Graduate Professional Council
General Assembly Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 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 consider funding requests after all groups have presented.
- Motion to provide $100 in funding to Education Week.
- Motion to provide $300 in funding to the Art History & Archaeology Graduate
  Student Association.
- Motion to provide $100 in funding to the Computer Science Graduate Council.
- Motion to provide $300 in funding to the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society.
- Motion to accept MSA Bill 51-28, modifying the MSA/GPC Articles of
  Cooperation.
- Motion to accept Resolution 1112-05, A Resolution affirming GPC’s support of
  SB747, a resolution in the Missouri legislature which would mandate that the
  student representative to the UM System Board of Curators be a graduate or
  professional student, and would also give voting privileges to the student
  representative.
- Motion to adjourn.

The following motions failed to pass:
- Motion to provide $600 in funding to the Historical and Theatrical Trial Society.

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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?

Brian Douglas (Law) - Motion to adopt the minutes.
Braden Posey (Law) - 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. Are there any errors, corrections, omissions, or amendments?

Eric Steege (Treasurer) - I move that the speaker for Education week be moved to the first action item.
Matt Mower (Physics/Technology Coordinator) - 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?

Dane Shaffer (At-Large) - So moved.
Amanda Gray (Education, Leadership, and Policy Analysis) - second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

Library Fee (Jim Cogswell, Director of Libraries)
15 minutes

Perrin - The first item of business is a presentation by Jim Cogswell, the Director of Libraries. You have fifteen minutes.
Jim Cogswell (Director of Libraries) - Any questions?

Shibi Vasudevan (Math) - General Costs are listed as $500,000. Given that most journals are online, is there a way to negotiate with publishers to reduce those costs?

Cogswell - The answer to that is no. Publishers have a monopoly, so they charge what they want.

Vasuvedan - They have this practice of bundling journals, which seems unfair, you know?

Cogswell - I know. These publishers treat journals as a commodity. Because they have this monopoly, they charge what the market will bear. We’re working on things like OpenAccess, which will hopefully help with these costs.

Perrin - We’re out of time, so unless there’s a motion to extend discussion…

Godell (Business Administration) - Move to extend discussion five minutes.
Kyle Deminger (Library Science) - second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.
What portion of the money would be for increasing salaries for current employees?

**Cogswell** - None. Additional hours of staffing would be paid for under this fee, but not raises. Heating and lighting costs are negligible, but additional staff and security would be required for extended hours.

**Ray Zuniga (Truman School)** - What’s been the experience with other schools that institute these fees?

**Cogswell** - It has helped them meet their needs, but hasn’t fully met their needs. It has gone up like other fees, but in a way that’s based on inflation. Fees haven’t gone up every year, but most years it goes up by a fixed percentage.

**Sarah Wolken Kendrick (Fisheries and Wildlife)** - Would the $1 per hour rate be for graduate credit hours, as well?

**Cogswell** - Yes. It’s the best indicator we have for how much people utilize the library. It’s not a perfect metric, but it’s the only one we have. Thank you very much for your time.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

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

**Eric Steege (Treasurer)** - Could anyone requesting money via general funding requests step outside for a moment? Really quickly, last time we addressed some budget issues for what we had in our general funding line item. We’d allocated a little over $3,000, which had been totally allocated by February’s General Assembly. We do have some carryover we can tap into to meet funding requests for the rest of the year. This figure maxes out at about $1,200 for the rest of the year. The level of requests we’ve had this year has been unprecedented. Do you want to discuss this now, or do you want to hear the finance committee’s recommendations in advance?

**Kendrick** - Motion to decide on funding requests after all groups have presented.

**Joseph Cobetto (At Large)** - second.

Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

**College of Education (Taylor Vincent)**

5 minutes
Sara Alvara Lizarraga (Agricultural Economics) - Do you have any other sources of funding?

