominations for Outstanding Graduate Student Support Staff.

Graham McCaulley (Vice President): Application for Gold Chalk and email about that going out tonight.

Matt Kotovsky (Treasurer): Next meeting we get the joy of talking about our budget.

Jacob Holt (Programming and Publicity): On our website, James has created an “Upcoming Events” list, which is great.

March 5 is RCAF, which is the Research and Creative Arts Forum. We bring in faculty from area universities to judge creative and research works. Money for winners. To pull it off, we need a lot of student volunteer help.
Luke Russell (State Issues Coordinator): ASUM Lobby Day: On this day, students from all four campuses converge at the State Capitol to talk to elected officials. Transportation will be provided, as will free t-shirts and lunch. If you're interested, contact GPC State Issues Coordinator, Luke Russell, or ASUM members Joanna Malone (jbmgfd@mail.mizzou.edu) or Sean Rowland (smrn23@mail.missouri.edu).

KJ McNamara (National Issues Coordinator): Spring 2011 NAGPS Legislative Action Days, February 27 through March 1. Some hot topics they plan to discuss will be the topic of “Public Access of Federally-Funded Research” regarding the immediate release of significant information gathered (i.e., medical research). This could be an issue because of intellectual property rights. If there are any other important topics you think would be valuable to discuss during LAD, please contact me and I will bring it up at our next meeting.

Cfrancis Blackchild (ABGPS): We are planning this spring to have a mini-conference, but I don’t have the details because it snowed last week. I will have more information about that next month.

Vet Med: Nothing to report.

David Heise: First, from the Parking and Transportation Campus commission, there’s currently some discussion about whether or not the school should add more biking parking around campus.

Second concern: in terms of transportation to and from airports, particularly St. Louis, there have been some problems with local taxi companies disrupting the MoX schedules and causing travelers to miss their rides. Please let me know of any complaints or reports you’ve heard regarding these problems.

VII. Announcements

Cfrancis blackchild: February 18 The University of Missouri Theatre Department presents a Conversation with Stephen Henderson at the Rhynsburger Theatre, 4PM.

Danielle Oprean (on behalf of Emili Carlson): The Campus Planning Committee met on January 31st to talk about the MU Master Plan. On March 10th (time and location to be determined), the annual Campus Master Plan Presentation will be held. They would like to see more students (undergrad and grad) attend to hear feedback. Topics will include sustainability; facility renovations; and 5-year and 30-year plans for MU. Web site (has not been updated as of 2/8/11): http://www.cf.missouri.edu/masterplan/. If anyone has comments or questions, they can direct to me ejcxb2@mail.missouri.edu.

VIII. Adjournment