



**General Assembly Special Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 21, 2017**

Minutes

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 - a. 6:04 p.m.
- II. Adoption of the Agenda
 - a. Move to adopt the agenda:
 - b. First: Secretary
 - c. Second: At-large
 - d. Vote to adopt: All ayes (0 nays, 0 abstentions)
- III. Old Business
 - a. Student Services Fee—Ms. Bauer and Ms. Gamboa Varela
 - i. President: There are certain steps that we need to make sure that we follow in order to decide whether or not to vote on the proposed fee measure.
 - ii. One of the requires steps, required as per the articles of cooperation between us and MSA, was not followed. Because of this, we did not feel comfortable in moving forward with the fee vote until we had taken care of all of the proper steps. MSA was immediately informed of the breach in protocol and were notified that we called a special meeting.
 - iii. So today, we are NOT voting on the fee itself, but rather we are voting to see if we are in favor of this moving forward to a vote.
 - iv. If this proposed fee is voted to pass onto a formal vote, then we (graduate and professional student) will move forward
 - v. Eric Scott: I know we do not yet have access to last month's meeting. Would it be possible if Glenn [Secretary] to read the relevant portions of the recent minutes to recap our discussion about this fee?
 - vi. [Some general discussion in regard to his question—determined that yes, this was possible if asked for explicitly]
 - vii. VP: In brief, last month we discussed the relevant price points, and portions of the fee, where they would go, etc.
 - viii. Rachel Bauer: I recall as well that there was a lot of apprehension as to where the library fee would be going (some

is going to the 24/5 access), other funds to collections other than journal collections, etc.

- ix. Rachel Bauer: Because this is a student fee, this cannot get rolled into a general fund. The fee must be locked into the areas designated.
- x. Political Science: I don't mean to argue, but I doubt that students WOULD, in fact, repeal the fee. It may be possible, but it is not likely
- xi. At-large: Who makes up SFRC?
- xii. President: It is made up of graduates, faculty, and undergraduates. It is one of the only fully student committees on campus, and it is observed by one staff member.
- xiii. Electrical engineering: How would we respond if we vote this down now, versus a voting it down on a full vote later
- xiv. History: As GPC, how do we have authority as to what goes to the undergrads?
- xv. President: We don't—but this is a joint effort
- xvi. At-Large (Willoughby): Did we, in the last meeting, make a decision as GPC whether or not we plan on campaigning for this fee?
- xvii. President: We did not make a stance last meeting, nor does this resolution take a stance.
- xviii. ABGPS: What is the chance of this fee actually passing? What is the utility of passing this to a vote if we expect the same results?
- xix. President: There is a possibility that this will fail. I am always of the opinion of letting it go to a vote to see
- xx. MHA: We were told which portion of the fee went to which purpose. Does it go to students, or will some fee money be used for things such as office supplies?
- xxi. President: This goes to fund services
- xxii. MHA: So if we vote it down, is it like we are voting down more student employees?
- xxiii. Philosophy: I can speak towards the “green” portion of the chart here [library fee]. The library specifically, the money isn't just going to a particular area. There is an agreement for how the money will be used that departments had to sign onto before the fee even went forward. It will do things such as revitalizing spaces. Also, without this funding we can't get back



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to 24/5. For other areas on this chart, the funding is earmarked for certain things.

- xxiv. President: I believe that they will be receiving student input on these issues in the future
- xxv. President: There are restraints for fees like this
- xxvi. VP: Especially since these are student fees
- xxvii. Physics: I thought you said earlier that the vote would be on each slate—as in MSA slate versus our slate—or did I just misunderstand?
- xxviii. President: It is kind of confusing. The University will disseminate a link to all student between March 6th and March 8th. You will have an opportunity to vote on ONE thing—this resolution. Undergraduates will have the opportunity to vote on TWO things. This will
- xxix. Political Science: How long has this fee been discussed? We don't have a lot of time for the students to be fully informed on this
- xxx. President: discussions of this fee began last summer. However, it was not made more concrete until this recent winter break.
- xxxi. ABPGS: Do we know how much of this is actually going to benefit graduate students?
- xxxii. President: It depends on how you define benefit. One example is the counselling center. The counseling center does directly benefit graduate students. Things such as student unions may be underutilized by graduate students, but they are still available to our constituents and are used by some.
- xxxiii. VP: Collections also goes to support us [graduate students] on research
- xxxiv. Philosophy: I can speak directly on that point. The articles and journals deficit is large (millions). This fund is small in comparison, but it does something by comparison. The biggest cry is for hours, but it does something.
- xxxv. (didn't see): Does the university admin. Respond to what we do here? What would be a bigger message? That we voted it down here, or had it voted down by the student body?

- xxxvi. President: Probably the student body. That was the fail heard around the campus.
- xxxvii. VP: Seeing no more questions, we can move onto our next item.

IV. New Business

- a. Resolution #1617-17- “A Resolution for Students of the University of Missouri to Vote on a Student Services Enhancement Fee”—Ms. Bauer, Ms. Gamboa Varela, Mr. Baker
 - i. VP: We will now address the resolution in new business.
 - ii. PFP: motion to forgo the reading
 - iii. First: At-large
 - iv. Second: Secretary
 - v. Vote: mostly ayes (5 nays, 0 abstentions)
 - vi. VP: Ok, we will forgo the reading. Rachel? [President]
 - vii. President: The language in the resolution itself can be amended, but appendix A cannot be amended as it was agreed upon by MSA and GPC as required by the articles of cooperation.
 - viii. At-large: Would it be possible to add a friendly amendment that states GPC is neutral going forward?
 - ix. President: We cannot do that right now. But you can move to make an actual amendment.
 - x. ABGPS: So graduate students who are signed up for 2 credit hours pay \$6?
 - xi. President: Correct. Because I am ABD, I only pay \$6. The fee is capped at 9 credit hours—just over \$26 a semester
 - xii. PFP: I have two things: 1) appendix A does not reference the cap for graduate and professional students. 2) In the last whereas clause, the first word “these” needs to be struck
 - xiii. President: No, this is not included [cap] but it will be on what you vote on. The second thing can be a friendly amendment.
 - xiv. At-large: Motion for an amendment—after last resolved clause, saying be resolved that GPC moving forward makes no stance for or against this proposal. [actual proposed wording changes added]
 - xv. VP: Is there a second to this amendment?
 - xvi. Second: Theatre



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- xvii. Computer Science: What if we said [specifies friendly amendment to proposed new language. Accepted by the GA body]
- xviii. At-large (Eric Scott): While I agree with the sentiment of this amendment, I think that there whereas clauses included are in favor of passing the referendum [clashing with the proposed new language].
- xix. Political language: I agree. This basically makes the case for the proposed fee, not dissenting against it. I think it is dubious that graduate students will see clear benefits from this. I don't propose them piecemeal, but I oppose them being lumped together like this. The feedback I have received from my department has been overwhelmingly no on this fee. If the undergraduates vote on this, they will vote yes as they outnumber us. There is no time to make a dissenting case.
- xx. VP: As a general reminder, we are debating this resolution, not whether or not we should accept this fee.
- xxi. : Would it be a friendly amendment to strike all resolved clauses?
- xxii. President: No, this would be a massive proposed change.
- xxiii. PFP: Vote to include this amendment to the resolution.
- xxiv. First: PFP
- xxv. Second: President
- xxvi. Vote: mostly ayes (0 nays, 5 abstentions)
- xxvii. VP: Ok, we will add this amendment
- xxviii. Theatre: Has MSA already voted to pass this?
- xxix. VP: Yes, they voted in referendum to move this onto a vote
- xxx. ABPGS: I think that the resolution could remain intact by removing those 4 whereas clauses {indicates}
- xxxi. VP: Do you wish to make an amendment?
- xxxii. APBGS: Yes, I motion to strike whereas clauses 2-5.
- xxxiii. VP: Do I have a second?
- xxxiv. Second: political science
- xxxv. VP: comments, discussion for this amendment?
- xxxvi. PFP: Motion to vote on the proposed amendment

- xxxvii. Second: At large (Willoughby)
- xxxviii. VP: We are going to vote on the proposed amendment. All in favor of approving this amendment
1. Vote: 21 ayes, 15 nays, 10 abstentions.
 2. VP: The proposed amendment passes [58% in favor, simple majority required]. I will do a friendly amendment where [minor inconsequential wording change specified]
- xxxix. VP: Any other discussion, suggestions, on the resolution?
- xl. (didn't see): I think if you are concerned the fee passing will lead to bad behavior by administration, we could hope the students would vote it down. But a good strategy would also be to vote it down now, so it doesn't stand a chance of being passed.
 - xli. President: I just want again to say, personally, I believe that it is fair to go to the student body, as it is a decision that it would impact all of us
 - xl.ii. Journalism: What would happen if we did dismiss it? How does that work?
 - xl.iii. President: It doesn't go to a vote if it doesn't pass both student body governments.
 - xl.iiii. VP: Right, if we don't pass this resolution, it will not go towards a vote.
 - xl.v. Journalism: Then would they pass it?
 - xl.vi. VP: No. It would not go to a vote
 - xl.vii. Dir. of Comm.: It could die in this room.
 - xl.viii. VP: There can only be one vote per semester. So this date is already set
 - xl.ix. Comm.: What would the political ramifications if we were to vote this down right now, with MSA?
 1. President: Considering it did pass with a unanimous vote in the undergraduate senate, there may be some ramifications. I might have to deal with those consequences [laughs lightly]
 - li. VP: Within the executive boards of MSA and GPC, we have a good relationship.
 - lii. At-large (Eric Scott): while I have serious ramifications about parts of this fee, I do support this moving forward to a vote. Given the circumstances were in, I do believe that the most democratic thing is to allow it to move forward to a vote.



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- liii. English: I abstained from the whereas clause votes. I am going to vote no on this fee. One of the biggest desires as GPC is to have a voice in the things that happen on this campus. My fear is that if we kill this now, administration may not want us in the room anymore. It may be detrimental to our long term goals. I think we should move forward with a vote
- liv. : Going forward, let's say we do agree and next semester we feel we are not benefitting much from this fee. What does the appeal process of this fee look like? What actions can we take as GPC if we feel that we are not benefits from this? What is the procedure, and how would we move forward?
- lv. President: To repeal a student-wide fee by referendum both GPC and MSA would have to repeal it in referendum. Though we could also move to amend this fee in the future.
- lvi. Computer Science: I think you were asking what control graduate students have on this moving forward. If any portion of the student body is not satisfied with how the money is being spend, the GPC treasurer has the responsibility to make sure that our voices are being heard in any proposed changes, if this passes.
- lvii. Journalism: Is this truly a democratic process?
- lviii. President; You can look at our actual country, and it's arguably not much of a democratic process. Likely a minority of students will vote on this fee.
- lix. PFP: The reality is there are about 5,900 graduate students [note: not the right number] and about 25, 000 undergraduate students. We are paying for what we would use. Give the students a chance to vote on this. A fee may improve our University as a whole, not just now but down the road.
- lx. Sociology: I'm pretty uncomfortable with a room full of 40 people killing such a proposal, seeing as MSA wants it and has already passed it.
- lxi. Political Science: I take your point. However, right now we have the opportunity to act as a cooler plate. We are in GPC. We do have the power to say no to this. If you really believe that leaving a better university is for everybody to decide, I understand that. But we have to think of our own self-interest.

This is another fee that we will have to pay for. At a certain point we have to look at our own self-interest, and I do not believe that this is in our interest.

- lxii. At-large (Eric Scott): Point of inquiry—do we have to pass a resolution like every time there is one of these joint fees now?
- lxiii. President: Yes, and this is how it has been since 2005. Today we are making sure that, given the breach in protocol, that this can move forward correction
- lxiv. PFP: Call the question
- lxv. VP: All in favor of closing discussion
- lxvi. Vote: mostly ayes, 1 nay, 0 abstentions
- lxvii. VP: Ok, we will now move forward to vote on whether or not to pass this resolution, with two approve amendments
- lxviii. VP: All in favor: mostly ayes (4 nays, 3 abstentions)
- lxix. VP: This resolution passes
- lxx.

V. Open Forum

- a. President: I move to forgo open forum and adjourn the meeting

VI. Adjournment

- a. VP: Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?
- b. First: President
- c. Second: At-large
- d. VP: Meeting adjourned
 - i. 6:57 p.m.