Taylor Vincent (Education Week) - We receive funds from the student activity fee and from selling merchandise. Also, we’ve applied for ORG funding and funds from the Dean. We’re not eligible for ORG funding because we already receive student fees.

Niki Eaton (Art History and Archaeology) - How much have you received so far?

Vincent - We’re not expecting a substantial amount.
Mower - The poster mentions that you can register for a $100 gift card. Is that part of the money you're requesting?

Vincent - We raised money for that by soliciting donations.

Cobetto - How much money have you received so far?

Vincent - We've received $13,000, but that's for everything related to Education Week. It covers all costs for the week.

Art History & Archaeology (Mary Conley)
5 minutes

Paige Wallace (Veterinary Medicine) - How much are you requesting?

Mary Conley (Art History and Archaeology Graduate Student Association) - $600.

Computer Science Graduate Council (Tiancheng Zhuang)
5 minutes
Cobetto - You mentioned prizes. Are these prizes paid for through the department?

Tiancheng Zhuang (Computer Science Graduate Council) - They’re paid for through the department, so they’re not paid for through the money we’re requesting from you. The posters are just for the graduate students, but anyone can view them.
Deepkia Menon (Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum) - In the advertisement section, you said that there would be fliers and electronic copies sent only to the department. How will other graduate students be informed and able to take advantage of this?

Zhuang - This event is geared towards our department. Fliers will be posted in Engineering East, so other students will be exposed to the event.

Seth Kurtenbach (Philosophy) - Why are you spending money on fliers if this is geared towards your department and being emailed to members of your department?

Zhuang - This is a good point. People don’t always read their emails, but they do read posters.

Menon - Other students in other departments will see this. How will undergraduates see these advertisements?

Zhuang - Point taken.

Historical and Theatrical Trial Society (Dane Rennier and Chirag Shah)
5 minutes
Kendrick - Have you received funding from anyone else?

Chirag Shah (HATTS) - Yes. ORG and the Law School have helped in some ways, as well as the Student Bar Association. There are some constraints on getting outside help, however.

Kendrick - How much do you need?

Shah - We have about half of what we need.

Mustapha Alhassan (Social Work) - Are the costumes for sale or rent?

Shah - They are for rent.

Milbre Burch (Theatre) - You've said you're looking into funding, but who are you getting funding from?

Dane Rennier (HATTS) - The Law School and the Student Bar Association. We're currently in talks with ORG.

Steege - The finance committee's recommendations were as follows: $100 for Education Week, $300 for Art History and Archaeology, $100 for the Computer Science Graduate Council, and $100 for HATTS. These recommendations keep in mind the fact that we've used our budget. We may have to turn away some good groups because we've had a rise in applicants this year. Inter-department events can ask for money, by the way. The max is $250. I think there are good questions to ask about the fact that it is just Computer Science, but they are eligible for money.

Vasuvedan - I have two questions. First, what's the mandate for funding? Do we fund events that affect only graduate students, or campus wide events? Do we want general events? Second, would it be a conflict of interest for people in the affected departments to vote?

Steege - It doesn't have to be exclusively for graduate students. It's how many graduate students they expect to attend and how many we expect will actually show up.

Kristofferson Culmer (President) - A good example of this is International Night. A lot of people from the community come, but a lot of graduate students do, too. As far as the second question goes, there is no conflict of interest. Such votes are why the General Assembly is here.

Posey - Are we allowed to talk if we think there should be more funding?

Culmer - Yes.
Posey - HATTs is hamstrung on their budget. I feel like 800 attendees is an investment; a lot of students at the undergraduate level will never go to a trial, so this is a tremendous recruiting too. I’m part of the School of Law, so I’m biased, but this is a way to help the school beyond just one or two days.

Chris Connant (Business Administration) - I suggest we give the College of Education nothing. We can’t have people presenting for funds on the day of the event. Did they approach us for funding in February?

Steege - No.

Cobetto - We’ve spent all of our money, yes?

Steege - Everything that’s been allocated, yes.

Cobetto - Should we be spending money we don’t have?

Culmer - We have the money. We have leftover funds in our Programming and Publicity budget that we’re not going to use. We also have our Contingency and Reserve. It’s up to you as an assembly to decide if dipping into funding from other line items is worthwhile. We’re here to enrich the experiences and opportunities of graduate students. We should work towards making things better for graduate students.

Lizarraga - Do you have a record of what has been funded for these events in the past? Second, do we know what future events are coming in April and May that typically ask for GPC funds?

Culmer - We funded the Computer Science Graduate Council for $250 and HATTs for $600 last year.

Steege - I’ve been approached by one group for April, and I don’t know about any other requests.

Culmer - It’s safe to say that anything we get in April is it for the year.

?? - Is it unheard of to fund events retroactively? Is it poor etiquette to do so?

Culmer - We’ve done that this year. We’re working on beefing up the language for when people need to request funding. In the interest of time, we can take one or two more questions.

Alhassan - Can we have the finance committee give us the reasoning behind their recommendations?

Culmer - Eric is going to do that.
*Burch* - Keep in mind we’ve had an unprecedented number of requests. That’s a good thing, but we didn’t anticipate this. In many ways, it’s an embarrassment of riches. We can move into next year knowing the world knows we’re here and can look at it more competitively, but this has been a year of learning.

*Culmer* - In the last two months, we’ve gotten more funding requests than all of last year.

*Shaffer* - It took a lot of guts for the College of Education people to come up here, and they should know what to do, but this is an event that’s going on for the whole week. It goes through Saturday. Their budget has been tapped. They’ve put everything they have into this. $100 would be fair considering all of this, but next year, they’ll contact people sooner.

*Steege* - The recommendation for Education Week is $100. Relative to the other proposals, this is a $100 proposal.

*Kendrick* - Move to provide $100 to Education Week.
*Kurtenbach* - second.
Motion passes 25-15 with one abstention.

*Steege* - We recommend funding the Art History event at $300. They had the best proposal, mostly based on the number of graduate students they expect and their advertising strategy.

*Rebecca Benson (Classics)* - Move to provide $300 to the Art History and Archaeology Graduate Student Association.
*Kendrick* - second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

*Steege* - As far as the Computer Science event goes, it’s a department event and not much more. Department events have been funded, but we feel this should receive $100.

*Burch* - Move to provide $100 to the Computer Science Graduate Council.
*Kendrick* - second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

*Steege* - The finance committee recommends funding HATTS with $100.

*Burch* - They asked for $600?

*Genevieve Labe (Education, Leadership, and Policy Analysis)* - Move to provide $600 in funding to HATTS.
*Posey* - second.
Motion fails 19-22.
**Culmer** - Is there any discussion?

**Alhassan** - I support funding them with $300.

**Connant** - I support providing them $350.

**Kristina Haug (Agricultural Education)** - From our proposed $1,200, we’ve spent $500 and have $700 to play with for the rest of the year. Keep that in mind. I would suggest $350. I’d like to give them more, but it’s what we have.

**Menon** - Considering today’s presentation, their plan was the best in terms of advertising. I think that we should have no more than $300.

**Burch** - Motion to provide $300 in funding to HATTS.  
??? - second.  
Motion carries via voice vote.

**Legislative Presentations (Jake Sloan and Kristofferson Culmer)**  
**15 minutes**

**MSA Bill 51-28**

**Culmer** - This legislation was written and passed by MSA, and we need to figure out if we want to accept these changes. If we refuse them, we can kill the whole bill. SFRC reviews nonacademic student fees on a regular basis. Basically, the committee is a chair appointed by MSA and GPC; two co-chairs, the GPC Treasurer and MSA Budget Director; and ten at large members.

**Jake Sloan (MSA Speaker)** - Vice Chancellor Scroggs doesn’t like the way the committee is set up. We both draw the same student government fees, so we could draft a student fee increase year after year without any oversight. This lowers the bureaucracy needed to choose a chair. Right now, the committee is selected by the outgoing SFRC Chair, the GPC President, and the MSA President. As Kristofferson touched on, the committee will be composed of students that can apply and will be approved by the chair and vice-chairs, who will stay the same.

**Culmer** - We also choose the SFRC Chair, and that works the same way that is proposed here. It works, but this will make the process smoother.

**Sloan** - As it stands now, it’s possible that nothing gets accomplished on this committee. This legislation solves that potential issue. MSA has passed this already, but we can’t do this tonight without your approval. Keep in mind that this committee didn’t exist ten years ago. Vice Chancellor Scroggs created it to give students a voice; it’s her committee. Any questions?
Cobetto - We have to approve the budget for SFRC’s budget to go into effect, right?

Culmer - That provision would be removed in this bill.

Cobetto - MSA and GPC are supposed to approve SFRC’s recommendations.

Culmer - We can request that SFRC sends its recommendations to us. That’s how we’ve done things in the past. The committee in the past would ask for our input, but not our consent. In the end, it’s the Board of Curators that would get the message that students reviewed this and it was what they decided. The Board doesn’t have to accept it.

Sloan - Your treasurer will still be reporting back to you with what’s going on. We don’t lose the line of communication; we lose the formality of the requirement. Vice Chancellor Scroggs cares what the committee says.

Kurtenbach - move to accept GSA Bill 51-28.
Gray - second.
Motion passes by voice vote.

Resolution 1112-05, A Resolution affirming GPC’s support of SB747, a resolution in the Missouri legislature which would mandate that the student representative to the UM System Board of Curators be a graduate or professional student, and would also give voting privileges to the student representative.

Culmer - Last month, Mike Martin said that we would have to testify regarding a bill that would give the student curator a vote on the Board. He said that things would happen quickly, and they did. Mike drafted this resolution not knowing if or when it would be needed. We were needed at the capitol yesterday. This resolution says that GPC is in favor of giving the student curator a vote.

[The resolution is read into the record.]

Are there any questions?

Shaffer - Motion to adopt Resolution 1112-05
Raymond Troy (Nuclear Engineering) - second.
The motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

At-Large Elections
5 minutes

Culmer - Every month, we have nominations and elections for our remaining At-large positions. This month, we have seven open At-Large positions. Are there any nominations?
Shaffer - Tanvi Banerjee  
*Mower* - second

*Ray Zuniga* - I nominate myself.  
*Mower* - second.

*Tanvi Banerjee* - I’m in the second year of my doctoral program and I want to be a part of matters that concern the entire university. It’s been enlightening and I’d like to be a part of it.

*Ray Zuniga* - I’m here every month, so I would like to serve GPC. Today has been really interesting and I wish I could have voted.

Tanvi Banerjee and Ray Zuniga are elected by acclamation.

**GPC Executive Board Nominations**

5 minutes

*Culmer* - Elections for next year’s Executive Board will be held at the April General Assembly meeting. Once nominations are closed in April, they are closed. You must be present to accept a nomination, but need not be present to be elected. Are there any nominations for the Executive Board?

**Nominations for President:**
   Kristofferson Culmer (nominated by Raymond Troy, seconded by Jake Wright)

**Nominations for Vice-President**
   Jake Wright (nominated by Seth Kurtenbach, seconded by Milbre Burch)  
   Mike Martin (nominated by Kristina Haug, seconded by Joseph Cobetto)

**Nominations for Treasurer**
   Kristina Haug (nominated by Mike Martin, seconded by Mustapha Alhassan)

**Secretary**
   (no nominations)

**Publicity and Programming Coordinator**
   Urme Ali (nominated by Kristina Haug, seconded by Brittany Perrin)

**National Issues Coordinator**
   (no nominations)

**State Issues Coordinator**
   (no nominations)
Mike Martin (State Issues Coordinator) - Point of order. Do candidates drop down if they lose an election?

Culmer - They have that option, yes. Nominations are closed until the April General Assembly. If you know someone in your department who would be a good fit, encourage them to run. These positions are important to graduate and professional students throughout the university.

Officer Reports

Technology Coordinator - No report.

National Issues Coordinator - No report.

State Issues Coordinator - I would just like to state for the record that Kristofferson did an awesome job in Jefferson City this week.

Secretary - It appears that there was too much food and not enough utensils this month. I apologize for that and will make sure it doesn’t happen again.

Programming and Publicity - We’re expecting volunteers for RCAF. This is our biggest event and we can’t make it happen without you. It’s next Saturday and it's an all day event.

Comedy night at Deja Vu is on April 6. It’s a private event. To keep this at a good per person price, we need to fill seats, so we need you to help advertise. It’s a 7:30 show, but you need to be there an hour early. We encourage getting there at 6:00.

Cobetto - The schedule for RCAF will be released, right?

Urme Ali (Programming and Publicity Coordinator) - Yes. We're working on that presently.

Perche Creek is April 14. Please encourage people with families to come out. Finally, we have our TGI May event at Quinton’s. Last semester’s event was huge, and we're hoping for the same this time. For the next General Assembly, I'm going to prepare an expenditure and savings report. It will take up a little time next time.

Treasurer - I have a travel funding report from the second of our three funding periods. We received 112 applications, which were all reviewed by two committee members. 55 applicants received money, and 57 did not. We're trying to maintain a competitive process. The average award was $275 and just over $15,000 was awarded. Thanks to the finance committee for its hard work.

Vice-President - There are two events coming up. First, the Gold Chalk Awards. Encourage your department to nominate someone. There aren't a lot of awards we can
give out, but this is one that we can use to recognize graduate and professional faculty. Applications are printed out and available.

Second, Rollins Society is looking for people going above and beyond the normal life of a graduate student. You are all doing this. Remember that applications for both are due March 16 at 5:00 pm.

**President** - I have a few things. First, RCAF is our conference and it’s in its 29th year. We’ve always depended on you for your help. We mainly need people to time presentations. It’s not a lot of work. Otherwise, we need help at the registration table to help people out. If you only have an hour or two to give, great. If you have more, fantastic. We’ll feed you. If you’re presenting and you can help out, that would be great, too.

*Ali* - If you have a friend or colleague interested in volunteering, that would be fun, too. We'll give them a t-shirt, if that's any enticement.

*Culmer* - You know what’s going on with the state budget and the university. Stipends are safe for now, so don’t worry. But, they’re working on that, so I’ll keep you abreast of any changes.

Dr. Caldwell would like students to work with him, since any new fee must be voted on by students and he wants help putting forward the best proposal possible. If you’re interested, stay behind and talk to me.

In December, we talked about Boys and Girls Town. We got every child a gift off their list, and we exceeded our fundraising goal. We were sent the following letter.

[The letter is read into the record]

Hats off to Urme for putting this together. I know this was a long meeting, but it was productive. Just as a warning, the April meeting will be just as long, but it’s even more important.

**Liason Reports**

*Graduate Student Association* - You should have received an email from Dr. Justice regarding GSA travel grants. They are due March 30. On the 15th, applications are due for the outstanding graduate student award. Applications are available on the GPA website. We’re also hosting a mocktail hour with the CD Project at the Heidelberg.

**Announcements**
Burch - See your GPC dollars at work. Justice Served is coming up, a collection of three short plays about women confronting violence. Please come; information will be posted on the GPC website.

Benson - The Status of Women Committee wants to know what women’s issues there are on campus. If you have them, please email me. On April 4 in the student union, we’ll have a big meeting. Please show up and voice your concerns.

David Rice (Electrical Engineering) - March 8-17 is Engineering Week. It’s open to everyone on campus.

Andrew Bisto (Rural Sociology) - Motion to Adjourn.
Rice - second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary