General Assemble Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
December 4th, 2012  

Notes: Slides, documents, or other documents provided to GPC will be included in 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 were passed by the General Assembly during the meeting.

- Motion to adopt the minutes.  
- Motion to adopt the agenda.  
- Resolution 1213-01

Call to Order  

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Jake Wright, GPC Vice-President

Adoption of the Minutes  

Wright brought forward the first order of business, the adoption of the minutes from the November meeting. No errors, corrections, omissions, or amendments were identified. Wright entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. John Koch of Veterinary School moved to accept, Mark Porth of Rural Sociology seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Adoption of the Agenda  

Wright brought forward the next item of business, the adoption of agenda. There were no changes to the agenda and Wright entertained a motion to accept the agenda as is. Megan Murphy of Biological Sciences, made the motion was seconded by Amanda Gray of Educational, Leadership, & Policy Analysis, and approved it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Action Items  

Department of Information Technology  

Kevin Bailey, DoIT Customer Service Coordinator, discussed the general state of technology on campus. These included the upgrading of myZou over fall break and the generally positive comments about the process. He recommended asking DoIT if you have myZou questions.

Bailey also discussed the wireless internet access on campus. The average number of devices students use on campus has ballooned recently. DoIT has replaced wired networks on campus, including 800 wireless access points. This has increased the ability of the wireless service. They plan to increase the wireless access points by about 30%-40% in dense areas.
DoIT is also working with Print Smart to improve the service. They are getting corporate advice on how to better serve students and drive costs down.

Bailey highlighted the Go MIZZOU smart phone application, it has 7,000 downloads. They are evaluating a new campus calendar system for events coming late spring. The Virtual Private Network (VPN) is being upgraded.

Bailey then took questions from the assembly.

Kristofferson Culmer, GPC President, discussed the University’s partnership with Microsoft. It is a student option through book store which can give you the Microsoft Office Suite and Windows for the four years of your schooling and guarantees upgrades without paying additional costs. Bailey said the partnership is going okay, though the latest Microsoft products are causing concerns that will be discussed with Microsoft soon. 4,000 students have taken advantage of the program.

Wright asked about moving the graduate and professional email services to the faculty email services. The faculty email service looks more professional. Bailey replied that it was an issue to be discussed with Microsoft. Student email will be transitioning away from Outlook Live and to Office 365. They are working with them on this issue and it seems possible, but not until the transition.

New Business

General Funding Request

Aron Fischer of the Association of Graduate Art Students presented the following PowerPoint for their General Funding Request.
Koch asked how many years the activity had been occurring. Fischer replied, seven years. Koch then followed up by asking how GPC has helped in the past. Fischer replied that he believed the funding was just for advertisement. Someone asked what an Espresso Book Machine was.

Kristina Haug, GPC Treasurer, reported that the finance committee suggested giving $250. Culmer gave some background of the previous funding for the group, including previously funding the event with $300 through the Programming and Publicity fund of GPC. Justin
Shrapless of Agricultural Education moved to fund the group as suggested ($250), Koch seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 1213-01**

A Resolution was proposed to encouraging the inclusion of student fee information in offer letters for incoming graduate and professional students.

Culmer discussed the background of the resolution and then read the following resolution.

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**Resolution 1213-01**

A Resolution supporting transparency and full disclosure of fees not supported by teaching and research assistantships to incoming students receiving teaching and research assistantships.

WHEREAS, the Graduate Professional Council, to be hereafter referred to as GPC, is recognized by the UM System Board of Curators and the administration of the University of Missouri as the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post doctoral students at the University of Missouri, and

WHEREAS, GPC has been approached by many of its constituents with concerns about not having explicitly been told which fees are not covered by their assistantships during department visits or in their offer letters, and

WHEREAS, as a result of not being told which fees were not covered by their assistantships, and not knowing the full extent of their financial obligations, those constituents have experienced financial hardship due to not being able to properly plan for their expenses, and

WHEREAS, because colleges and universities around the country package tuition and fees differently it cannot be assumed that a student will know that a tuition waiver does not cover activity fees, course fees, and others, and

WHEREAS, there is currently not a policy that ensures uniformity in how departments communicate which fees are not covered by their assistantships, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the GPC General Assembly urges departments that offer teaching and research assistantships to explicitly communicate to incoming students in their offer letters that their assistantships do not cover activity fees, course fees, and other fees not supported by the assistantship, so that students can properly plan their finances, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the GPC General Assembly urges the office of the Vice Provost for Extended Studies and Dean of the Graduate School to work with departments that offer teaching and research assistantships in developing uniformity in how fees not covered by those assistantships are communicated to incoming students.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mayo Fujiki of Education, School, & Counseling Psychology asked about how department’s write their offer letters. Culmer responded that the letters are not overseen by graduate school; however, the graduate does send post-doctoral students letters. Other departments can use that same letter as template, which will be suggested.

Beth Maher, At-Large Member, discussed the issues with insurance and potential graduate students not knowing; Culmer reported that they can add this.

Raymond Troy of Nuclear Engineering asked why departments do not give potential students a full, complete financial projection in the offer letter. Culmer replied that he was not sure if departments have done this. Culmer then suggested adding something about insurance in the resolution. Troy moved to revise the resolution as such, Hallie Thompson of Plant, Insect, & Microbial Science seconded it, and it passed with unanimous voice vote.

Menon suggested students visit the international student center if they have more questions, they do a good job.

David Rice of Electronic Engineering moved to accepted the revised resolution, Sage Buckner of the Veterinary School seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

**At-Large Representative Elections**

Culmer presided over the at-large elections.

Mustapha Alhassan of social work was self-nominated
Aron Fisher of Fine Arts was self- nominated

The nominations were then closed and each candidate got 30 seconds to speak about why they wanted to be an at-large members. Wright asked for an acclamation vote and it passed.

**Officer Reports**

**Technology Coordinator**, Patrick Spencer had nothing to report.

**State Issues Coordinator**, Mary Francis had nothing to report.

**National Issues Coordinator**, Jesse Kremenak, discussed the ongoing sequestration issue and our efforts to educate people about this issue. A letter was hand delivered today to legislators from the GPC expressing our concern about the impact of sequestration. An informational campaign is on the way to get the word out on campus. The effort is joint action with other groups on campus. An informational sheet of the possible effects of the cuts was also developed. Kremenak asked the assembly to help spread the word to other graduate students and sign an online petition from NAGPS which can provide a real voice for graduate students.
**Programming and Publicity**, Urme Ali, discussed the upcoming RCAF proposal deadline of 2/9/12 and encouraged people to submit. She also told the assembly she wanted a picture at the end of the meeting those who donated for Boys & Girls Town.

**Secretary**, Michael Martin had nothing to report.

**Treasurer**, Haug, reported that the Student Fee Review Committee had approved the GPC budget and it is moving up the administrative chain.

**Vice-President**, Wright, discussed the upcoming professional development series and fliers will be coming soon about the events. The first event is on January 26th at 6:00pm and is about branding and online presence. The second is on February 21st at 6:00pm and will cover building your academic portfolio. Wright also talked about the Gold Chalk awards, which will be ready soon. He also encouraged members to think about applying or nominating someone for Rollins Society. More information on both awards will be forthcoming and deadlines are next semester.

**President**, Culmer, thanked everyone for their donations to the Boys and Girls Town work. The next semester will be busy. The NAGPS Regional meeting will probably be in March. We are looking for volunteers and sending out an email soon. The GPC 30th anniversary is this year and we planning a week of activities during graduate education week this spring. More information will be forthcoming and let your department know what is going this next semester. The questionnaire coming-out next semester about graduate student housing is important as well. The university needs as many responses as possible. The results will help the Chancellor make informed decisions on housing and possibly stipends. Culmer thanked the assembly members for their service and time.

**Liaison Reports**

None

**Announcements**

Gray talked about the recently opened Tiger Pantry. She is the operations coordinator. They are accepting applications for volunteering. Tiger Pantry currently serves 143 people and families from MU. 400 people have expressed interest in the pantry as well. They only have 2 graduate student workers and want more graduate student volunteers since they are a high percentage of the clientele.

**Adjourn**

Alhassan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dane Schafer, At-Large Member, seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously at 6:56pm.

**Members Present**

Kristina Haug, GPC Treasurer
Patrick Spencer, GPC Technology Coordinator
Robin Ridgway, GPC Advisor
Jesse Kremenak, GPC National Issues Coordinator
Michael Martin, GPC Secretary
Mary Francis, GPC State Issues Coordinator
Urme Ali, GPC Programming and Publicity Coordinator and acting Secretary
Jake Wright, GPC Vice-President
Kristofferson Culmer, GPC President
Justin Sharpless, Agricultural Education
Tilanka Chandrasekera, Architectural Studies
Ron Thompson, Art
Sarah Williams, Art History and Archeology
Sagar Gupta, Biological Engineering
Megan Murphy, Biological Sciences
Brian Crawford, Business Administration
Nathan Applegren, Chemistry
Rebecca Benson, Classical Studies
Danielle Poynter, Communication
Amanda Gray, Educational, Leadership, & Policy Analysis
David Rice, Electrical Engineering
Hisham Abbas, Electrical Engineering
Alison Rutledge, English
Miranda Mattingly, English
Michael Burfield, Fisheries and Wildlife
Pennam Chinnasamy, Forestry
Nathan Easley, Geography
Ashley Ermer, Human Development & Family Studies
David Broussard, Informational Sciences and Learning Technologies
Deepika Menon, Learning, Teaching, & Curriculum
Ashley Anstaett, Library Science
Erin Pearson, Medical School
Molly Greenwade, Medical School
Erik Osman, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
Raymond Troy, Nuclear Engineering
Tom Reynolds, Philosophy
David Chappell, Plant Sciences
Hallie Thompson, Plant, Insect, & Microbial Science
John Gerhard, Political Science
Mark Porth, Rural Sociology
Emily Rollie, Theatre
Sage Buckner, Veterinary School
Evelyn Mackay, Veterinary School
John Koch, Veterinary School
Kendall Mason, Veterinary School
Sarah Moreau, Veterinary School
Dane Schaffer, At-Large
Beth Maher, At-Large
Megan Peiser, At-Large
Ray Zuniga, At-Large
Mustapha Alhassan, At-Large
Raymond Adams, At-Large