Summary of Business

The following motions\(^1\) were passed by the General Assembly during the meeting:

- Motion to adopt the minutes.
- Motion to adopt the agenda.
- Motion to provide $600 in funding to the Coalition for Cultural Competence.
- Motion to adjourn.

The following motions failed to pass:
- Motion to table the Coalition for Cultural Competence’s funding request.

The following motions were tabled until the next General Assembly meeting:
- None

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Eric Steege, Treasurer and Acting Vice-President for the November General Assembly meeting.

*Eric Steege (Acting Vice-President)* - Please bear with me as I’m pinch hitting tonight. As a friendly reminder, please remember to state your name and department when speaking.

Adoption of Minutes

*Steege* - The first order of business is the adoption of the minutes. Are there any errors, corrections, omissions, or amendments? Since there are no errors, omissions, or amendments, is there a motion to accept the minutes?

*Kristina Haug (Agricultural Education)* - Motion to adopt the minutes.
*Gary Glass (Rural Sociology)* - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

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

Steege - The next order of business is the adoption of the agenda, which was sent out last week. The Women’s Law Association is unable to attend tonight, so I would like to entertain a motion to amend the minutes accordingly.

Sarah Wolken Kendrick (Fisheries and Wildlife) - Motion to amend the agenda such that the Women’s Law Association is removed.
Milbre Burch (Theatre) - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Burch - Motion to accept the agenda as amended.
Rebecca Benson (Classical Studies) - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

Grants and funding for graduate students - Bob Glidewell
10 minutes

Steege - The first item of business is a presentation by Bob Glidewell on grands and funding for graduate students. You have ten minutes.
Why Grants?

Intangible Benefits:
- Focus on your career
- What do you want to do with your PhD?
- Explore new or old areas of interest
- How do I get there from?
- Grant experience can be beneficial when seeking a position in both academia and other professional positions.

Some Possible Funders
- National Science Foundation
- National Institute for Health
- Institute of Management Accountants
- NASDAQ Stock Market Educational Foundation PhD Dissertation Fellowship
- Juran Fellowship & Juran Doctoral

First Steps
- Need to get written approval from your academic advisor
- Start well ahead of the deadline for submission to the sponsor
- Meet with the grant writer/facilitator

Areas of Exploration
- Preliminary Work
- Time Management and Organization
- Proposal Writing
- Budget Development
- Other

Preliminary Work
- Find funding opportunities & sponsors
- Study and condense guidelines
- Do background research
- Find collaborators
- Promote grant talking before grant

Proposal Writing
- Do research
- Provide models
- Help draft narratives**
- Help translate narratives into the appropriate "grantese"

Proposal Writing
- Help review and edit drafts
- Promote aesthetics
- Keep everyone honest

Budget Development
- Match dollars to project scope
- Help create basic budget framework
- Research item costs
- Assist writing budget justifications
Bob Glidewell (Office of Grant Writing) - I want to answer your questions and address your concerns. Additional information can be found at research.missouri.edu. Any questions?

Burch - What was the Joran grant?
Glidewell - It’s a grant for business management. Some grants are more like awards; for example, the Kauffman foundation used to offer a $15,000 grant for dissertation research. It was an award, because you could use it however you wanted. Other grants are more specific on how you can use the money.

Burch - Are there no grants for the humanities?

Glidewell - There are humanities grants out there. Those are handled primarily through the College of Arts and Sciences, but they’ve asked us to look for other sources of funding.

Steege - Thank you for your time.

Graduate student insurance plan - Karen Gruen
15 minutes

Karen Gruen (Student Insurance Office) - I don’t have a presentation; I’m here to answer your questions. I know there’s some controversy about the cost of flu shots. I talked to Dana over at the Student Health Center about this. Student insurance is accident and sickness insurance, not preventative care. Flu shots and other immunizations are preventative care. So, flu shots are $15.

Luke Russell (National Issues Coordinator) - What does the Student Health Center cover?

Gruen - Often, there’s no charge for lab work. If there’s an accident or an illness, they’ll submit a claim to AETNA. In the interim, you’ll be charged on your student account, and when AETNA approves the charge, there will be a credit to your student account.

Jake Wright (Secretary) - I’ve submitted claims in the past and have had a long time pass between submission and reimbursement. Is anything being done to speed up this process?

Gruen - Stay on top of your submissions and make sure it’s been submitted. There’s a website, AETNA Navigator, where you can check the status of claims yourself. If you have a question and you’re not registered, see an insurance rep in the Health Center. Their job is to help you understand your insurance and help you file claims.

Benson - How does insurance work with prescriptions not immediately related to illness?

Gruen - Check with Dana. They have a certain amount, $1,500 per policy year, that they will cover. I don’t think there’s a formula to determine what is and isn’t related; they just cover prescriptions for certain things.

Sara Alva Lizarraga (Agricultural Economics) - So, the benefit is $1,500 per prescription. What about doctor’s visits where you haven’t paid the Student Health Fee?
Gruen - At that point, it would be fee-for-service. If you have questions, call the Student Health Center. If you're enrolled for more than seven credit hours, you're automatically charged the Student Health Fee. If you haven't gotten charged for it for some reason, check with the cashier's office to straighten that out.

Benson - Are all vaccines out of pocket expenses?

Gruen - It goes back to the reason behind the insurance. Those with chronic conditions like asthma have the flu vaccine covered. Again, check with the Student Health Center.

Kendrick - I just got a tetanus shot, and it was out of pocket.

Benjamin Moore (Soil and Atmospheric Science) - People in my department have had trouble getting reimbursed. AETNA has been hard to work with. Are there any plans to look at other insurance companies?

Gruen - I've been here for 13 years and started working with graduate insurance in 2000. In that time, we've been through three companies. We work with a liaison company to help us determine what insurance to offer. I believe we're in the last year of our contract with AETNA, after which it may go out to bid. We will be presented options, and the office of risk management will work with the liaison company to assess the options. Health care reform will impact student insurance, though we're not sure how yet. One concrete benefit of health care reform is that you can now be on your parents' insurance until you're 26.

Ryan Rich (At Large) - How does being on your parents' health insurance help?

Gruen - Our insurance has a $250,000 lifetime benefit limit. Obamacare says there can't be a limit. Your insurance premium is separate from your student health fee.

Burch - Does the insurance cover HPV vaccination for men, women, and children old enough to get it?

Gruen - Probably not, because no other vaccinations are covered. If you want to know for sure, talk to the insurance rep in the Student Health Center. If you have any other questions, email me. We have a meeting in February to go over the health options. GPC usually sends a representative to that meeting.

Estee Hausman (Psychological Sciences) - X-rays and other services are sometimes billed separately. How does that process work?

Gruen - As far as I know, anything done at the Student Health Center can be billed through your student charge. Check with the Student Health Center. If you send them an email, they'll respond.
**Benson** - Can the Student Health Center bill other insurance?

**Gruen** - Yes.

**Matt Mower (Physics/Technology Coordinator)** - Have grad students been involved in the bid process in the past and would such involvement be possible in the future?

**Gruen** - We invited students for the last bid meeting. We’ve had students coming to review meetings or the past five years. At the last one, we talked about a menu of services and how those services would impact the fee. For example, raising the insurance benefit would raise the insurance premium. Students at that meeting felt that this was the best plan for the cost. If you have any issues, please let me know. I'll bring them forward.

**Deepika Menon (Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum)** - If we take seven credit hours, the Student Health Fee is already deducted. Is the same true for international students?

**Gruen** - Yes.

**Menon** - Later in the dissertation period, we take fewer hours.

**Gruen** - You still have the insurance. It’s mandatory for international students. You don’t have the Student Health Fee. You would have to do fee-for-service. Your deductible in that case would also go from $100 to $250.

**Steege** - You’re out of time.

**Gruen** - My mail is on the website, so please email me with questions.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Steege** - Since there are no items of Old Business, we will move on to New Business. Our first item of new business is a general funding request from the Coalition for Cultural Competence.

**General Funding Request: Coalition for Cultural Competence - Jasmine Tilghman and Ran Zhao**

5 minutes
John Hegarty (Neuroscience) - On the funding portion, you said that $3,500 has been accounted for, and you said that you have other contributions. How much of the outstanding need is accounted for?

Ran Zhao (Coalition for Cultural Competence) - Other money has come from personal contributions.
Jasmine Tilghman (Coalition for Cultural Competence) - Some people have given personal donations of $100.

Steege - Have you gotten the money in your presentation, or has it been applied for?

Tilghman - We’ve received it.

Haug - How much of a funding need is there?

Zhao - We haven’t gotten numbers from our fiscal officer yet.

Tilghman - This has already happened, so we’re assuming that we haven’t received anything. Our fiscal officer will let us know if we get anything.

Haug - So this is your outstanding need?

?? - You said you got donations, but you didn’t get them?

Tilghman - We’ve emailed solicitations for donations and gotten some responses.

?? - So you’ve gotten pledges, but no actual money?

Tilghman - Yes.

Steege - The Finance Committee recommends funding the full amount. We thought the event covered several departments, had pretty good advertising, and record attendance. Is there any discussion?

Sean Grove (Public Affairs) - If they’re asking for $600 out of $700 outstanding, I don’t feel comfortable allocating anything if they don’t know what their need actually is. What if they get a $500 donation from someone and they turn a profit on this event? I recommend tabling it until next month so they can provide more information.

Hegarty - I agree.

Steege - Organizations ask for fundraising in advance of events, and you don’t always know if or when money will roll in. This isn’t an abnormal situation. This could happen with any general funding request that solicits donations.

Andrew Bisto (Sociology) - One of our goals as GPC is to promote events like this. I think we should fund this event regardless of other funding sources.

Burch - It’s not unusual for students who put this together to send out an email, get responses that this is a great idea, and never get anything. It may behoove us to have their financial officer bring a funding statement to us to know what the need is. It seems
there’s a communication issue here and we need to be clearer about what we need from them. I wouldn’t say we shouldn’t fund them because they might get money from somewhere else.

Mary Shannon Williams (Information Science and Learning Technology) - I attended the event, so I’ll put out some information and you can do with it what you will. I was part of a class that was required to attend. This class was 17 people. I think that GPC should support these endeavors. I think that his being prominent in his field is good for the university. As far as his presentation, he didn’t tell us anything we didn’t already know. There are pros and cons. I was there, he’s almost 80 years old, and he was engaging. But he didn’t say anything we didn’t know.

Seth Kurtenbach (Philosophy) - It seems like the worry is that if they get money from other places, our $600 will give them a profit. But, we can meet their request with the understanding that, if they turn a profit, our money has to go to future events and future funding requests will factor this in. I don’t see how our options are simply to scale this down or they turn a profit. I think we should grant them the $600 in the interest of working with them in the future.

Hegarty - The question isn’t whether we should fund them. It’s communication with their financial officer. It sounds like they’re not sure if the money has come in or not.

Kristofferson Culmer (President) - These requests usually happen prior to the events occurring. They could have requested this money in October. They would have still sent out requests for support. We wouldn’t have been able to ask that question then, but they still would have had the opportunity to take in more money than the cost of the program. Since this is after the fact, we could ask for verification from their financial officer. If you want more proof, make it a stipulation by amending a time frame to the motion.

Grove - I move that we table this request with a provision requiring more information from their financial officer.
Glass - Second.
Motion to table fails by hand vote.

Kendrick - Motion to fund the full amount.
Kurtenbach - Second.
Motion passes via voice vote.

Lizarraga - Can they still bring financial information to the next meeting so we can know what happens?
Steege - We can ask.

Wright - Given the motion that just passed, they’re under no obligation to provide any further information.
General Funding Request: Multicultural Hour Coordinator - Gene Chuang
5 minutes

Eric Steege (Treasurer) - The Finance Committee reviewed their application and recommend the full $500 that they requested. It’s a successful event and attracts a good percentage of graduate students.

Perrin - Is there any discussion?

John Hegarty (Neuroscience) - Is this event redundant with any other multicultural events we’re already funding?

Steege - I don’t know.

Culmer - Redundancy isn’t something that counts against an application. We have a recurring funding policy; you have to reapply each year. They apply each year and we’ve funded them every year in the past because they have a good application and have a good event.

Roller - Move to fund the full $500.
Amanda Gray (Education Leadership & Policy Analysis) - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

At Large Representative Elections
5 minutes

Culmer - GPC allocates At Large representatives for the General Assembly. There is one at large representative for each 500 graduate and professional students or fraction thereof. We just got our enrollment figures, so we have sixteen total slots. Department representatives report back to their departments and At Large representatives do not. Otherwise, At Large representatives have all of the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as Department Representatives.

Wright - We have 12 open slots available.

Menon - I nominate Chris Owens, from the Physics department.
?? - Second.
Chris Owens accepts the nomination.

Grove - I nominate Emily Kraft.
?? - Second.
Emily Kraft accepts the nomination.
Menon - Can the same person nominate two people?

Culmer - Yes.

Menon - I nominate Dane Schaeffer, from Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum.

??? - Second.

Dane Schaeffer accepts the nomination.

Chris Owens - Hi. I was here at the first meeting. I’m from the Physics department and want to be the next Department Representative after Matt graduates. So, that’s why I’m here.

Emily Kraft - I’m a first year and would love to put to use what I learn in my graduate studies with GPC.

Dane Schaeffer - I’m a fourth year. I’m interested in the insurance aspect because I worked in insurance for 20 years before becoming a graduate student.

Culmer - All in favor of electing the candidates by acclimation, signify by saying aye.

Chris Owens, Emily Kraft, and Dane Schaeffer were elected At Large Representatives by unanimous acclamation.

Officer Reports

Technology Coordinator - No report.

State Issues Coordinator - I’m the liaison for ASUM, which is like the state issues committee for the entire UM system. We’re having a voter registration drive in January. Our goal is to educate and engage; we have to be politically neutral, and we want to educate students about the primary and caucus system. If you’re interested in helping, please let us know. We have an upcoming dinner with a legislator, date to be announced. We’re also reaching out the League of Women Voters to increase voter participation.

The Agricultural Education department founding budgeting options for travel funding confusing, so we put a document together. This is a template for travel and points out some funding sources. There are qualifiers, but it’s still helpful. This has been posted to the website. If you have any questions, shoot me an email.

National Issues Coordinator - This weekend, Matt, Kristofferson, and I were in Boulder for the NAGPS conference. I want to give you a brief rundown of the benefits NAGPS offers. If you don’t have insurance, you can get it from United HealthCare through NAGPS. You can stay on the insurance for 18 months after you graduate. This is available to anyone with a graduate or professional degree from MU. There are also
other benefits, like 50% off a subscription to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and a Job Bank.

As far as national issues go, I wasn’t here last month because I was in Washington, D.C. for Legislative Action Days. I met with representatives from Speaker Boehner’s office, Nancy Pelosi’s office, and Democratic and Republican leaders from the Senate about graduate issues. This is mostly the Javits Fellowship and OpenAccess issues. President Obama wants to combine the Javits Fellowship with other grants that are provided to universities and not students. A Republican budget bill combined the two programs and then eliminated the funding. We’re involved in rapid response to try and restore it. This is the only federal benefit for Social Science, Humanities, and Arts graduate students. We’re also working on H1B visas for graduate and professional students. NAGPS is trying to get tax exempt status for graduate student stipends. The White House opened a petition for this. If they can get 25,000 signatures, they’ll respond formally. At last count, there were 6,000 signatures. Please go to the site, register, and sign. Tell your department to do the same. The address is wh.gov/Tgl.

*Burch* - Did the Javits Fellowship go away?

*Russell* - The situation is still unfolding. The Fiscal Year 2012 budget still hasn’t passed. None have been awarded, because of the uncertainty. It’s not clear if the programs really combine or how that will look in the end. We’re talking to the Department of Education, and the situation is ongoing.

*Lizarraga* - Is the insurance for all students, even internationals?

*Russell* - I think so, yes.

**Programming and Publicity** -

![GPC Programming & Publicity Expenditures](image1)

![General Assembly Mixer](image2)

- Total Attendance = 10
- Event Total = $281.75
- Per Person Cost = $28.17
- Notes: Low attendance -> High per person cost; plans in place to increase attendance next semester
RCAF is March 17th and will last all day. We need volunteers. There is a signup sheet and a recommendation sheet in the back. If you know anyone who would be willing to come to Columbia, please put down their name and institution. If you’d be willing to volunteer, please sign up.

**Burch** - T-shirts? When do we see them?

**Culmer** - We want to do something new to market GPC. Marketing materials won’t eat up the budget, but we want to have them.

**Burch** - Will these be given away at events?

**Urme Ali (Programming and Publicity Chair)** - We’ll use these at graduate orientation days, as presents, and something to have around to give out and publicize GPC. They’re very low cost; the t-shirts cost $6 a piece.
Burch - Can you say more about RCAF?

Ali - There's information on the website. It's a forum where students give presentations regarding their research. We invite faculty from the state to give their feedback and be discussants. We give awards for the top three places in six categories. We're considering adding a Job Talk category.

Kendrick - Anyone can do this? Will there be a call for papers?

Ali - Absolutely. Right now, we're looking for faculty and volunteers, but there will be a call for papers in January.

Lizarraga - Anything for suggestions?

Ali - We'll be working really hard in December. Email me or write down a person's name if you have a suggestion.

Secretary - No report, but two requests. New At Large Representatives, please sign in so I can get your email added to the distribution list. Also, please remember to state your name and department when speaking.

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Requested help from GPC Assembly:

- Help spread word that Travel Awards are competitive and that not every applicant gets funded.
- The next GPC travel award application deadline is February 10, 2012.
Treasurer - I'd like to provide a brief update on travel award allocations (pictured above). The Finance Committee worked very hard with application review.

Williams - What’s the turnaround for getting money?

Steege - You can apply for funding retroactively through February 3rd for this period. The upcoming period is part of the fall semester through part of the spring semester. We’re trying to help the applicant; if they don’t get an award, they can reapply. We can also reallocate unused funds.

Hausman - What contributes to scoring highly?

Steege - We can’t answer specific questions, but the biggest thing is that the application needs to be complete. There are guidelines on the website and we’ll be posting a best practices document there shortly.

Vice-President - Absent. No report.

President - After every allocation period, we get emails from people with questions about why they were rejected. A lot of people are under the impression that all who apply get funding. This is not the case; it’s a competitive award. There are only so many specifics we can give while still respecting the integrity of the process. For example, if the problem is with the letter of recommendation, we can’t tell you. Eric can’t meet with everyone and go over their applications line by line. We’re not trying to mess with people; we’re trying to maintain the integrity of the process.

As Luke said, we attended NAGPS. What Luke didn’t say is that he was awarded the NAGPS President’s Award for outstanding service nationwide. NAGPS offers four awards on an annual basis, so this is a tremendous achievement. Luke and I are on the executive board for the NAGPS South Central region. We also gave a presentation about GPC and what we do. It was very well received.

It’s very important that we have the support of the representatives for RCAF. We need people to volunteer, even if you only have an hour or two. There are presentations during the day and dinner at night.

Next academic year is our 30th anniversary. I don’t know what we’re going to do, but we’re going to do something. If you’re interested in serving on the anniversary committee, let me know.

Relative to other student governments, we’re in good shape. This is a testament to you guys as the representatives and the Executive Board.

Liason Reports
Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Grove - Motion to adjourn.
Gray - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary