



**General Assembly Meeting  
Tuesday, Dec 6, 2016**

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**Agenda**

- I. Call Meeting to Order
  - a. 6:05 p.m.
- II. Adoption of the Minutes
  - a. Minutes adopted without changes
  - b. First: Treasurer
  - c. Second: At-Large
- III. Adoption of the Agenda
  - a. Change: Treasurer recommends to add a group funding request
  - b. Seconded: PFP
  - c. Vote on addition: all ayes (0 nays, 0 abstentions)
  - d. Vote on adopting agenda as amended: All ayes (0 nays, 0 abstentions)
- IV. Officer Reports
  - a. President: We will be continuing with the SHIP (student health insurance plan) plan for insurance for graduate students next year. This will cover .5 and .25 graduate assistants.
    - i. Next year, all graduate students will receive a 19% raise. This is confirmed.
    - ii. GPC had a conversation with the chancellor today, going over our activities and goals for this year.
    - iii. If anyone has any questions or concerns about graduate students and the graduate student experience, please let me know!
  - b. VP: As you can see I'm a big Christmas fan.
    - i. If you cannot make it to your external committee meetings, please let us know. We can potentially switch you out if necessary.
  - c. Secretary: Thank you to my committee for helping us with our well-being project, and getting our items organized! Our closet is now clean, and we have a better organizational system moving forward. This is a big help as GPC continues to grow.
  - d. Treasurer: Thank you to my committee as well!

- i. The student health center will move forward with a new payment where any action needs to be taken, these procedures will be billed to insurance. The student health will begin accepting far more health insurance providers, meaning that you will now have to pay whatever copay that your insurance has as well. This is not a preferred solution to the current issues facing student health. It has been recommended that the student fee get cut by \$7. It won't lead to an overall reduction in cost per se, but it does seem equitable given
  - ii. Journalism: Why would we go to student health at this point, if it's billed like anything else?
  - iii. Treasurer: I would SUPER like it if everyone who agrees with that sentiment email me and let me know
  - iv. Law: So you get any healthcare and it will cost?
  - v. Treasurer: yes, in the future this will extend even to office visits
  - vi. LTC: (unable to hear...a question was asked regarding the student health budget)
  - vii. Treasurer: They have been running a structural deficit for years. There were alternative solutions they could have pursued, but they did not. Therefore, the current solution is dissatisfying to many.
  - viii. GPC has now had the food budget cut for the next year. Our future budget request, overall, was upheld, but next year we will likely not be able to spend funds on food for meetings.
  - ix. Informatics: (unable to hear...question directed at treasurer)
  - x. President: Alex has thrown around, as has the entire board, ways to see how we may be able to provide GA members with food at other events.
- e. Dir. of Comm. Is absent (ill)
- f. Dir. Of Programming: After the meeting, please stick around. We will take a picture next to all of the gifts that we are donations to the Great Circle drive!
- i. Also, this Thursday, we will be having a coffee talk meeting from 10 am -12 pm. If you have questions for GPC, please stop by! If you just want some coffee, stop by too!
  - ii. Eric: I just realized that we don't have the form for our department.



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- iii. Dir. Of programming: That's ok! We'll be able to sort everything out and figure out where it needs to go.
  - g. Dir. of Nat. Affairs: Thank you to everyone who came out for call congress day! Unfortunately, the wrestling team kicked us out of our space early. Despite that, we still had 50 calls made!
  - h. Dir. Of State Affairs: The voter ID amendment passed, unfortunately. You will either need to register as a Missouri resident, or re-register to vote in the state that you came from. If you have further questions, please come to coffee talk this Thursday.
    - i. The three main topics that we are looking into:
      - 1. Landlord/tenant rights. Right now, landlords may lawfully enter without any notification in advance. We would like to see advance notification be added to local law to protect students from violations.
      - 2. We have been working on security deposit issues. When our dir. Of Communications was coming to Mizzou, he changed apartments and they kept his security deposit anyway. Other people have to pay money even to view an apartment. We wish to help students by eliminating these disadvantageous fees.
      - 3. It's in the baby steps, but we are looking into a science and technology fellowship for Mizzou students.
- V. Committee Reports
- a. No committee reports
- VI. Liaison Reports
- a. No liaison reports
- VII. Special Orders
- a. Update on Rollback on Campus Budget Carryforward and Reserves
    - i. Rhonda Gibler Vice Chancellor is Finance: Originally, my understanding was that students wanted to learn about where we stand regarding our campus facilities. I can't dig through all of it, but we do have a YouTube link, where we discuss the basics of all finance issues on campus today. It also gets into this particular proposal
    - ii. Over the last 20 years we have \$748,000,000 in backlogged maintenance and renovation fees. Why did it get this bad?

People are understandably frustrated. The answer is that we have been underfunded for a very long time. Unfortunately, maintenance is one of these. The state originally built many of our buildings. However, they have not done so since then, or paid for repairs. People have lots of thoughts regarding tuition and fees, but the reality is being underfunded by the state results in these systemic issues.

- iii. Only three ways to pay for central things: 1) tuition 2) state appropriations 3) what can be recovered in overhead on grants and contracts. Altogether, this is roughly \$600 million a year.
- iv. Today, as we sit here, there is \$350,000,000 sitting in accounts all across campus. Every one of them is considered to be owned by individuals. However, this is technically Chancellor's funds. Of course, no one wants to see cuts happen to their own funds at the University. A 2% cut to any given fund is difficult, but not ultimately destructive to any one fund on campus.
- v. The first project on the list is a greenhouse project. We have a great track record nationally on plant science research. However, recently we have been slipping compared to other Universities across the nation. Therefore, to catch up this is the first project on the list.
- vi. VP: The main question that we had, will this affect student fee money
- vii. VP finance: it will. It would affect any unrestricted recourse. Student fee money has to be spent in the year that it is collected. The problem with drawing lines in the unrestricted funds is that everyone thinks they should be unrestricted
- viii. Journalism: In Florida, I never had to pay money to go to University. I don't understand the budgetary problem that you guys have when the students have to pay so much tuition as it is.
- ix. VP Finance: For perspective, Florida puts way more money into higher education than the state of Missouri. Missouri currently ranks 43 in terms of funding. Florida get 3 times the amount of money.
- x. Journalism: They only have more money due to a lottery system
- xi. Vp Finance: Missouri is a low tax state; therefore, the available funds are low. I understand, coming from Florida this looks crazy, but Florida gets more money per student than we do.



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Further, our tuition isn't high compared to some other institutions.

- xii. VP: extend discussing for 5 minutes?
- xiii. President: First
- xiv. Treasurer: seconded
- xv. Vote to extend: mostly ayes (3 nays, 0 abstentions)
- xvi. Treasurer: The priority of the investment of the recovered funds would be plant sciences
- xvii. VP Finance: The premise is somewhat off. The actual proposal to do the growth facilities came up 10 years ago. It has been in the works for quite some time. The plan also addresses another one of the backlog maintenance issues.
- xviii. Treasurer: Mizzou 2020 came out of the funding committee at Mizzou, which had diverse representation. The budget allocation council was meant to guide strategic investment. 1) what happened to those committees and 2) Since it does look like we will enter a period of strategic divestment, was the thought that there is no need for community input for strategic divestment.
- xix. VP Finance: Those thoughts occurred under different leadership. I suspect that once our new president arrives, thinking about those long-term investments will be back to looking at some of those initial goals. In terms of time period, the last year or so has not been business as usual for anything that I do. We are facing what is possibly the biggest downfall in the history of our University. The pressure points now and what it demands for our roles is that we have to communicate with more people more often. There is intention to get those groups running again. But, to look in and cut someone's budget from the outside is difficult. But making cuts where we did, it allowed us to flexibly make individual cuts father down the ladder.
- xx. We have recorded our discussion, we have posted those YouTube links, the information on these difficult circumstances is out there. Having a relatively small group recommend cuts is relatively difficult to do
- xxi. VP: Extend discussion by 5 minutes?

- xxii. First: Treasurer
- xxiii. Second: Theatre
- xxiv. Vote: mostly ayes (5 nays, 0 abstentions)
- xxv. Political Science: My office has significant problems. Nothing against my colleagues in plant science, but I hope there is due considerations for safety. Some have made the sincere comments that my building should be demolished. Especially balancing the needs of the University is balancing needs and prestige, I think safety should be prioritized.
- xxvi. VP Finance: There are now 72 Universities that have closed in the past few years. This tells us that we need to differentiate ourselves, stand out, and make sure that we stand out as a leader in higher ed. Some of these issues are of high concern, but if we don't invest in what makes us unique and stand out, we risk seriously dropping in a variety of ways moving forward. There are numerous strategies we should consider moving forward, and we appreciate the complexity of the situation. However, we have to believe in ourselves and make strategic investments to help get future state funding, and funding from students.
- xxvii. VP:
- xxviii. First: PFP
- xxix. Second: treasurer
- xxx. Mostly ayes (6 nays, 0 abstentions). Time extended by another 5 minutes.
- xxxi. At-large: You mentioned that state funding for buildings essentially stopped. Now, the current strategy for this budget rollback and putting funds into plant sciences is centered around making the state want to fund us again. A) why we think the state will begin to fund us better in the future and b) does the plan take into account changes in the future?
- xxxii. VP Finance: One of the best things we can do for the state is tell them what we are serious about. Our thought process is investing in ourselves in niche areas will help us meet our long terms. Goals. Further, agriculture is a strong force in Missouri. Because of this, investing in strong plant sciences programming will be important both for the state and for the future of the country. In the grand scheme of things, it is a big project (\$30 million) but not the biggest.
- xxxiii. VP: We need another 5-minute extension



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- xxxiv. First: treasurer
- xxxv. Second: PFP
- xxxvi. Vote: mostly ayes (12 nays, 0 abstentions)
- xxxvii. Theatre: I'm curious as to how, besides the niche factor for the University, how certain things are evaluated. How is health and safety assessed? How are these things rank ordered in importance?
- xxxviii. VP Finance: When I saw we have 748,000,000 in backlogged fees, we know where those repairs need to be. We should be funding 2% of our physical plant. We are currently funding .67%. We need an additional \$45 million a year to take care of this, ostensibly from the state. What we have been trying to do is entire building at a time—we've found this to be the most efficient use of money. Anything more than 40% of total value to repair are high on the list for which you need to fix next. Then we assess whether we need to tear it down, or just renovate the inside
- xxxix. PFP: My questions: a) what is the university doing to seek federal grant money and b) what about bond issues.
  - xl. VP Finance: The federal government has been the building America bonds program, to make borrowing easier. As a University, we are 1 of 4 in a system. We only have so much bonding capacity. Right now, the University has 808,000,000 borrowed dollars. Over the past years, only way we have been able to pay it back is through new revenue streams. We have to identify all new streams to pay back bonds
  - xli. VP: Time has elapsed
  - xlii. President: motion to end discussion
  - xliii. Vote to end: mostly ayes (3 nays, 3 abstentions). The conversation has ended and we will move on.
  - xliv. VP: Thank you so much for being here! We appreciate it
- b. At-Large Representative Elections
  - i. Seeing no nominations, we will move on.
- c. Group funding requests
  - i. My name is Ona, and this is Chris Austin. We are from learning, Teaching, and Curriculum. We would like to have an

event later this week to host graduate students and provide food. The event is this Thursday, in the lobby of Townsend hall. In our department, we are rather divided in terms of office locations. We have over 300 graduate students. So, it is a bit of a challenge to connect within our own department. Our organization is trying to close that gap, and this is one opportunity for that.

- ii. We have a flyer, and it has been distributed through various listservs.
- iii. When we planned this, it was before the mumps outbreak. So, we will change the food a bit to make it pre-packaged.
- iv. We are looking to build community without our large department
- v. VP: Thank you, now we will field questions for you guys. Any questions?
- vi. ESCT: How is this different from the coffee and cookies that is already being offered to us?
- vii. Speaker: (Ona): That coffee event is through GPC. Our social event is just between graduate students
- viii. VP: Seeing no more questions, we will now ask the Treasurer questions.
- ix. Treasurer: group funding awards can be as high as \$600, small group events are up to \$250. This is somewhat moot given what they've asked for.
- x. At-large: Is there any way we could discuss adding \$25 to their request, to accommodate additional costs from disease control?
- xi. Treasurer: we could make a motion to increase their funds
- xii. At-large: Motion to increase their funding up to \$150
- xiii. Seconded: ISLT
- xiv. VP: vote to amend the amount up by \$25—All ayes (0 nays, 0 abstentions)
- xv. President: Move to call the question
- xvi. Seconded: Political Science
- xvii. Vote to end discussion: All ayes. Now we can move on to vote on the amount
- xviii. VP: We can now vote to fund them at \$150—all ayes (0 nays, 0 abstentions). The funding of \$150 has been approved.

## VIII. Old Business





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- a. No old business

IX. New Business

- a. Best Practices for GA Representative Elections—Mr. Baker (*minutes temporarily taken by President Bauer*)
  - i. Glenn Baker gave overview of the process he has been working on with his committee. Drafting because: increasing efficiency of GPC and to standardize our processes.
  - ii. Departments vote at diff times. Not saying there needs to be a requirement, but want to form a best practices document. Email would consist of two documents. Time and materials that individuals could choose to use for emails, elections procedures, etc. Help us get ducks in a row at beginning. Better comm. if we know who will be here earlier.
  - iii. Asking for feedback and concerns. This is not a thing yet; GA still needs to approve it in a resolution.
  - iv. Journalism: Love idea of election. Historically no one votes in that department. Usually goes by volunteer.
    - 1. Glenn: we will add provision on this
  - v. ECE: Main concern is we elect in April then as soon as someone would get involved would be their second semester
    - 1. Glenn: valid concern. Limits first years being here. But does not say first years can't come. We also have at-large.
    - 2. Jackie: Additionally, this is a recommendation for it to be a better recommendation.
    - 3. Glenn: Does implicitly recommend 2<sup>nd</sup> year and above
  - vi. MAE: Not saying you have to. Just best practices. Continuity. Training happens in fall so they can go through that. If your department doesn't have election, you don't have to hold one. Best to get new people in April so they can come with existing member in May to learn.
  - vii. Computer Science: Great idea. Might be some people who say this is telling them what to do, but GA and Exec can use best practices to improve the overall organization. This only goes to improve GPC.

- viii. TH: Is there a possibility of separating this (info) from that (materials).
  - 1. Glenn: Fair point. We will discuss this in comm. This is to make this easy.
- b. Wellness Student Survey update—Mr. Baker
  - i. Main thing SA committee is doing. All good to launch this in Feb. Admin has collected some info on this last year, and we will be meeting to discuss the data to make sure we don't overlap. We are going to ask you to distribute this. Focus: G/P well-being. Using Berkley survey (with permission) as our basis. We will be emailing this and expecting you to send it around too. Some sections are basic while others are more in-depth.
    - 1. At Large TH: Are there questions for those who are differently abled and their accessibility?
      - a. Glen: We will look into adding.
    - 2. LTC: You'll be sending this out. But does this have key backing from important people?
      - a. Rachel: Provosts office Chancellor's office and, OS, etc.
- c. Campus Mumps update—Ms. Bauer (*minutes again taken by Secretary Baker*)
  - i. President: You likely saw the precautions that we took regarding mumps. The University is up to 158 cases, meaning this is somewhat serious. Please take precautions. Please reach out to your professors, students, and departments about this. Keep washing your hands! And avoid Greek life (where this is currently centered). Administration is hopeful that this will die off over break. However, we do not wish to infect students' families! If you have any further questions about the mumps, I can put you in contact with anyone that needs to be
  - ii. Theater: When your classroom has become infected, what does that mean?
  - iii. President: It refers to your students. Send any of your students who may (or do) have the mumps home.
  - iv. VP: Just to compare us, the university of Illinois is up to 400 cases.
- d. Announcements & Upcoming Events
  - i. Coffee Talk—Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 10-12 pm, GPC Offices CSI



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1. VP: Please come to coffee talk this week! Also, as a reminder, don't leave yet we need to take a picture with the gifts!

**X. Open Forum**

- a. President: We will now do a raffle! Kristopherson Culmer, a representative of intercollegiate athletics, is giving away 5 pairs of basketball tickets! We will select student ID numbers randomly.
- b. Journalism: I missed the liaison report. Basically, what was talked about in our last meeting, a month ago, was the chancellor's office promised to pay millions of dollars 6 months ago.
- c. President: I will follow up with you on that item
- d. Kristofferson Culmer: NAGPS has our meeting in Stony Brook, New York recently. There were a couple of awards given. GPC was selected as the best student government in the United States! Further, Jackie was selected as the outstanding board member. Finally, Alex was re-elected to the board next year, as will I.
- e. At-Large: CGW coalition meeting will be held next Friday. I encourage everyone to join CGW and become part of that process. Also, I wanted to say that, for people who have not seen the news yet, the lawsuit between CGW and the University will likely be decided by the end of March.
- f. LTC: I don't know if this has been addressed—what happened to the craft studio?
- g. President: An official announcement has not been made yet. But I can tell you that it is alive, and moving into Gentry hall in a first step towards an inter-disciplinary creativity initiative. We fought hard to have this, as have MSA. Thank you all for the emails who supported us in this initiative.
- h. President: Now for the raffle!
- i. President: Come up for the picture, and have a great break!

**XI. Adjournment**

- a. Motion to adjourn:
- b. First: PFP
- c. Seconded: President
- d. Vote: all ayes
- e. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.