Graduate Professional Council General Assembly Meeting

Meeting Minutes

5/7/2014

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M.

I. Call to order
II. Adoption of Minutes (Accept: Chris Owens, Physics; Second: Amanda Gray, ELPA)
III. Adoption of agenda (Accept: Megan Murphy, Biological Sciences; Second, ???, Engineering)
IV. Action items
   A. Kim Dude, Wellness Resource Center gave a presentation on graduate student health behaviors.
      1. Slides

Graduate Student Health Behaviors

Kim Dude
Director of the Wellness Resource Center
University of Missouri
DudeK@missouri.edu
data from the MU Wellness Survey, Nov. 2012
n=1,011
Profile of a graduate student

• Older (average age of grad students at Mizzou is 26 with 39% over 28)
• International (about 25% at MU)
• Financial issues
  – More likely to have a job
  – More likely to have a family
  – More likely to have child care needs
  – More likely to have debt

Misperceptions about grad students

• They drink a lot
• They won’t go to an event unless there is alcohol
• They don’t want to get involved on campus
• They don’t need campus services like undergrads do
## Drinking Rates: Grad Students vs. Undergrad Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduate</th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average # of drinks per week</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Their perception is 15 drinks per week</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binge rate</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hour binge rate</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What Mizzou students enjoy more than drinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grad</th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor activities</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Out</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No alcohol at parties</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why they do not drink or drink less

- Academic obligations: 59% Grad, 59% Undergrad
- Cost of alcohol: 54% Grad, 45% Undergrad
- Don’t want a hangover: 53% Grad, 38% Undergrad
- Work: 54% Grad, 43% Undergrad

Graduate Students’ Mental Health

- Feel stressed: 66%
- Feel extremely stressed: 17%
- Causes of stress:
  - Academics: 84%
  - Work: 46%
  - Money: 50%
  - Time management: 45%
Graduate Students’ Mental Health

• Suicidal thoughts
  – Past year 15%
  – Past month 5%
  – Past two weeks 3%

• Suicide attempts
  – Past year 6%

• Where do they go for help
  – Friend 52%
  – Counseling Center 47%

How graduate students relieve stress

• Talk to friends 68%
• Exercise 61%
• Make lists 61%
• Take nap 56%
• Talked to family 52%
• Alcohol 33%
What the WRC offers grad students

— Collection of data on graduate students
  • Needs, interests and health behaviors

— Provide special services
  • Off campus student services office
  • Wellness coaching/smoking cessation
  • Fitness and nutrition counseling
  • Ask, Listen and Refer
  • Relaxation station
  • Get to know CoMo
  • MUve...MU Values exercise and eating well

How the WRC is going to try get grad students engaged/involved

— Be an advocate
  • Work with graduate and professional council
  • Tiger pantry—food pantry
  • Help create a family friendly campus

— Outreach
  • Presentations at grad school orientations
  • Social media
  • U tube educational videos
  • Financial management sessions
V. Old business
   A. (none)
VI. New business
   A. Megan Ogar presents a General Funding Request for The Truman Leadership Project
      1. Slides

General Funding Request

Organization:
The Truman Leadership Project

Number of Active Members: Four graduate student directors, five student leaders, 10-member faculty board
Event

- Time: July 21-26, 2013
- Place: On the MU Campus
- Description: The Truman Leadership Project is a one-week summer daycamp for middle-school age students that explores leadership skills, civic involvement, and community service through the University of Missouri’s four core values: Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence. The Truman Leadership Project is a graduate student project facilitated by the Truman School of Public Affairs and the Institute of Public Policy.

Marketing

- Print: Fliers around campus to promote camp recruitment and profit share nights
- Outdoor:
- Media (Television, and Radio): Seeking publication from The Columbia-Missourian, Columbia Tribune
- Webs: http://trumanleadership.org, Summer at MU website, Truman School of Public Affairs website feature story
- Other: Video
  Like us on Facebook: “The Truman Leadership Project”
**Budget and Funding Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Funded by:</th>
<th>Amount funded:</th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunches &amp; snacks</td>
<td>$1400</td>
<td>MU Office of Admissions; registration fee</td>
<td>$250; $900</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Bottles</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camper T-shirts</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Profit Share</td>
<td>$97.60 $82.40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>AAUW, private donation</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web hosting</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Materials</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250</td>
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</table>

**Total Expenses:** $2,160  
**Total Funded:** $1,547.60  
**Total Outstanding:** $612.40

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**Benefits to Graduate and Professional Students**

- **Educational**: Fulfills MPA internship requirement for four directors; gives hands-on learning about starting nonprofit, fundraising, and community collaboration, creates an assistantship position.
- **Social**: MPA students are able to interact with students and faculty from multiple backgrounds including the MU Law school, College of Education and the Political Science Department.
- **Other**: Graduate students are able to give back to the Columbia community, gives positive image of graduate programs at MU to parents and community stakeholders, showcases the university.
- **Total Requested from GPC**: $250

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2. The Finance Committee suggested funding the group at $250. Mustafa Hassan moved to accept the recommendation, Justin Sharpiss seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous vote.

B. Jake Wright presents and recommends Dr. Mark Lucas as GPC advisor, due to the resignation of Robin Ridgeway. He agrees to not be too authoritative, works within Student Life, and has been financial advisor for GPC.

1. Kristofferson Culmer reiterates
2. It has been requested that Dr. Mark attend a meeting to speak and introduce himself.
3. Nathan Easley (Geography) moved to accept the recommendation, Sage Buckner (Veterinary Sciences) seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

C. Resolution honoring outgoing GPC Advisor Robin Ridgeway

Resolution 1213-05

A resolution honoring Robyn Ridgway for five years of service to the Graduate Professional Council as Faculty Advisor

WHEREAS Robyn Ridgway has faithfully served as Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Professional Council since 2008, and

WHEREAS Ms. Ridgway has consistently provided valuable counsel to the Graduate Professional Council's General Assembly and its Executive Board, and

WHEREAS Ms. Ridgway's counsel has helped the Graduate Professional Council improve both the quality and quantity of services offered to its constituents, and

WHEREAS Ms. Ridgway has served as a tireless advocate for the needs and interests of graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students, and

WHEREAS Ms. Ridgway has recently announced that she is stepping down from her position as Faculty Advisor at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Graduate Professional Council, the official student government of all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri, expresses its sincere and profound gratitude to Ms. Ridgway for her service, and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that the Graduate Professional Council wishes Ms. Ridgway success in all future endeavors, and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that Robyn Ridgway is and shall always remain a friend of the Graduate Professional Council.
1. Rebecca Benson (Classical Studies) moved to adopt the resolution, Mark Porth (Rural Sociology) seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. Resolution honoring outgoing GPC President Kristofferson Culmer

Resolution 1213-06

A resolution honoring Kristofferson Culmer’s three years as President of the Graduate Professional Council

WHEREAS Kristofferson Culmer has served an unprecedented three terms as President of the Graduate Professional Council, and

WHEREAS the Graduate Professional Council has seen improved relations with student, faculty, and staff leaders during President Culmer’s terms, and

WHEREAS the Graduate Professional Council has increased available GPC Travel Grant funding by 83.5 percent during President Culmer’s terms, and

WHEREAS the availability of said funding has been expanded to cover all Graduate Professional Council constituents during President Culmer’s terms, and

WHEREAS the number and quality of public events, including social events, conferences, and professional development events, has increased dramatically during President Culmer’s terms, and

WHEREAS said increase in public events has been accompanied by a reduction of over 37 percent in programming expenditures, allowing more funds to be applied to programs such as the GPC Travel Grant, and

WHEREAS communication between the Graduate Professional Council and its constituents has increased dramatically during President Culmer’s terms, and

WHEREAS President Culmer’s selfless leadership has contributed significantly to these and other achievements by the Council, and

WHEREAS President Culmer has advocated on behalf of graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students before legislators in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS President Culmer has increased the Graduate Professional Council’s national profile by serving as a member of the regional and national boards of the National Association of Graduate Professional Students, and hosting the NAGPS South Central Regional Conference at the University, and

WHEREAS President Culmer completed his third and final term in office on May 6th, 2013,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Professional Council, the official student government for all graduate, professional, post-baccalaureate, and post-doctoral students at the University of Missouri, expresses its sincere and profound gratitude to President Culmer for his service to the Council and its constituents, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Professional Council wishes President Culmer success in all future endeavors, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kristofferson Culmer is and shall always remain a friend of the Graduate Professional Council.
1. Rebecca Benson (Classical Studies) moved to adopt the resolution, ??????
   (Electrical Engineering) seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous voice
   vote.
2. Kristofferson Culmer gives a farewell address to the General Assembly.

VII. Officer reports
A. Technology Coordinator (Patrick Spencer)
   1. Nothing
B. State Issues Coordinator (Salama Gallimore)
   1. House Bill 3, change the way higher education institutions are funded
      a. 80% of funding guaranteed, the rest based on performance; of total, 70% to
         state schools, 30% to smaller tech schools;
      b. House Joint Resolution 18; bonds to be used for capital projects; passed in
         house, will move to senate
C. National Issues Coordinator (Jesse Kremenak)
   1. Legislative Action Days (LAD), Spring 2013 –Update
      a. Over 100 congressional office visits made
      b. Special thanks to the National Issues Subcommittee, who developed the talking
         points for LAD
      c. Notes below:

High Quality Research Act (Discussion Draft)

- Authored by the House Science Committee Chairman, Lamar Smith (R-TX)
- Bill includes unsolicited advice from Congress for NSF peer-review system
  - Requires grants to directly benefit American people

Attack on Social Science

- Congress approved Tom Coburn’s (R-OK) amendment to the Continuing Resolution (CR) for
  FY2013
  - Amendment restricts political science funding from NSF. ~$13M reduction
  - Under the amendment, political science grants must address economic or national
    security interests
- NAGPS and the AAU oppose

Student Loans

- Undergraduate subsidized loan interest rates are set to double on July 1st 2013, 3.4% to 6.8%
  - This is an opportunity to include graduate and professional student loan interest rates in
    the discussion
- Obama’s Budget FY14
Interest rates based on 10-year Treasury Loans
- No cap on interest rates. NAGPS supports a cap on the interest rates.
- Eric Cantor, House Majority Leader- Summer Agenda
  - Market based interest rates (no mention of interest cap)

**Immigration Reform**

- The National Issues Subcommittee, Corbin Evans, and Kristofferson Culmer are continuing to advocate for a provision that allows the renewal/revalidation of F and J student visas in the US

**Open Call for National Issues Subcommittee members**

- Please contact Jesse Kremenak if you are interested

D. Programming and Publicity Coordinator (Mike Steska)
   1. Quinton's was a success
   2. Tomorrow is 30th Anniversary celebration in Traditions Lounge

E. Secretary (Mike Burfield)
   1. Update list of members

F. Treasurer (Hallie Thompson)
   1. Need people to help on committee

G. Vice President
   1. Scheduling Conflict with 30th Anniversary; lunch for $5 to support grad student who has cancer (on GPC facebook)

H. President
   1. Strategic Plan development, over summer, looking for volunteers

**VIII. Liaison reports**

A. None

**IX. Announcements**

A. None

**Adjournment (Motion: Kristofferson Culmer, Computer Science)**

(Second: Mark Porth, Rural Sociology)