Notes: 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 and reorder New Business, placing MSA/GPC Food Pantry as the final item.
- Motion to adopt the proposed FY2013 budget.
- Motion to provide $200 in funding to Academic Career Exploration in the Sciences.
- Motion to provide $200 in funding to the MU Graduate Peer Mentoring Program.
- Motion to adjourn.

The following motions failed to pass:
- Motion to provide no funding to Academic Career Exploration in the Sciences.

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

The following elections were held for Executive Officers:
- President.
- Vice-President.
- Treasurer.
- Secretary.
- Programming and Publicity Coordinator.
- National Issues Coordinator.
- State Issues Coordinator.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Eric Steege, Treasurer and Acting Vice-President.

\(^1\) Motions to extend discussion are not included in this section.
Eric Steege (Acting Vice-President) - 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?

Mary Shannon Williams (Information Science and Learning Technologies) - Motion to adopt the minutes.
Joseph Cobetto (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. There is one change to the agenda, so may I entertain a friendly motion to move the MSA/GPC Food Pantry presentation to the last item of business?

Kristofferson Culmer (President) - The reason for this change is that Nick Droege, who will be presenting, is at another meeting presenting on the food pantry right now.

Williams - Motion to amend the agenda and accept the amended agenda.
Cobetto - second.
Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget (Eric Steege, GPC Treasurer)
10 minutes

Steege - The first item of business is the budget for next year. I’d like to present the entire budget and take questions afterwards.

The first thing to note is the approved budget versus the revised budget. We get the revised budget after we get actual student enrollment figures, so we will know exactly what our student fee income will be. If you look at what was approved last year and what was revised, we had significantly more projected for the FY13 budget, which is good. But, we have less carryover. This negates the increase in student fees. Two fiscal years ago, we had about $40,000 of carryover and it’s been reducing over time now, to about $11,000. This is important, because we’re trying to maintain the total amount of income we can use. So, we’ve had about $12,000 of carryover for next year. This is why I’ve been saying we’re out of money with General Funding requests. We
can maintain our overall budget from this year to next. Next, I’d like to talk about how we’re going to allocate our money next year.

We can’t really change our Articles of Cooperation with MSA, so we’ll move on from that.

The Administration budget is fixed from Kathy Hurst, who oversees this part of the budget.

The first significant change, which I think is any change of more than $1,000, is increasing travel awards by about $1,800. We’ve had more applications so far than we had for all of last year, so we thought it was worthwhile to allocate money there.

The next significant change is general funding, which we’ve talked a lot about. Through our discussions, we’ve wanted to increase the amount available next year. So, we’re increasing that line item by $1,000.

We’ve decreased Programming and Publicity by $4,000, which looks like a big jump. But, if you scroll down, you’ll see that we have some carryover that we haven’t used, about $5,300. We’re doing more with less, increased events, increased attendance, so we think we can maintain that with some savings next year.

RCAF has the same concept, because if you look at it, we’re going to have about $3,000 in savings this year. Doing a good job this year for $3,000 less means that we should allocate that next year.

There are no changes to the Gold Chalk budget.

We’re in conversations with Rollins Society, but we think we can decrease this figure a little.

The Legislative Recognition Event has a little bit of cost savings.

Finally, we have a line item for our 30th Anniversary. It will use about $2,500 of seed money that we’re in the process of planning.

Contingency and Reserve is a safety net we build in, so we want to keep it consistent. The recommended figure is 3-4% of your budget, which we’re in line with.

And that brings us to where we started. Again, if you see that carryover is dropping, that’s important. We want some, but we want a responsible amount. With too much, it’s hard to ask for an increase in your budget or look like you’re spending money responsibly. This is a good practice moving forward. Any questions?

*Benjamin Moore (Soil and Atmospheric Science)* - Can you say more about the Articles of Cooperation and why those aren’t open to discussion?
Culmer - 30 years ago, when we split from MSA, it was decided that instead of GPC totally funding its own events, we would co-sponsor events with MSA. That’s why you see events sponsored by MSA/GPC. All graduate and professional students can go free of charge or at a reduced price. This avoids a duplication of effort. Right now, we’re in the process of examining the articles of cooperation to give us more flexibility. Right now, the Articles of Cooperation say that 50% of our income goes to MSA, but Eric and I were in a meeting with MSA trying to figure out what appropriate levels of funding are. It’s been going on for a while and it will take a while, but the agreement will work for the benefit of both organizations. These are programs and services that we use, but we’re reviewing it because it hasn’t been reviewed for some time.

Mustapha Alhasaan (Social Work) - It looks like we’re not able to spend all of the money we budget for. The travel funding award, if we can increase it, would be good. If there’s a way to increase funding, that would be great.

Steege - We’d always like to give more money, and it’s also important to recognize that it’s the largest portion of our budget. It’s $40,000 of our budget. It’s definitely worthwhile to increase it as we can. We have increased it a bit.

Culmer - Next to Travel Awards, Administrative is the largest budget, and that number is fixed. Programming and Publicity has been reduced significantly. Other programs receive relatively small amounts. This is the first place we look to increase. Once our conversation with MSA on the Articles of Cooperation are done, we might have more money to allocate here. We could have taken our carryover and given it to travel awards, but the following year, we would be forced to significantly cut funding. We don’t want to do that. We want to maintain consistency.

Steege - We had 10 minutes on the agenda for this item, so we’ll need a motion to extend discussion.

Cobetto - Motion to add 10 minutes of discussion.
Andrew Bisto (Sociology) - Second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

Williams - I see the logic behind what you’re saying. Maybe we need to make responses to travel awards more transparent. Some students feel they were denied because they were international students. If we can improve communication, that would be great. I’ll be applying for funding next year, and if I don’t get it, I’ll want to know why. We should be more transparent with our funding decisions.

Steege - We’ve tried to address that, and it’s become a significantly more competitive process.

Culmer - There’s only so much we can say, though. If you have 120 applicants and only 60 get funding, it might not be because they weren’t good applications.
Milbre Burch (Theatre) - It was never my understanding that you got points as an applicant for being a part of GPC, so we get disappointed the same as everyone else.

Culmer - I had someone on Exec last year who was denied funding, and he was like “what’s up?” So we do think about these things. We only have so many resources, so some people are going to be disappointed.

Steege - Any other questions on the budget?

Williams - Motion to accept the budget as proposed. 
Burch - Second. 
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Academic Career Exploration in the Sciences
5 minutes

Steege – Our first presentation is from Academic Career Exploration in the Sciences.

![5th Annual Career Exploration and Networking Event](attachment:image)
Alhassan - I see a line item for a mass email to graduate students.

Culmer - That's the going rate that DoIT charges.

Erik Osman (Molecular Biology & Immunology) - What exactly are you asking for?

- $600 would be nice. Our budget is about $3,500-3,600. That budget has to go to the end of the fiscal year, so without help, that will kill our budget. Normally, we have carryover, but no funding from GPC would kill that.

Williams - How much do you need to set aside for other costs?

- It depends on the charges for the speakers.

Williams - You don’t know who you’re bringing in for the rest of the year?

- We'll have to get speakers from closer to campus.

Deepkia Menon (Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum) - What accounts for miscellaneous costs?

- I need to take that out. We thought we’d have to offer more for this event. CAFNR and the Life Sciences Center are covering a lot of afternoon costs. That's for if we have extra needs. It can be factored out.

Menon - If we take that out, do you still need $600?

- We still need to bring in extra speakers, so we'll need to get very local without your help.

Steege - That's time. Let's discuss these items one at a time. The Finance Committee’s recommendation on this is $200. I think it’s a good program, and it's
extended over a period of time. We’d like to give them more, but $200 is balancing what our budget situation is. Any further discussion?

_S_**Chris Conant (Business Administration)** - Those numbers don’t even add up. Can we make sure that people don’t come in here with funny numbers like that?

_S_**Steege** - What are you suggesting?

_Conant** - Don’t let them come in and look like clowns.

_Moore** - As much as their budget has issues, ours does, too. We’re in our carryover amount, right?

_Steege** - The money the Finance Committee recommended is within the budget I just presented. The money the Finance Committee recommends will preserve next year’s budget without going into carryover.

_Moore** - I move to not fund them at all.
_David Rice (Electrical Engineering)** - second.
Motion fails by hand count.

_Williams** - Motion to fund $200.
_Dane Shaffer (At-Large)** - second.
Motion passes 23-18 by hand count.

**MU Graduate Peer Mentor Program (Mohammed Sherfati)**
5 minutes

_S_**Steege** - The next item of business is a presentation from the MU Graduate Peer Mentor Program.
Steege - Any questions?

Burch - Do you have a budget showing who else is funding this?

Mohammed Sherfati (MU Graduate Peer Mentor Program) - I have the budget, but not in this presentation. The combinations are almost exactly $200.

Cobetto - As far as the remaining $600, have you gotten that funding yet?
Sherfati - We have a request to the Chancellor’s Diversity Initiative pending, and we have $500 from GSA. I hope we can get money from GPC.

Tanvi Banarjee (At-Large) - What activities do you plan to do with the mentors and mentees?

Sherfati - We come up with matching mentors with mentees. We announce the opportunity to all incoming graduate students. We coordinate with the grad school and international student center to send out the application form. Last year, we had 112 apply and we selected 50 students that balanced international/national, department, schools, etc. We pair two mentors with six mentees. Mentoring is in the fall semester with monthly meetings discussing themes important to graduate and professional students.

Steege - The Finance Committee’s recommendation is to fund the full $200. It’s a very good program.

Williams - Motion to accept the Finance Committee’s recommendation.
Burch - Second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

GPC Executive Board Elections
(45 minutes)

[GPC Election proceedings are closed. A summary of elections follows below]

The following nominations were taken for GPC Executive Board positions:

President
Kristofferson Culmer
David Ta-Pryor

Vice President
Jake Wright
Mike Martin

Treasurer
Kristina Haug

Secretary
Joseph Cobetto
Mary Shannon Williams

Programming and Publicity Coordinator
Urme Ali
Candidates were elected as follows. Candidates who did not win the office they sought were eligible to drop down to lower positions.

**President**  
Kristofferson Culmer

**Vice President**  
Jake Wright

**Treasurer**  
Kristina Haug

**Secretary**  
Mike Martin

**Programming and Publicity Coordinator**  
Urme Ali

**State Issues Coordinator**  
Mary Francis

**National Issues Coordinator**  
Jesse Kremenak

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**At-Large Elections**

5 minutes

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

**Philip Mohebalian** – I nominate myself.  
?? – second.  
Philip Mohebalian is elected by acclamation.

**MSA GPC Food Pantry (Nick Droege)**

10 minutes

**Nick Droege (MSA GPC Food Pantry)** - I went down to Arkansas for the SEC Exchange, and Arkansas offers a food pantry. I thought this was a good idea. I got some statistics from our school. 50% of the local population sits at poverty or below. 65% of graduate students receive Pell Grants, which makes them eligible for food stamps. We have students whose expected family contribution is zero. We have international students who can’t use local food banks or pantries. We have graduate students who are single parents who have to support a family on low salaries. I’m here to get your support and recruit a few graduate students to join us. We need coordinators and I’m looking for graduate students to take this on. There are a few perks, but we don’t know what they are, yet. If you know peers that would be interested, please let them know about this. Questions?

**Urme Ali (Programming and Publicity Coordinator)** - Do you have a flier or anything for this?

**Droege** - I’ll send that to Kristofferson in the next day or two.
Ray Zuniga (At-Large) - What would you expect a coordinator to be doing?

Droege - There are 25 universities with food pantries. It’s a two or three day operation with irregular hours. We need help with students coordinating hours. We need someone to run things like stocking. It will be about 30 volunteers, so we need someone to make sure they’re coordinated.

Burch - Can you talk about the timeline?

Droege - The goal is to have it operational next fall, during the first month of the school year. Ann Deaton is our director. She’s working hard on our behalf. Infrastructure should be a shopping pantry so it can dignify the process more. I’d also like to have a registration for pickup so they can go online and come pick up a box.

Ali - Go to Public Affairs and Public Health. They might be willing to work on this for their capstone projects.

Droege - We’ve already had some capstone students sign up. Some positions will be given to minors for internship and class credit. I’m hopeful the Peace Corps Fellows program will be able to help us.

?? (Veterinary Medicine) - We have requirements for service hours. Is this compensated work or for service?

Droege - It can serve as either, but not both.

Kristina Haug (Agricultural Education) - I’d like to commend you on your efforts.

Officer Reports

Technology Coordinator - I’d like to quickly mention that an email will be sent soon looking for my replacement. We’re looking for someone who is knowledgeable, so if you know someone, please encourage them to apply.

National Issues Coordinator - No report.

State Issues Coordinator - We’re hosting a legislative recognition event in two weeks. It will recognize four state legislators for their outstanding support.

Secretary - Anyone who received travel funding, please contact me with the name of your presentation and the city it was presented in. This may be included in the annual report.

Programming and Publicity - Please come to our event on Friday at Deja Vu and friend us on Facebook!
Tresurer - The Finance Committee will have one last meeting at the end of April. Thanks to all of you for your help.

Vice-President - No report.

President - Congratulations to all elected officers and thanks to our outgoing officers. Thanks to everyone for their service.

Liason Reports

None.

Announcements

Alhassan - There will be a Human Trafficking conference on April 14 in Chamber Auditorium from 8:00 until 7:00. The conference is free to students, and $8 for everyone else.

Burch - The LGBTQ Center will be sponsoring the annual Queer Monologues performance. Transgendered activists and performers will be here doing a performance and workshop. Come and support our diverse community.

Page Wallace (Veterinary Medicine) - One of our students was the victim of an apartment fire. She was hurt, spent time in ICU, lost all of her possessions, and her cat died. We’re taking donations for money and a list of things that need to be replaced. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated.

Ali - We won’t have a meeting before Saturday the 14th. We’re doing a Spring Fling event at Perche Creek. It’s family friendly.

Sarah Turner McGowen (Communication) - Motion to Adjourn.
Amanda Gray (ELPA) - second.
Motion passes via unanimous voice vote.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jake Wright
Secretary