Graduate Professional Council  
General Assembly Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2011

Note: Slides provided to 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 adopt the agenda.
- Resolution 1112-02 - A Resolution affirming GPC’s support of the development of Federal Open Access Policies.
- 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 6:05 pm by Eric Steege, Treasurer and Acting Vice-President for the November General Assembly meeting.

*Eric Steege (Acting Vice-President)* - As a friendly reminder, please remember to state your name and department when speaking. Jake would like it if you do.

*Jake Wright (Secretary)* - Yes, I would.

**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?

\(^1\) Motions to extend discussion are not included in this section.
Kristina Haug (Agricultural Education) - Motion to adopt the minutes.  
Dane Schaffer (At Large) - Second.  
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Adoption of Agenda

Steege - The next order of business is the adoption of the agenda, which was sent out last week. Are there any errors, corrections, omissions, or amendments? Since there are no errors, omissions, or amendments, is there a motion to accept the minutes?

Milbre Burch (Theatre) - Motion to accept the agenda.  
Amanda Grey (Education Leadership and Policy Analysis) - Second.  
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

Department of Information Technology (DoIT) - Kevin Bailey  
10 minutes

Steege - The first item of business is a presentation by Kevin Bailey, from the Department of Information Technology. You have ten minutes.

Kevin Bailey (DoIT) - Thanks for letting me come. Kristofferson has spoken to us regarding IT issues, and I’d like to address them. The first thing is student email. In 2009, the University switched to Outlook Live. We’ve received some reports of mass emails not being delivered; we’re working on that and hope to have a solution quickly. This fix has a January time frame. Second, there are reports of wireless access issues. We’ve had a difficult semester on the wireless front. Thing should have become more stable in mid to late October. Wireless controllers in several buildings were reaching the end of their lifespan. We’re replacing them, but we’ve moved to a different vendor over the summer. At the beginning of the fall semester, 9,000 wireless devices attempted to connect to the network and it didn’t work. Three of the five servers we bought had known hardware issues. New servers were installed in mid October, but we’re still not quite where we should be. The wireless issues we had last week have been solved. Another problem is that in large lecture rooms, we’re reaching critical mass with students needing access to wireless. We’re working with CISCO to develop an architecture that will allow more density. Hopefully, this will be in place in some auditoriums in the Spring Semester. It’s been a difficult semester, and we apologize. Are there any questions?

Wright - I appreciate that you’re working on the wireless, but there are a ton of problems in Strickalnd Hall, where my office is. I can’t connect to the wireless when I have line of sight on two wireless routers. When is this issue going to be fixed?
**Bailey** - This is part of the hybrid mode we’re running under now. We’re trying to fix this as soon as possible. We’re testing the code before subjecting users to it.

**Jiang Dong (Business Administration)** - I tried to log in to Hotmail and the student email, but there’s a conflict. Is there a solution?

**Bailey** - Contact the help desk and our Outlook support will contact you directly.

**Dong** - What about wired ports? They don’t always work.

**Bailey** - Sometimes, they’re turned off. It’s a mixture of how IT is handled on this campus. How wired ports are handled differs from department to department, but we’re trying to standardize this. Hopefully, it will be fixed in the future. The last issue, and this has gone before MSA, is a Microsoft program called Student Option. This program gives access to Microsoft products to students for a very low price. They way you normally stay up to date is through Best Buy or the bookstore. Microsoft is removing our license to sell through the bookstore, which means prices will go up. Alternatively, we could set a $100 charge per student. We’re trying to work through this right now. If we can get support, then we’ll get this in place for incoming freshmen in the Spring semester. Feedback on the program has been positive. If you have any questions, call the helpdesk at 882-5000. I understand things get frustrating.

**Matt Mower (Physics/Technology Coordinator)** - I have a couple of questions. Display names in email are set with a mandatory MU STUDENT tag. Many graduate students consider this unprofessional. Are there plans to allow customization to remove the tag?

**Bailey** - Good suggestion. I'll take it back to the department. This is done through PeopleSoft, though, so I'll have to check with them.

**Mower** - I have one more question about Bengal hosting and departmental hosting on campus. It’s still running PHP 5.1, which is really old. Are there any plans to update it soon?

**Bailey** - Yes. We’re working with developers and communications on campus. We’ve finalized the technology staff for the posting service, but the equipment is life-cycled. New servers will be built in January or February and we’ll begin migrating over after that.

**Mower** - So, starting in January or February means going live around June?

**Bailey** - We need to decide how the changes will go, but yes.
Steege - Our next action item is a presentation from Julie Dorn of Boys and Girls Town of Columbia. You have ten minutes.

Julie Dorn (Boys and Girls Town of Columbia) - We’re here because of a connection with Urme regarding holiday time and children we have in our care and custody. In the process of reaching out, we’re looking for support to make a brighter season for families in our care. Let me give you an overview of what Boys and Girls Town is. We’re a full service campus with 54 kids as of 3:00 today living in our care without parents or families. Most of them are in the custody of the state. They’ve been removed from their homes for a number of reasons, but it’s usually due to neglect or abuse. We run the gamut regarding ages. One alarming statistic that always gets me is that when kids arrive on our campus, they’ve been placed an average of 11 times before they get to us. They just don’t know consistency and love. When we get them, there’s a lot of damage that’s been done. They have a family therapy team with individual and group therapy. We partner with Columbia Public Schools for kids that aren’t able to function in schools to continue learning on our campus. Most kids function a few years below where they should be at. We take each kid as they come and build a plan to get them in a positive place. The average length of a stay on our campus is eight months. It goes fast, and these kids have a lot to work through. We try to find them a place to go when they leave. We work hard and there’s an amazing staff with thankless jobs. I have the easy job; I have candy in my office when they’ve had a good day. I’m here to create awareness. We often get confused with Boys and Girls Clubs, which is a great group, but we’re different. We have an entire division focused on community outreach. We do foster care case management. We have preventative services. We’re expanding our services. We’re one of the few nonprofits that can say that. We know we’re doing on both the business and human sides. We have other campuses in St. James, Springfield, and St. Louis. We’re just focusing on growing support in the areas we’re in. We’ve been in Columbia since 2001 and grown tenfold since then. We’re looking to do some campus makeovers, and we’ll be asking for more than Christmas presents soon. But right now, we’re just looking to make Christmas special for these kids. We’d love to give tours if you’re interested. The kids have made wish lists and we’ve gone through them with the kids. It’s humbling because most of them are asking for what they need, rather than what they want. They want new underwear and socks that fit. We’re just asking for groups to come together and help us out. Are there any questions?

Sage Buckner (Veterinary Medicine) - Who are the staff and how many are there per child?

Dorn - We have 118 staff, including part time staff. A lot of the staff is on call 24/7. We have development, a resident director, and therapists. Each cottage has a therapist, supervisor, youth care supervisors, and other staff. It’s a 1:6 ratio. We’re a level four agency, which means we are the highest security. Kids don’t run away, though, because they feel safe. We have social work degrees, masters in counseling and child
development. We have a full time nurse and a part time nurse. A psychiatrist on campus meets with kids once a week. Most kids are on one medication, if not two or three. In some cases, staff have high school degrees, but when they do, there are a series of tests that must be passed. The training is extreme. We don’t believe in isolating a child and telling them to work out their issues. We work with kids and talk to them about what’s going on. Sometimes it take a long time. They’ve been through a lot.

Steege - We have time for one more question.

Aimee Koon (Art History and Archaeology) - Do you prefer monetary donations or gifts?

Dorn - Urme will talk to you guys about the process. Throughout the year, though, we have fundraising events. We’d love to have college students come and help us out. Thanks.

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 Resolution in Support of Open Access.

RESOLUTION 1112-02: A Resolution affirming GPC’s support of the development of Federal Open Access Policies - Luke Russell (National Issues Coordinator) 5 minutes

Luke Russell (National Issues Coordinator) - This is a brief resolution giving our support to getting open access to research. The White House has been working with a committee on how to get journal articles published using government funding released to the general public. Usually, these articles are through a paywall, which means we pay for it twice. It’s really expensive. Open Access would make it possible for everyone to have access to these articles. After we graduate, we can stay updated without having to pay. The White House sent out a Request For Information. They’re interested in hearing from students, academics, etc. The due date for the RFI is January 2nd. They’ve hired a consulting company to look at responses. NAGPS and SPARC are trying to get as many high quality responses as possible. There’s an eight point outline that explains why it’s good, helpful, important, productive, and so forth. This resolution says that GPC is in support of Open Access. We think it could be valuable. It touches on encouraging our body to talk to students who are in support of Open Access to submit a personal response. I’ll be putting this on our website regarding the details. Basically, I’d ask that you address the eight points, email it to me, and I’ll send it out.
The resolution says that GPC supports Open Access and the GPC Executive Board will submit a response in favor.

*Kristofferson Culmer (President)* - Are there any questions? Can we vote?

*Mary Shannon Williams (Information Science and Learning Technologies)* - Will we see what you put together before January second?

*Russell* - Probably not. We won’t have a General Assembly meeting before it's due.

*Culmer* - This resolution gives the Executive Board the authority to draft a letter. The reason we’ve presented you with this is for us to speak on behalf of graduate students, we need a resolution allowing us to do so.

*Russell* - We’ll make the letter public once it's complete. We're not going to keep it a secret.

*Culmer* - Once we vote in favor, the Executive Board will write a letter in support. Luke is open to input and you’ll see the finished product.

*Srijita Dhar (Medical Pharmacology and Physiology)* - Would other departments that would like to support this contact you?

*Russell* - Yes, and I'll put the information on the website. I'll be writing three responses - GPC, NAGPS, and a personal response. We want as many responses as possible.

*Culmer* - Individually, departments are encouraged to write their own. The more, the better.

*Russell* - It’s a numbers game, but the responses need to be high quality.

*Burch* - So you’re going to put some resources up on the website for how to get this done?

*Culmer* - Jake will send out an email with information once it’s posted. The information will be made available.

*Simone Temporal (Proxy Representative for Biological Sciences)* - Offhand, this sounds nice, but does it require funding? I don’t want publishers to pass on fees to the authors in order to get published.

*Russell* - There’s a question of how we do this without publishing companies making a profit. PubMed operates under this model where there’s a six month waiting time. Most of the suggestions I’ve seen is that we retain the waiting time, but afterwards, the research becomes available. Maybe it would be ideal to have that information out there,
but it’s something to be aware of. Maybe we should have a waiting period; there will be a tradeoff.

_Culmer_ - Can I entertain a motion to vote?

_Rebecca Benson (Classical Studies)_ - Motion to accept the resolution.
_Burch_ - 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. Are there any At Large candidates?

_Kyle Denlinger (Library Science)_ - I nominate Alex Mudd.
_Mower_ - Second.

_Alex Mudd_ - I’m Alex Mudd, and I’m a graduate student in Information Science and Learning Technology getting a master of arts with an emphasis in Library Science. I came at Kyle’s request to get involved in Open Access issues.

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

Alex Mudd was elected At Large Representative by unanimous acclamation.

**Officer Reports**

**Technology Coordinator** - No report.

**State Issues Coordinator** - The Faculty Senate is meeting regarding performance funding indicators. All future money from the state will be based on output. Since MU is research and graduate heavy, we’ll have an extra goal of research, output, or both. No further money is expected from the state. In December, we’ll find out what our goal is, but don’t expect extra money.

**National Issues Coordinator** - No report.

**Programming and Publicity** - There’s no formal budget report this month. We had one event, Trivia Night, and we spent $1,000. The report will be posted online. You all got a letter regarding fundraising for Boys and Girls Town. Has anyone started fundraising? We need you to be diligent about it; it’s a great cause. There’s nothing more to say
about it. You know it’s worthwhile. We wanted to do this to increase our service component. Hopefully, this will get bigger and become something that sustains itself. Please go to your departments and ask for money. An email was sent out to you and I and sent it out to my department. I’ve added a message that I’ll come around and ask for money. If everyone gets money, we can help these kids. The deadline is next Friday. If you have checks, they can go in the GPC mailbox. We prefer checks and not cash; it’s easier to account for. Checks should be made out to the university.

Burch - What was the subject in the email?

Wright - Boys and Girls Town Christmas Drive.

Urme Ali (Programming and Publicity) - RCAF is coming, and we’ll be asking for your help. Please tell your colleagues. Fliers will be going out this week. Attendance has been an issue in the past and we want that to change. Dr. Justice has identified it as something that needs to be changed. Our idea is that if you present, you need to stay for two or three presentations. But, we want to open that up to you and see how we can bolster attendance. We are going to say that in order to present, you must attend the banquet. What do you think?

Buckner - I’m concerned that mandating might decrease volunteers for presentation.

Culmer - Have any of you presented at RCAF? It’s a conference to present works in your discipline. Typically, it’s been spread out across the Life Science Center, but we want to make it more of an event. You get experience without cost; it’s a line on your CV and it gives you exposure. We try to get a wide range of faculty to get honest feedback. But, we want it to be more of an event, so it will be in the Student Center in a more contained, smaller area. But, we need bodies there. If we mandate that people stay, it’s an hour of your time and you can win some money. We’re putting a tremendous amount of resources to make this big, but we need your support. There will be a cocktail hour with the students and the judges. We’re trying to make this a professional event. The first thing we came up with was to make people stay. Is this too much?

Williams - I don’t think you need a mandate. Common courtesy might work. Can you do drawings or something? Work with the theme, but have door prizes. They’re remarkably motivating. Will there be sessions throughout the day? Have drawings every two hours or something. Find cool things. I’ve seen some cool things we might be able to get without much cost.

Mower - Normally, you don’t leave after your presentation. Could we block presentations and not tell people when the fall?

Culmer - That might now work.

Ali - That will scare them.
Koon - If our goal is to create a professional conference, professional conferences are not about door prizes and being polite. Maybe we should get keynote speakers. Have judges with names people recognize. I know that’s a lot of money, but if we have connections, maybe we could make it for free as a favor.

Burch - It would help me if I knew what time it began and ended.

Culmer - We intentionally didn’t put info on the website until we got your opinion.

Burch - What did you say about judges?

Culmer - We get judges from all over the state, so you’re not presenting in front of your advisors.

Burch - That’s great. We should push the fact that you will get to interact with leading scholars. It needs to be sexier.

Schaffer - Most of the conferences I’ve gone to have had presiders. Besides presenting works, they had to introduce a person. People were very agreeable to this. Most conferences have this. I don’t see the difficulty of asking presenters to do this. It’s not mandated, but people will stay around because this is a good thing for them; it’s very common.

Culmer - Thanks for the feedback. This is a team effort and we want to make the best decision possible. Information will be posted on the website soon.

Secretary - Two friendly reminders. 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. Also, because this is the end of the semester, minutes will be distributed later than normally. Thanks for your patience.

Treasurer - No report.

Vice-President - Absent. No report.

President - I have a few items. First, Brittany was not here because she had class. All of you have signed up for various committees. For external committees, we haven’t held representatives as accountable as we should have in the past. So, on the website, there’s a form for submission of notes from the meeting. It doesn’t need to be expansive; just anything we need to know about. The fields are for a summary of the meeting, items of interest to GPC, items of interest to graduate and professional students, and any additional comments. We need to know what’s going on. If more than one of you are on the same committee, you can trade off reports. We’re not trying to make this difficult. We just want to know what we need to know about. If there’s nothing to report, just sign in and let us know.
Kevin Bailey and I are going to have monthly meetings to keep them informed about what’s going on with graduate and professional students. We’re going to meet regularly.

Dr. Scroggs emailed the executive board about hunger issues at Mizzou and wanted to know if we’ve heard anything about it. I personally haven’t, but it’s a concern that the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is worried about. If you hear anything, please let us know.

We know that the Boys and Girls Town thing is short notice, but anything you can do would be appreciated. You can drop donation checks in the GPC mailbox.

Next year is our 30th anniversary. Our first meeting was September 14th, 1982. We want to have an anniversary recognition of some sort. I’m working with Jeff Zelinga and getting feedback, but we’ll need student feedback. If you’re interested in helping, please stay and let me know.

Liaison Reports

GSA - I’m Adam Marx, the newly elected Vice President of GSA. I have a couple things to inform you about. December 15th is the deadline for travel reimbursement requests. The travel period is September 15th through December 14th, and the application is on the GSA website. We have a position through 2012 for a webmaster. It pays. Contact Erica, our president. We’re also sponsoring the Cross Disciplinary Conference. The deadline for that is January 32 and the conference is April 16th. The theme is animals in society. Again, this is cross disciplinary. Anything related to animals and your research. In conjunction with GPC, we'll be hosting a "Mocktail Hour." We'll go over etiquette for cocktail hour, how to speak with faculty, etc. Our next meeting is at the end of January.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Erin Pearson (Medical School) - Motion to adjourn.
Buckner - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jake Wright
Secretary