Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2012

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 amend the agenda.
- Motion to adopt the amended agenda.
- Motion to reorder New Business, placing Justice Served as the first item.
- Motion to consider month’s general funding requests after all general funding presentations.
- Motion to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendations regarding the month’s general funding requests ($600 for Justice Served, $300 for Young Scholars Conference, $300 for Journal of Environmental and Sustainability Law, and $600 for MU Cross-Disciplinary Project).
- Resolution 1112-03 – A resolution to amend section 4.2 of the GPC Constitution.
- Resolution 1112-04 – A resolution to express overwhelming opposition among the University of Missouri’s graduate and professional student body to the 12.5 percent cut in state appropriations for the UM System in the 2012-2013 academic year proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon in the 2012 Missouri State of the State address.
- 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 6:01 pm by Brittany Perrin, Vice-President.

\(^1\) Motions to extend discussion are not included in this section.
Brittany Perrin (Vice-President) - As a friendly reminder, please remember to state your name and department when speaking.

Adoption of Minutes

Perrin - 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.
Mary Shannon Williams (Information Science and Learning Technologies) - Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Adoption of Agenda

Perrin - The next order of business is the adoption of the agenda, which was sent out last week. There are two additions to the agenda, so may I entertain a friendly motion to amend the agenda to reflect the addition of a report from the transit consultant and a funding request from the Cross-Disciplinary Conference?

Williams - Motion to amend the agenda
Joseph Cobetto (At-large) - second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Milbre Burch (Theatre) – Point of clarification. One presenter is pressed for time. Could this presenter, for Justice Served, be moved to the top of New Business?

Williams – So moved.
Deepika Menon (Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum) – second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Perrin – Are there any other errors, corrections, omissions, or amendments? May I entertain a motion to accept the amended agenda?

Matt Mower (Physics/Technology Coordinator) – So moved.
Jake Wright (Secretary) – second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

Dr. George Justice, Dean of the Graduate School
5 minutes

Perrin - The first item of business is a presentation by Dr. Justice. You have five minutes.
Dr. George Justice (Graduate School) – As you know, there are potential short and long term budget implications with the tuition issues we’re now experiencing. Law School, Veterinary School, etc. tuitions may increase, and fees may go up by 7.5% across campus. Short term, the campus is struggling to figure out how to deal with the Governor’s budget cut. I don’t have particulars, but it’s possible that research assistantships and teaching positions will be decreased. There will be no change in our tuition waiver program, but there may be fewer slots available. Long term, this is an issue that I hope GPC can address. This issue points to a large problem with funding. All campus budgets are available online. Long term, we have to fight for the notion that you’re here for the money; we need to make it apparent to stakeholders that what you’re doing is in the long term economic interests of the state. Otherwise, as tuition replaces funding, revenue enhancing programs will take center stage and the other programs will be deemphasized. I’m calling on students and faculty to make clear that what we’re doing is for the long term good of the state.

Wright – You mentioned that fewer tuition waiver and assistantship slots may be available in the future. Do you anticipate any reduction coming from the number of incoming students, or do you anticipate a reduction in the number of assistantships offered to current graduate students?

Justice – We will live up to our offers of funding. We’re not in the kind of crisis situation where we have to consider that. People on one year programs at the pleasure of their departments may see an impact, but anyone with a funding guarantee will have that honored. If you find yourself in a crunch, my office is here to help; we can help you with the appeals process if you find your funding in danger. I am personally committed to any graduate student that is making good progress with a commitment for funding from the university.

Perrin – Thank you, Dr. Justice.

Mitch Sky, MU Transit Consultant
5 minutes

Perrin – Our next presentation is from the MU Transit Consultant.

Mitch Sky – You’re aware of the changes and the budget shortfalls regarding Columbia Transit. We were hired by the university to answer one main question. What do the students want from their transit system? We’ve had meetings with your leadership groups, students, administration, Columbia Transit, and we have another day and a half of detailed meetings ahead. Since you’re out there with your peers, I wanted to speak to you. I’d be happy to listen to your concerns. We’re having a forum and we’ll be releasing a survey to the student body. We’re very focused on what you want and what you’re willing to pay for. For example, we might look into providing additional technology, if that’s something you want. Are there any questions? If anything pops up,
please feed them to Brittany or Kristofferson. Everything is open and on the table from here.

Mower – Is there an online place to get the latest update on where you are in the process?

Sky – We’ve actually never been asked to do something like that. We give regular updates to the parking office, but the results will be available to the public in phases.

Mustapha Alhassan (Social Work) – Will all students be able to provide input?

Sky – Absolutely. It will be done electronically, and we will ask your group to encourage participation. This is our one opportunity to do this, so as much as you can help, that would be great. We can build anything, but we need to know what you want. Thanks.

Perrin – Thank you so much. While we’re on the subject, I’m the GPC’s representative on the Mayor’s transportation task force. We’re going on a trip on February 17 to Ames, Iowa and February 24 to Lawrence, Kansas to see their student-centric transit. There are several open positions to go on these trips, so if you’re interested, send me an email. I’ll probably need to know by Thursday. It’s a day trip.

Rollins Society
3 minutes

Perrin – Applications for Rollins Society are online. Rollins Society is a secret society for graduate students. There are seven such societies on campus, but Rollins is the only society for graduate students. It was founded in 1994. I would encourage anyone to apply and tell people in your departments to apply. The application is due in the middle of March. More information can be found on the Rollins Society homepage, rollinssociety.missouri.edu.

Burch – Why would one want to be tapped into a secret society?

Perrin – I’m not a member, so I’m not allowed to know what goes on in Rollins Society, but it recognizes students who are the best of the best at the University. It’s an honor to be recognized; they try to find the top eight graduate students at the University. Since most students graduate right after being tapped, there’s not a lot to do. It’s mostly an honor.

Old Business
None.

New Business
Perrin - Since there are no items of Old Business, we will move on to New Business.

Eric Steege (Treasurer) – Before we consider the funding requests on the agenda tonight, I want to provide an update on where we are for general funding requests. We’ve budgeted $3,000 for the year, and allocated $1,280 in the fall. Tonight, we have four requests for $600, and we have at least two requests for next month, as well. There’s a good chance we can tap into the Programming and Publicity budget to cover the difference, and this is something that is a good service and investment into the community. Keep that in mind. Do you want to discuss any aspect of this now?

Karen Chandler (Veterinary School) – What criteria should we be looking for when evaluating funding requests?

Steege – How broad a population they’re accessing, where the money is going, and how well they will be advertising. Are they really going to get people in the door? Urme’s done a really good job with Programming and Publicity, so worst case, we’ll have money to move over but I can’t tell how much it is.

Justice Served (Emily Raleigh and Brian van Devender)
5 minutes
Sara Alvara Lizarraga (Agricultural Economics) – What is WGST?

Raleigh – Women’s and Gender Studies

Luke Russell (National Issues Coordinator) – What will happen if GPC can’t cover your fees? Will the Department of Theatre cover your losses?

Raleigh – They’re trying to be flexible in that way.

Erin Pearson (Medical School) – What does the ticket revenue go to?

Raleigh – The revenue goes towards the department’s production costs.

Steege – What’s your feedback? Do you all have any thoughts?

Burch – Admittedly, I have a stake in this, but I’ve been one of the fundraisers for the last few years. C. Francis has been a member of this body for several years. The Black History Month Committee has given us funding, considering this a bridge event for the community. That’s one nature of the interdisciplinary nature of this event. There’s a lot of excitement from various departments on campus. I hope we’ll have a large number of people there to see the speakers.

Steege – The finance committee recommends funding this event fully; whatever amount you as a body are comfortable with.
Sarah Wolken Kendrick (Fisheries and Wildlife) – Admittedly, this is hard since we haven’t seen the others, but I move to fund the whole $600.

Lizarraga – Is it possible to vote at the end, after seeing all four presentations?

Kristofferson Culmer (President) – There’s no procedure for that. We have a motion on the floor, and it needs a second. Do we have a second? [No second is offered.] Since there isn’t, we can hear from everyone.

Williams – Motion to vote after all four proposals have been given.
Sage Buckner (Veterinary School) – Second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Young Scholars Project (Chad Painter)
5 minutes

Kendrick – Have you asked for money from other organizations? If so, how much?

Chad Painter (Young Scholars Project) – We’ve asked for $2,000 from the School of Journalism and $500 from the Journal of Journalistic Ethics. Total costs are expected to be around $3,000, so we’re asking for $600.
Andrew Bisto (Sociology) – Has any advertising been done for this?

Painter – We’ve sent an announcement to the best people we could find in the departments we have. Hopefully, we’re getting those out to graduate students. I can send you the schedule.

Menon – Have you been in touch with other students? What funding is available from their universities?

Painter – We have, but it’s only been logistical. As far as financial support goes, that hasn’t been discussed.

JESL Symposium (Josh Moore)
5 minutes

JESL Symposium – What is it?

• The Symposium will launch JESL and will help put MU on the forefront of Sustainability issues.
• Topic - Environmental Justice Issues in Sustainable Development – exploring the tension between sustainable development as a valuable tool & the adverse impacts it can have on people
  – e.g. Homeowners near Windmills
• These issues concern the law, social sciences, engineering, urban planning, etc.

JESL Symposium - Speakers

• Panel Speakers
  – Patrick C. McGinley (WV Uni. College of Law)
  – John Dernbach (Widener Uni. School of Law)
  – Uma Outka (KU School of Law)
• Distinguished Lecturer – Eileen Gauna (Uni. Of NM School of Law)
• Keynote Address – Michael Gerrard (Columbia Law School)

JESL Symposium – Budget 1

• Mizzou Advantage
  – Essay Contest
  – DL/KS(travel, lodging, food, stipend $800 each)
• Law School = up to $5000
  – Publication of Materials approx. $2000
• JESL
  – $200 each for DL/KSfor Stipend
  – Limited Funds – could contribute up to $1500

JESL Symposium Budget 2

• Additional Costs
  – Travel, Lodging, & Food of the Panel Speakers (3)
    • Rights = approx. $1200, Lodging = approx. $450
  – Food during the Event (snacks, drinks, lunch @ U-club for Speakers & Ed. Board, pizza @ 1PM, Networking Reception)
• Paid by: Law School $ + GPC Grant + Student Bar Association Grant ($250 max, if granted), with JESL covering all costs in excess
**JESL Symposium - Marketing Aspect**

- Nationally Recognized Speakers
- Campus Wide Essay Contest
- Being Advertised to the MO Bar
- Backed by Mizzou Advantage
- Advertising Materials sent to JESL Subscribers, other Law Schools
- Advertising through Student Orgs
- Free Food for the Distinguished Lecture/Keynote Address
- Networking Reception Afterward

_Cobetto_ – How are you planning to market this?

_Josh Moore (JESL Symposium)_ – We’re advertising through the Missouri Bar Association. We’re going for two groups – lawyers and students. We’re working with Mizzou Advantage, having an essay contest, and advertising with student organizations and departments. We’ll be sending out information to you soon. Also, we'll have free food at the talks.

_Cobetto_ – The symposium is free and open to the public?

_Moore_ – Lawyers might have to pay, but otherwise it’s free.

_Bisto_ – Did I read that correctly that you're asking for $250?

_Moore_ – No, that’s a grant we’re applying for with the Student Bar Association. We’re asking you for $600.

**MU Cross Disciplinary Conference (Melissa Fugate)**

5 minutes
Benjamin Moore (Soil, Environmental, and Atmospheric Science) – Your catering budget is large. How many people will that feed?

Melissa Fugate (MU Cross-Disciplinary Conference) – It covers a cost of $4.75 for breakfast and $11,95 for lunch. We have to use University Catering, and we expect about 70 guests.

Steege – The Finance Committee recommends $600 for Justice Served, $300 for Young Scholars, $300 for the environmental journal, and $600 for the Cross Disciplinary Conference. They’ve gotten our money in the past and put it to very good use.

Kendrick – Do we have a ballpark figure for what we have in reserve?

Steege – About $3-4,000.

Williams – Motion to accept the committee’s recommendations. Dane Schaefer (At-Large) – second. Motion passes 27-12 by hand vote with three abstentions.

At-Large Elections
5 minutes

Culmer – Every month, we have nominations and elections for our remaining At-large positions. Are there any nominations?

Vote on Resolutions
5 minutes

Culmer – Our first resolution is the one that was emailed. We’ll talk about another one, but we’re under no obligation to vote on it; we’re supposed to email resolutions a week in advance, but it just came up. We can vote on it if you feel strongly about it.

Resolution 1112-03 – A resolution to amend section 4.2 of the GPC Constitution.

This resolution amends the GPC Constitution. The Constitution says that elections should be held in May, but we’ve never done that for a variety of reasons. We always do it in April. This just reflects the way we’ve been operating for several years.

[Culmer reads the resolution.]

Cobetto – What is the Borda Count?

Culmer – You list your preferences in rank order. The person with the lowest score wins.

Carrie Schmitt (Biomedical Engineering) – Is there a section 4.2.2?

Culmer – No, that’s a typo we can amend.

Wright – Point of procedure. We don’t need to amend a resolution to correct typographical errors.

Sean Grove (Public Affairs) – Motion to adopt the resolution.
Rebecca Benson (Classical Studies) – Second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 1112-04 – A resolution to express overwhelming opposition among the University of Missouri’s graduate and professional student body to the 12.5 percent cut in state appropriations for the UM System in the 2012-2013 academic year proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon in the 2012 Missouri State of the State address.

Culmer – As Dr. Justice was talking about, Governor Nixon wants to dramatically reduce funding. There are some serious ramifications for us if these budget cuts go through. The resolution states:

[The resolution is read.]

MSA, our undergraduate counterpart, has passed similar legislation. We’d like one cohesive opposition to the proposed cuts. Are there any questions?

??? – Who will this be sent to?
Culmer – The governor, local representatives, and Chancellor Deaton, at least.

Cobetto – Is there any chance this will be given to the lawmakers themselves?

Culmer – This will be given to the lawmakers.

Grove – Motion to adopt the resolution.
Benson – Second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

New Business

Technology Coordinator – Events you would like posted to the website can be emailed to gpc@missouri.edu or mdmower@mail.missouri.edu.

National Issues Coordinator – In December, I talked about the White House’s RFI regarding OpenAccess. The resolution we passed was posted on the website. There has been ongoing stuff with regards to OpenAccess. If you have a chance, go to the website; that’s how I get things out to you guys.

State Issues Coordinator – We’re having our annual legislative recognition event. We’ve invited several representatives and university dignitaries. There’s been an issue about having a student curator on the board with a vote. There’s a nonvoting member right now. For the most part, these curators have been undergraduates, but ASUM is pushing for changing the Board of Curators legislation to allow a graduate student to serve as a voting curator with specific voting rights. Kristofferson and I have been invited to give testimony in favor of this legislation. We haven’t responded yet, because there’s a lot of conversation that needs to happen. Everything has happened so fast that we haven’t been able to draft a resolution, but we’d like to answer any questions you have. I’m talking to ASUM and Kristofferson’s talking to MSA to have a united voice. Any questions?

Kendrick – Will this all happen before the next meeting?

Culmer – We’ll keep you updated, but this literally came up in the last few days, so we can’t say.

Mike Martin (State Issues Coordinator) – To be clear, one bill is written and in circulation. The senate bill is supposedly written and ready for circulation. We don’t know when we’ll be called to testify, but we need to know as a group where we stand.

Kendrick – This is the Board of Curators for the entire system? How do you pick someone like that?
Culmer – It rotates between campuses. Student government leaders from each campus interview students and submit three names to the governor’s office.

Programming and Publicity – We’re having an event this Friday at Tonic. We’ll be doing the family fun event at Perche Creek again. We’re also considering a comedy show and we have our end of the year event on May 3 at Quentin’s, which was a huge success in the fall. I love my job, but we do so much more than just throw parties; please communicate that to your representatives.

Vice-President – I have two things. First, Rollins Society applications are due March 16. Information for the Gold Chalk awards will be going up on the website. Please go to your respective departments and tell them that applications will be available in the coming week. Gold Chalk applications are also due on March 16. Both are due by 5:00 pm.

President – Do you have an amazing advisor? An amazing professor? Recommend them for Gold Chalk. We’ve had people tear up at these events. It moves them and they appreciate it. MSA has started a #moreforless campaign regarding the Governor’s proposed budget cuts. GPC is going to get involved. MSA is having students sign letters. We’ll email them out and have information on our website. All you have to do is sign it and bring it back to the GPC office. We’re trying to deliver them to the capitol in bulk.

RCAF is coming up. Applications are due on February 17. The cost to students is free, and there are cash prizes for the best presentations. We’ll send an email to you and ask you to distribute it. If you’re in the late stages of your research, it’s a great opportunity. We also need volunteers, so look for an email there, too. It’s a Saturday from nine until five. If you can give a couple hours, we’d appreciate it. We can’t do it without you.

Last week, we had a meeting regarding student insurance. Basically, there will be no changes because the implementation of universal health care means no one is sure what will and won’t be mandatory to cover. Also, the decision is partially based on the governor’s proposal. An increase in the premium means more money the graduate school has to find. This decision may change based on the Supreme Court’s ruling on universal health care.

Officer elections are coming up. Nominations will be taken at the next meeting. You must be present to accept.

Liason Reports

Andres Zininga (Latino Graduate Professional Network) We held our first meeting today, and our next will be next month. We’re looking to increase visibility on campus. If you know anyone who would be interested.
Paige Wallace (Veterinary School) – We’re having an awesome fundraiser for an organization called Josh and Friends. It’s for a book that kids get going into surgery that talks about a dog that has surgery. It helps kids not freak out. It will be an awesome night and tickets will be $25 per person with all proceeds to benefit Josh and Friends.

Kendrick – Motion to Adjourn.
Grove – second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary