Graduate and Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2011

Note: Slides provided to the GPC will be included in these minutes. Any other documentation (e.g. Excel files and Word documents) will be attached to these minutes. When speaking for the first time, the speaker will be identified by full name and department. After this, the speaker will be identified by last name only.

Summary of Motions

The following motions\(^1\) were passed by the general assembly during the meeting:

- Motion to adopt the minutes.
- Motion to amend the agenda.
- Motion to adopt the amended agenda.
- Motion to reduce funding to Rollins Society from $3,000 to $1,200, with the remainder ($1,800) transferred to the Contingency Budget.
- Motion to reduce funding from the Publicity and Planning Supplies Budget from $5,000 to $2,000, with the remainder ($3,000) transferred to the Contingency Budget.
- Motion to accept Resolution WS 2011-1 - A Resolution Proposing that Residential Life Offer Gender Neutral Housing.
- Motion to accept Resolution WS 2011-4 - A Resolution in Support of the Use of Open Access Materials at Mizzou.
- Motion to accept Resolution WS 2011-5 - A Resolution in Support of Residential Life Adding Cameras to Residence Halls.
- Motion to accept Resolutions WS 2011-2 - A Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Discrimination Policy to the M-Book.
- Motion to accept Resolution 1011-02 - Domestic Partner Benefits.
- Motion to adjourn.

The following motions failed to pass:

- Motion to accept WS2011-3 - A Resolution in Support of Adding a Non-Discrimination Clause to the UM System Student Conduct Code.
- Motion to accept Resolution WS 2011-6 - A Resolution In Opposition to Raising Parking Meter Rates in Columbia.

The following motions were tabled until the next general assembly meeting:

- None.

\(^1\) Motions to extend discussion are not included in this section.
Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Brittany Perrin, Vice-President elect.

*Brittany Perrin (Vice-President elect)* – As a friendly reminder, please remember to state your name and department when you speak.

Adoption of Minutes

*Matt Mower (Physics)* – Motion to adopt minutes  
*Milbre Burch (Theatre)* – second  
Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

Adoption of Agenda

*David Heise (Computer Engineering)* – Given that the budget discussion may be influenced by the strategy report, I move to move agenda item three (comprehensive strategy report) to item one.  
*Mower* – second

*Matthew Kotovsky (Treasurer)* – The order shouldn’t affect anything, but if the GPC would like to hear it in this order, that’s fine.

*Kristofferson Culmer (President)* – Since the original version was sent out and changes were made, we want to adopt the new agenda. Can we adopt these separately?

*Heise* – Sure.

Question called.  
Motion to accept Heise’s amendment passes unanimously by voice vote.

*Mower* – Motion to adopt the agenda as it appears on the screen  
*Burch* – second  
Motion passes unanimously by voice vote.

Action Items

*David Curry – MU International Center (10 minutes)*

We were given permission to charge an international student fee. Our office tracks the status of international students’ visa status. In fall 2009, Chancellor Deaton received a letter regarding the next generation tracking system with the direction to be prepared to implement it. Institutions would need personnel and
infrastructure to make happen. In order to sustain this for future, the university needs to charge a fee. There’s information regarding this on the International Center’s website. The International Center website has an FAQ and I’m happy to send a PowerPoint.

The other reason for the fee is the increase in international enrollment. Many international students are on our dockets for 24 to 36 months after graduation. International students were surveyed last fall. The vast majority, 80% or so, rely on face to face time, which necessitates more staff. On June 1, there will be more staff in the office.

Jacob Redel (Medical School) – How much is the increase?

Curry – $80 for the fall semester, $80 for the winter semester, and $40 for the summer semester for anyone enrolled in at least one credit hour.

Redel – Has there been any discussion about raising money for scholarships to offset the costs?

Curry – This was one of the first things talked about, but scholarship funds cannot be used for fees. The International Center solicits funds for scholarships, but 80% or so of international graduate students are on some kind of funding.

John Shetley (Soil & Atmospheric Science) – Will these be covered by other fees?

Curry – No, these will be like other fees.

<Unknown> – Are there any numbers on how many students are funded by international governments?

Curry – The vast majority are funded by departments, though some international students, like those from Libya, are funded by their governments.

Mohammad Sherfatti - Graduate Peer Mentor Program (5 minutes)

Thanks for putting us in the agenda at the last minute. We’re introducing a new program supervised by Dr. Justice, the MU Grad Peer Mentoring Program. The motivation was that the orientation panel should be turned into a program so the grad students can share their experiences with other students. So, we have a graduate peer mentoring program that fosters interdepartmental graduate student mentoring. We have a pilot for 2011 to provide first year students chances to connect with peers in groups. The call for recruitment was from November of 2010 until January of 2011. Interviews and acquaintance meetings lasted from February of 2011 until March. It’s a very diverse group of people. There was a training workshop by Dr. Fred Newton on April 16th and 17th. It was
a successful workshop. Mentee selection will be this May and we’ll set up a blackboard website, so mentors and mentees can interact online. There will be groups of 2 mentors and 6 mentees. Meetings will have specific themes, light meals, and evaluations. The budget spent is $2600, for the acquaintance meeting, etc. We anticipate $2400 for events in the fall semester (meals, brochures, etc.). Sources of funding – Chancellor’s diversity initiative, Discretionary diversity fund, GSA, GPC. Questions?

Burch – I have successfully gotten money from Mizzou diversity. They have a grant that may be useful. Feel free to email me for contact information.

Perrin – MU Parents also does grant funding for programs like this. Laura Page is the contact.

Burch – It makes sense to ask GPC for money when you have a budget put together.

Sherfatti – Maybe we could get funding via RCAF or temporary funding in the fall.

Old Business

Comprehensive Strategy Report – Matt Kotovsky, Treasurer (15 minutes)
**Scenarios**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contingency</th>
<th>Continue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Implement Cost Cutting Measures</em></td>
<td><em>Maintain FY12 Spending</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Methodology**

- Set Scenario
- Input MSA and SFRC
- Set-up Solver
  - Change Travel Awards and Publicity
  - Accounts change at a fixed rate
  - Minimize carryover

**MSA SFRC**

- Continue current spending FY12 and FY13
- MSA: $45,624.48
- SFRC: $5,562.50
- Increase Travel Awards and Publicity accounts 1.236%
- MSA ask SFRC 0.4043%
- FY14 need to replace $4063 of carryover

**MSA**

- Continue current spending FY12 but enter contingency FY13
- MSA: $10,113.60
- Increase Travel Awards and Publicity accounts 1.139%
- MSA ask SFRC 0.73509%
- FY14 need to replace $4063 of carryover

**SFRC**

- Enter contingency FY12 and FY13
- SFRC: $5,656.8
- Increase Travel Awards and Publicity accounts 1.183%
- FY14 need to replace $9563 of carryover

**ZERO**

- Enter contingency FY12 and FY13
- Decrease Travel Awards and Publicity accounts 6.041%
- FY14 need to replace $9563 of carryover
Mower – Remind me what the quadrants represent on the spreadsheet?

Kotovksy - 0,0 is if no contingency and no continue. Basically, all hell breaks loose.

0,1 is the best case scenario. In it, we maintain the current operating budget in 2012 and 2013.

Perrin - You’re out of time.

Mower – I move for a 5 minute time extension.
Heise – second
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Kotovsky - All outcomes will be known by second semester with this strategy.

Mower – If MSA has to go to SFRC for funding, won’t the fees come back to us as graduate students in the end?

Kotovsky – It’s screwy. It’s the way the system is now.

Perrin – If someone asks for an increase and others for a decrease, there’s a chance that there will be an offset without a rise in fees.
*Culmer* – I recently spoke with the new MSA president. If we reword the articles of cooperation to be based on MSA’s budget instead of ours, then we can get the needed money without any fiscal impact on MSA. We would use our contribution this year as a baseline for next year’s budget. Because of the ways that their articles are written, anything that has zero fiscal impact can be implemented immediately.

**2011-2012 GPC Budget - Matt Kotovsky, Treasurer (5 minutes)**

*Heise* – Some figures are different from the previous budget.

*Matt* – I made a mistake and failed to account for some funds.

*Heise* – Yes, but the rate of inflation is different, too. While we are on the same topic, I think we should cut spending now, too. I think that we should consider what we’re getting out of the articles of cooperation, whether we need to discontinue them, negotiate a reduced amount that we pay. This isn’t a discussion we can have tonight, but we should have it.

*Kotovsky* – We should form a committee to figure out what we’re paying for. As cochair of SFRC, I asked where GPC dollars were going, and their budget has no idea. That scares me.

*Heise* – I have some specific questions. With the Contingency & Reserve, it’s low. It should be 2 to 3% of the budget, or $4,000-$6,000. What you’ve shown is only $4,300, but at the top of the spreadsheet, you said $500.

*Kotovsky* – Realistically, we’re not going to burn through the $4,000. I’m using the $500 as a benchmark for the carryover. Realistically, we’re probably not going to spend more than $500.

*Heise* – That’s fine, but as a matter of prudence, we should have it as 2 to 3%. With regards to spending on Rollins Society, I’m going to make a motion to reduce the Rollins budget from $3,000 to $1,200. It’s worthwhile, but we fund several worthwhile endeavors. Frankly, we don’t need to fund eight graduate students per year.

*Kotovsky* – They suggested that it was going to be a one time fee, and then I’d be happy to cut them off.

*Heise* – I move to reduce the Rollins Soc. Budget from $3,000 to $1,200. *Mower* – second. If we’re going to take the money out of there, you should say where it should go.
*Heise* – I would intend that the $1,800 go to the contingency fund. So I’ll revise my motion to reduce the Rollins Budget from $3,000 to 1,200 and move the 1800 to the contingency budget.

*Culmer* – What’s Rollins’ historical spending?

*Kotovsky* – I don’t have that.

*Culmer* – I want to make sure we don’t horrendously affect them.

*Graham McCauley (Vice-President)* – I think they spent $1,500.

*Mower* – If this isn’t final, then what are we voting on?

*Shaun Dierker (Treasurer elect)* – We’re voting on a recommendation to reduce the budget. We can reduce or modify it next year.

*Culmer* – Normally, this happens before the April budget, so we just have estimates.

*McCauley* – I misspoke. It was closer to $2,000 to $2,500.

*Kotovsky* – We’ll have official numbers in June. I had to get estimates and project out. Some of these events, like RCAF, either hadn’t happened or we hadn’t gotten the bill yet.

*Perrin* – Your time has expired.

*Mower* – Motion for four minutes of extra discussion.

*Heise* – second

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

*Heise* – I would rather fund four travel awards than fund Rollins Society.

*Dierker* – As a general guideline, having numbers for this year might be more beneficial, and at the beginning of next year, we can bring it back up.

*Kotovosky* – They’re not going to make their spending final until second semester.

*Heise* – We can vote down the resolution, but $1,200 should be sufficient.

*McCauley* – I agree that it should go down.

Question called.

Motion passes by voice vote.
Heise – Programming and publicity has $5,000 listed for supplies. What is this for?

Kotovsky – I was just carrying on the current trend of programming and publicity.

Heise – I move that the programming and publicity supply budget be reduced from $5,000 to $2,000, with the reduction moved to the contingency budget. <Unknown> - second
Motion passes via voice vote.

Travel awards - Matt Kotovsky, Treasurer (5 minutes)

Sarah Zurhellen (Secretary) – So who has oversight of this?

Culmer – The finance committee.

Kotovsky – That’s actually not true.

Culmer – Matt Kotovsky and I have been talking about this, and there will be an amendment to the constitution proposed next September to define who has oversight.
State Issues Coordinator election - Chris Conant and Mike Martin, candidates (5 minutes)

Mike Martin

I’m a PhD student in Agricultural Education. I think there are two things to consider. First, do I have the experience to operate in GPC? I have been a student officer in national and regional committees. I volunteered time as a high school wrestling coach. I can dedicate and manage time to serve. Second, do I have the understanding of the position? I sat down with Luke Russell, and he explained the office to me. Obviously, I need to talk about things like the state reducing the percentage of its budget that goes to higher ed, but also legislation to protect renters from landlords who fail to return their deposit. I’m honored to have tied, and if elected, I will be honored to serve.

McCauley – Please join me in congratulating Mike Martin, our new State Issues Coordinator.

New Business

MSA/GPC/RHA/LBC Joint session - Kristofferson Culmer, President (10 minutes)

Culmer – We can’t change the language on these resolutions, because they aren’t our resolutions. What we can do is we can vote to support or not support the resolution. If we vote in favor, our name appears on it. If not, then our name doesn’t. If you see a small grammatical error, that’s fine, but if you have larger problems, then you should vote no.

Resolution WS 2011-1 - A Resolution Proposing that Residential Life Offer Gender Neutral Housing

McCauley – This is a resolution for the University to offer gender neutral housing. You would check a box saying you’re open to gender neutral housing. They’re not going to build new dorms or anything. They do this at 50 or 60 colleges and only 10 to 20 students are affected.

Heise – How does this affect graduate students?

Perrin – It doesn’t unless you live in campus housing.

McCauley – It affects us in that we would like to have an open, inclusive campus.

Mower – If you check those boxes, you don’t necessarily go to one of those suites. How does this create comfort between those who are LBGQT and those who aren’t if we segregate them?
McCauley – You could be an ally. This allows us to show support for the LBGTQ community.

Culmer – It doesn’t ask if you’re LBGTQ. It’s just that you’re fine rooming with anyone.

Heise – Does this mean that a boyfriend and girlfriend can get a room together? Is this like honors wings in dorms, or is this endorsing cohabitation?

McCauley – This is just asking ResLife to investigate it. At other universities, I don’t think it’s promoted for cohabitation.

Deepika Menon (Learning, Teaching & Curriculum) – If they choose this option, is the whole floor gender neutral, or how is this going to be?

McCauley – The way I understand it, it could be two people or 20, but I believe that it will be for suite-style housing.

Culmer – It will be suite style, so individuals living here would share living space. This isn’t to accommodate boyfriends and girlfriends living together. It’s an LGBTQ issue, though you can’t say that it’s an LBGTQ issue specifically in the policy.

McCauley – It’s saying to have a policy by 2012.

Heather Mosely (Education, Leadership, & Policy Analysis) – I move to adopt the resolution.
<Unknown> – Second
Motion passes by voice vote with one nay.

Resolution WS 2011-4 - A Resolution in Support of the Use of Open Access Materials at Mizzou

McCauley – Open access would reduce the costs of textbooks. Professionals in a particular area would produce a textbook and it would be available via open access, like open source computing. You usually get educational materials of the same caliber at a reduced cost. Harvard and Stanford have voted in favor of this.

Heise – This seems to be primarily an undergraduate issue. We use peer reviewed documentation that is not free. This needs to be reworded.

Mower – Open access materials are by no means acceptable, so we would be supporting something that is untrue. Second, there is no policy against publishing through open access.
**Zurhellen** – Graduate students in the humanities use a huge store of open access material we can use to create courses that we can’t access via departmental policies. If I can access all literature published before 1945, I can make my course free to students in a way that I can’t do now.

**Julia Earle (Biological Sciences)** – It says whenever available and appropriate, so it says we shouldn’t use it when it’s not appropriate to do so.

**Aaron Bunker (Biomedical Sciences)** – Motion to adopt the resolution. 
**Shetley** – second 
Motion passes 13-8 by hand vote with two abstentions.

**Resolution WS 2011-5 - A Resolution in Support of Residential Life Adding Cameras to Residence Halls**

**Culmer** – In some residence life halls, there are cameras on the exterior of the building, but not on others. This resolution asks residence life to have cameras on the exterior of all ResLife dorms.

**Heise** – My problem besides whether we needs to endorse it as graduate students, though we live in residence halls, is that it says at no cost to students or rise in student fees. Is there an explanation for that?

**Culmer** – Students in the residence halls would pay for it through residence halls fees, but it wouldn’t be an increase in general student fees.

**Heise** – I realize the process by which these come to us, but joint resolutions would be better crafted jointly.

**Jake Redell (Medical School)** – Motion to adopt the resolution. 
**Chavon Robinson (Human Development & Family Studies)** – second 
Motion passes by voice vote.


**McCaulay** – Resolution two and three are basically the same. Resolution two is to add a nondiscrimination policy to the M-Book and resolution three is to add a nondiscrimination policy to the University System handbook. We can decide to vote on both of them together. Basically, it says that hateful activities have repercussions.

**Mosely** – The M-Book resolution says that we should develop a more complete policy. Would the change come from the UM system policy?
Culmer – It likely would.

Heise – The University document should be voted down and a meaningful resolution with teeth should be passed.

Culmer – We will vote on them separately.

Mower – it’s irresponsible to put forth a clause asking someone else to do this instead of us doing it ourselves.

Culmer – I agree, but changing it would require another meeting of the joint session.

<Unknown> – What happens if we vote them down?

Culmer – Our name won’t appear on the resolution. We can always explain why, if it comes up. Any of these that we turn down, I will relate to whoever wrote it and suggest that it be provided to us in a more timely manner.

Mower – Motion to accept resolution WS 2011-2 (M-Book resolution)

Catherine Friel – second
Motion passes 14-6 via hand vote

Friel – Motion to accept resolution WS2011- 3 (UM code of conduct resolution)

Mary Chan – second
Motion fails via voice vote.

Resolution WS 2011-6 - A Resolution In Opposition to Raising Parking Meter Rates in Columbia

McCaulay – Rates would increase 10 cents per hour and hours for parking meters will be extended until 9:00 pm. This resolution opposes that.

Heise – Parking on University Street is 75 cents per hour, so university students are already being charged more than downtown parkers. This is also to drum up funds for a parking garage, including a hotel project that may be in some danger.

Mower – I care about voting this one down. Students are the reason that parking garages need to be built. At night, it’s all students downtown. Aside from the fact that students are the driving force behind parking, this could be taken offensively by small business owners downtown. GPC’s name being attached to this could be a real slap in the face.

Menon – I agree with Matt. If meter reading would be until nine, I think that would be a bad idea.
Shetley – They’re not only talking about increasing hours, but also, they’re talking about doubling ticket fees.

Heise – Motion to extend discussion three minutes.
Mower – second
Passed unanimously via voice vote.

Mower – This should be an MU issue. If we need cheaper parking, we should go to the university for this.

Zurhellen – Who in the city will care if we pass this?

Dierker – The University is the biggest employer in the city, so it pulls a lot of weight.

Perrin – We’re a voting group in the community, so we can go and voice our concern.

Mower – Motion to accept the resolution.
Friel – second
Motion fails via voice vote.

Resolution 1011-02 - Domestic Partner Benefits - Graham McCauley, Vice-President (5 minutes)

We need to vote to accept the changes and then vote on the resolution. The resolution moves to use the phrase Domestic Partner in the benefits section. The actual resolution is for the UM system to offer Domestic Partner benefits, but the resolution talks about our campus. The wording was confusing, so we changed it to say that from our perspective at Mizzou we want to see this, but we want to see it across all campuses. It has been passed in three other campuses and by MSA.

Heise – I’m in support of this. It’s not just for gay and lesbian partners, but also for straight partners. Just because you’re not married doesn’t mean you don’t have a domestic partner, and many Domestic Partner policies cover these relationships as well.

Mower – How will domestic partner be defined and enforced?

Culmer – That would be the system’s decision. This asks that the system create the policy, not recommending any particular policy. It would be up to HR to define Domestic Partner. I doubt they would make a definition that could change on a regular basis.

McCauley – I’m sure it would be a pretty conservative approach.
<Unknown> – At other colleges, you have to be legal domestic partners.

Mower – But the state doesn’t allow domestic partners.

McCauley – The City of Columbia does.

Redel – Are there any financial implications of this resolution, positive or negative?

McCauley – Not sure, but we say that cost should not be the determining factor in this. If it passes, it would make us more competitive.

Heise – Move to accept amendments to the resolution.
Mower – second
Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.

Heather Mosely – Motion to accept the resolution.
<Unknown> – second
Motion passes unanimously via voice vote.

**Officer reports**

State Issues Coordinator – Not present.

National Issues Coordinator – Not present.

Programming and Publicity – I’m Urme and I’m your new Publicity Planner. May 6th, we have an event at Bengals from 4-7. Tell your departments.

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – The treasurer’s report is contained in action items.

Vice-President – The West Boulevard campus visit went very well. It cost one quarter of one percent of our overall budget. It was a good thing for us, but more importantly, it was a good experience for the community. Next year, we should have a committee to plan this. We might be able to have a larger impact for less money.

President – Thanks for staying so long. I appreciate your support. Those of you with perfect attendance get a gift. The budget’s tight, but we appreciate your hard work. So, we have gift cards to the bookstore for you. I enjoyed working with you this year, and hopefully the next year will be exceedingly better. We’ll give our best for graduate students! Outgoing officers, I enjoyed working with you and you were great. If you’re a returning rep, send me an email at
krcd58@mail.missouri.edu. We’re going to do things differently next year, including perhaps opening our committees to all graduate students.

Liaison Reports

None.

Announcements

Heise – I have a report from the parking and transportation committee. We’re considering questions regarding how to have parking and permits for motorcycles, as well as talk of permanently closing Hitt St. and whether to extend closed campus hours. This is my last meeting, so things that I think are important and should be looked at are MSA fees and campus email issues.

Culmer – One last thing about our budget. MSA’s budget is $1.3 million. $1 million goes to MSA/GPC events, plays, student legal services, craft studio, etc. Graduate and Professional students can use them at no or reduced cost because of this. Our contribution is $100,000, so we’re only contributing a tenth. There needs to be investigation into where the money is going specifically, but but one thing outlined in our articles of cooperation is for our treasurer and theirs to go over the budget each year. My feeling is to get the most out of what we spend, and most graduate students are not aware of the services we offer. One thing is to make sure we get the most out of our money, and the other is to make sure people know about this.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary-elect