Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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 Business

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 provide $600 in funding to India Night.
- Motion to adjourn.

The following motions failed to pass:

- None.

The following motions were tabled until the next General Assembly meeting:

- None.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Brittany Perrin, Vice-President.

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

Adoption of Minutes

*Perrin* - Are there any errors, omissions, or corrections to be made to the minutes? Since there are no errors, omissions, or corrections, is there a motion to accept the minutes?

*Sarah Wolken (Fisheries & Wildlife)* - Motion to adopt the minutes. *Deepika Menon (Learning, Teaching, & Curriculum)* - Second. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

\(^1\) Motions to extend discussion are not included in this section.
Adoption of Agenda

*Perrin* - You should have received a copy of the agenda in an email last week. Are there any additions or corrections to the agenda as posted? Since there are no additions or corrections, is there a motion to accept the agenda?

*Milbre Burch (Theatre)* - Motion to adopt the agenda.
*Gary Glass (Rural Sociology)* - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Introduction and Welcome - Kristofferson Culmer, President (15 minutes)
Funding

- All students pay a student government fee.
- GPC receives the fees paid by graduate/professional students.
- GPC uses the funding to pay for programming and services that are of benefit to graduate/professional students.
- Budget ~ $225,000

Relationship to MSA

- GPC’s relationship to MSA is stated in the “MSA/GPC Articles of Cooperation” found in our bylaws.
- GPC co-sponsors campus-wide events and services with MSA.
- GPC currently contributes 50% of its student fee revenue to MSA to co-sponsor the activities.

Relationship to MSA – Auxiliaries

- MSA/GPC Box office
- Craft Studio
- KCOU
- MSA/GPC Tech
- MUTV
- RSVP Center
- Student Design Center
- Student Legal Services
- STRIPES

GPC Representation

- Provide a voice for graduate/professional students on all campus-wide Chancellor’s committees.
- Convenes a joint committee with MSA to review student fees (SFRG).
- Has a seat on Inter-Campus Student Council (ISC).
- Has a seat on the university Strategic Planning Committee (SPRAC).

Role of GPC reps

- Act as a liaison between GPC and respective departments.
  - Forward information via email.
  - Bring any student concerns back to the General Assembly.
- Be a voting member of the General Assembly.
- Serve on internal and external committees.

Meeting protocol

- Bob’s rules of order.
  - Must be recognized to speak. State name and department.
- Making a motion:
  - Page 11 of the GPC handbook.
  - Motions can be made to amend a recommendation before voting is held.
  - Once a motion is made to vote that motion must be voted on before another motion can be made.
General Funding Request - India Night (5 minutes)

**Cultural Association of India**

GPC Funding Request for 26th Annual India-Nite
Performance : 22nd October, 2011
Venue : Jesse Hall Auditorium, MU

**About CAI**

- The Cultural Association of India was established at MU on October 4, 1957
- Our objective is to foster the cultural heritage of India and to promote cross cultural understanding through various programs on campus and beyond

We have about 100 members currently, which includes about 71 graduate students and expect to increase this number every semester.

The major events we organize on campus include:
- **India-Nite** cultural extravaganza
- Diwali Dhamaka festival of lights dinner-dance
- India’s Republic Day Commemoration
- **SARGAM** Classical Dance & Music
- **Nail-Baishahi** festival of colors and the new harvest etc.

Of which India-Nite is the biggest event

**About India Nite**

- India-Nite is a gala show of the diverse culture of India, through song, dance, skit, instrumental music, fashion show and lots more ...
- Organized & performed by members of our organization.
- It is held in the Fall semester every year.
- This will be the 26th consecutive year of our successful staging of this mega-event this year.

**Benefits to graduate and professional students**

- India-Nite is a student-run annual event at MU since 1992.
- Most of the participants are graduate students.
- It provides organizational and administrative experience in program-planning, fund-raising, critical review of entries and execution of presentation on-stage in this mega-event.
- It also provides opportunity for students to express their talents in literary and performing arts through publication of a magazine and on-stage performances at the event.
- Presence of faculty/staff as advisors on the committees brings students and faculty in close interaction outside the classroom setting - is an added collateral benefit to recon.
- Also the students learn conflict resolution skills, to resolve conflicts that are often part of big projects like this one.

**Graduate students attending the event**

- India-Nite gets an overwhelming audience response from MU campus, Columbia and adjacent townships.
- The 1700 capacity Jesse Hall Auditorium gets full and overflowing with audience.
- Audience mix, though hard to account accurately, ~50% student (~500 graduates), 25% faculty/staff & 25% from the community would be a fair estimate of the audience at the India-Nite event.

**Budget Allocation**

- **Total = $4332 – (Excluding Costumes)**

**Sources of funds**

- $ 2,500.00 from the ORG (for venue)
- $ 232.00 from the ORG (for Ad)
- $ 600.00 seeking from GPC (for venue, see the budget)
- $ 200.00 from Chancellors Diversity Initiative (expected in August)
- $ 800.00 from our membership funds

**Plan to market this event**

- Advertisement in MANEATER and MU INFO mass e-mail
- KBIA Radio Announcements (courtesy, office of the Vice Provost)
- Tiger Guide, Fliers / Posters on campus, CAI e-mails
- On the web: International Center, CAI webpage, Facebook etc
Culmer - Graduate student organizations can apply for funds for programs that benefit graduate and professional students in some capacity. Usually, requests come in and the finance committee reviews them and recommends how much we should fund; we can fund all, a portion, or none of the requested amount. Because this is the first meeting and we don’t have a standing finance committee yet, the Executive Board reviewed the request. We recommend the full amount. We’ve funded India Night for as long as we can remember. Jesse hall is always packed and there are loads of graduate students. There’s also big community support for the event.

Perrin - Is there a motion on the floor to accept the $600 amount?
Burch - Motion to fund the full $600.
Seth Kurtenbach (Philosophy) - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Elections

Culmer - Our treasurer had to step down this summer, so the position is open. Here’s how this works: I’ll open the floor for nominations. We’ll accept nominations and seconds, and then close nominations. Candidates will have three minutes to address the General Assembly. Then, we’ll have a chance to give feedback; every candidate gets a chance for someone to speak on their behalf. If a candidate doesn’t have anyone to speak on their behalf, then endorsements will end with that round.

Nominees for Treasurer:
• Scott Thelan
• Eric Steege

Scott Thelan (Candidate for Treasurer) - I’m Scott Thelan and I’d like to serve as your Treasurer. A little bit about my background and why I feel I’d be the best candidate: I have a finance and business background. I graduated from MU with a degree in finance in 2010. I’m a second year MBA student, I teach Finance 1000, and I’m an investment analyst intern. I have a passion for finance. I find it intrinsically interesting. I also have the experience to be Treasurer. I’m currently the Treasurer for the MBA association, where I’ve worked hard to improve the organization’s financial stability. The organization was having trouble, but we’ve recapitalized and improved. GPC is in good financial health, but there are budget cuts coming. I have the fiscal management experience to make this difficult process smoother. I’m familiar with GPC; I was a representative last year, and I met with Shaun Dierker over the summer. I think this shows true desire to perform well. There are three things that I think are important: I want the job, so I’ll put in the time; I’ve had the responsibilities of the Treasurer in either a professional or organizational capacity; and I’m already familiar with GPC, so I’m ready to go today.

Eric Steege (Candidate for Treasurer) - Hi, I’m Eric Steege, and thanks for the opportunity to speak. My background makes me a strong, qualified candidate. I earned my undergraduate degree in 2004 from a small, liberal arts college. I’ve spent four years working in college administration and as a soccer coach, managing a $160,000 budget. I’ve served on student-athlete committees. I’m in the MBA program, which I started this summer and would like to parlay into an Athletic Director position. I was on the equivalent of the GPC board at West Virginia, where I earned another MBA. I’ve talked to GPC members, and I learned that last year, travel funds were a hot topic, especially transparency for travel funding. I want to work with GPC to market funding requests. I want to make it known that it’s available and make the process transparent. I want to balance the GPC budget and lobby for funds via SFRC. My experience makes me a strong candidate and I believe I could do a good job.
Culmer - Let’s have a round of applause for our new Treasurer, Eric Steege.

Perrin - With that, we conclude our new business and go to officer reports.

Officer reports

State Issues Coordinator - I’m Mike Martin, and I’m a Ph.D. student in the Agricultural Education department and your State Issues Coordinator. There were two big issues this summer. In May, the governor cut funding to Mizzou; this has ramifications for University funding. Second, the governor is pushing an initiative for performance based funding. We may not see the ramifications of this personally, but it will affect graduate and professional students down the line. I’d like to be reactive and work with legislators, and be proactive working with you to head off any issues before they’re a problem. If you have local issues or state issues that deal with higher education policy, talk to me. I also work with ASUM, the proactive arm of state government on campus. If you’re interested in working on anything I mentioned, email me.

National Issues Coordinator - I’m Luke Russell, I’m a Ph.D. student in the Human Development & Family Services department, and I’m the National Issues Coordinator. I spent the summer working with NAGPS to make sure that our graduate subsidy for loans wasn’t eliminated. That didn’t work. The outcome is that graduate students with loans will see those loans increase by about $500 per year. I’m talking to people in Washington and working with NAGPS to try and restore the subsidies. Personal stories work well, so if you have any, please send them to me. Ideally, we’ll see the subsidies restored. Other things I’m working on include open access to public research, increasing research funding, the Cleary act (which notifies students of crimes committed on campus)

Programming and Publicity - Hi! I’m Urme, and I’m the Programming and Publicity chair. I’m also an Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis Ph.D. student. I ran last spring on a couple of platforms. One was to foster communication with the student body. We get money from fees, so I want to honor that trust and spend our money wisely, as well as give reports on our expenditures. The other thing was to develop a publicity plan. Jake, Matt, and the rest of the Executive Board have been really good about engaging graduate and professional students. I’d also like to develop a service component to GPC; past Programming and Publicity chairs have been socially oriented because it’s hard to develop professional development opportunities that work for everyone. But, we can all do service. Finally, I’d like to grow GPC on campus.

Here’s the breakdown from our Quinton’s event last Thursday:
As far as efficiency goes, we’ve been doing well. With transparency, this will continue. Where do you fit in? Communication. Talk about GPC and what we do. Get ideas. You guys play an integral role in programming. We’re planning a mixer for next month after the General Assembly meeting so we can take you out and get to know each other. Don’t forget that we’re on Facebook and Twitter!

Secretary - I'm Jake Wright, and I'm the GPC secretary. This means I'm in charge of communication with GPC representatives, I chair the membership committee, and also the student affairs committee. Please don't forget to sign up for both an internal and external committee, and please, please, please remember to state your name and department when speaking. I didn't last year, and the old secretary yelled at me. I'll yell at you. Also, I'm in charge of food, so if you have any dietary restrictions, please let me know and I'll do everything I can to make sure that you have food at our meetings. Finally, if you have any particular place you'd like food from, let me know that, too. Otherwise, I'll just order what I want to eat.

Treasurer - No report.

Vice-President - I'm Brittany Perrin, and I'm the Vice-President. I went to undergrad here, and I'm really passionate about the university. The graduate population doesn't maybe take advantage of everything the university has to offer, and the university doesn't always reach out as much as it should. I want to make connections with the Alumni Association and other organizations to raise Mizzou spirit in the graduate school. Also, I'd like to run quick meetings; hopefully we can keep them at an hour or less and keep the efficiency going. If you have any questions about committees, talk to me. I'm in charge of committees, so I can help you pick one.

President - Thanks again for coming. To reiterate, we know your time is at a premium, so we're going to keep meetings at an hour whenever we can. The agenda is set out ahead of time. I can't stress publicity enough. Communication with your department is
critical; it’s what GPC is all about. The direction of GPC is vested in the General Assembly. The Executive Board spearheads the General Assembly, but the representatives bring issues, vote, and so on. The operation of GPC is in the General Assembly, not in the Executive Board. The Executive Board has worked extremely hard over the summer, especially Urme. She has been absolutely fantastic. You saw the event at Quinton’s; it was fantastic. If you didn’t see it, come to the next one and you’ll see. We’re going to work extremely hard this year. Your role as representatives is very important. The time you spend is very important. I get excited in here and talking about graduate oriented things; I want you to feel the same way. Thank you, guys.

Liaison Reports

None.

Announcements

*Matt Mower (Physics, Technology Coordinator)* - I’m Matt Mower, and I’m the Technology coordinator. I’m responsible for the website, which is still under construction. If you have events you want to add, email gpc@missouri.edu and it will get disseminated. Take a tour of the site, our Facebook page, and Twitter.

Adjournment

Perrin - If there are no more announcements, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Wolken - Move to adjourn.

Kristina Haug (Agricultural Education) - Second.

Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary