



University of Missouri - Columbia  
**Graduate Professional Council**

**Graduate Professional Council**  
General Assembly Meeting  
March 7, 2006

- I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order by Vice President Steve Schuster at 6:02pm.
- II. Adoption of Minutes  
The minutes of the February 2006 meeting were adopted by acclimation.
- III. Adoption of Agenda  
The agenda was adopted by acclimation.
- IV. Action Items
- V. Old Business
  1. **Katrina Victims Support Committee (KVSC) update** – Josh Holmes (5 minutes)  
On February 28<sup>th</sup> the Law school took part in a National Day of Solidarity. The Monday before they had speakers talking about ongoing legal problems with hurricane relief. They were able to sell about \$40 in buttons. Currently, they are setting a date for a National Day of Solidarity to be held in the spring and will be coordinating with voting for issues. Keep an eye out for upcoming information on the national day of solidarity. Joshua will need help in coordinating this event.  
  
Erin Richards: Are you mainly focusing on gulf coast residents?  
Answer: Yes, they do not want to disinclude them. The voting for New Orleans are important and since most residents are not there, they will work on abstentee ballots.
- VI. New Business
  1. **Funding request:** Annual symposium - Art History and Archeology Graduate Student Association (15 minutes)  
Presented by Cassandra Kasperson  
They co-organize a graduate student symposium with UMKC and it is their year to host. The theme is exploring the theme of changing landscapes as expressed through archeology and art. They have 11 students presenting and will have a prominent professor in archeology, Susan Alcott, presenting the keynote address. The event will be held March 11. The symposium is free and open to everyone

and they estimate 100 attendees. They are requesting funds from multiple sources and are requesting \$400 from the GPC. Of this money \$100 would be spent on breakfast foods for attendees and \$300 for a wine and cheese reception that will be held before the keynote address.

How many students will be there from all school?  
They are hosting more than 11 students from other schools. She thinks about 20 students will be coming from off campus.

Is it going to be at Hickert hall or spread out?  
Yes at Hickert hall

This event is in 4 days and you are \$800 short? If we don't fund this will those aspects of the event not happen?  
They will have to work it out themselves if funding doesn't come through.

Floor opened for discussion.

Finance Committee is strongly in support of this request. The group had initially requested more money that did not meet GPC guidelines. They understand, and are okay with the reduction.

Funding request passed by majority.

2. **Funding request:** Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students (ABGPS) Scholarship Gala – ABGPS (15 minutes)  
This is an end of the year event. Plan to use the event  
Want \$500 for food and beverages. They expect about 50 attendees.

Pius Nyutu: This is to wind up the activities for the end of the year. As they are reorganizing their organization they would like to make themselves aware to other students across campus. They will offer scholarships of \$500 each to student leaders. This event is in replacement of their end of the year banquet. The monies will go solely for food at the event.

April: Did they seek funding from other sources?  
Yes, they have. Their total budget is \$1700.

Robin: Robin: She is not an active member of ABGPS. She thinks we should support this banquet. When GPC first put on a tech fair the ABGPS helped with the event, as well as the second year. Then in the next year they did a diversity thing that raised their profile in the community. She was asked to sit on a city board. Because ABGPS has supported us, we should support them.

Is there a recommendation from the finance committee?  
They were pretty much in support. The food estimate was pretty rough and they estimated \$10/person. The committee felt that the amount could be reduced.

April: Is this open to everyone or do you have to sign up?  
It is open to everyone but they did not really provide details.

Robin: The group is nurtured by the Graduate school. The money will be spent as directed. She did not want representatives to think it was a disorganized group, but it is very informal.

The funding request passed by majority.

3. **National Issues presentation** – Josh Holmes (5 minutes)  
Wanted to talk about the 2007 proposed federal education budget and how it will affect the ways student loans are dispersed. The private lenders that distribute funds cost much more, approximately 8 billion dollars in government spending. If the government did not go through these private lenders they could save a large amount of money. The government guaranteed loan program and the guaranteed loan program offer the same services. It is a handout to these financial institutions (like Sallie Mae) and they give back to the political community. In the upcoming March for Higher Education that the GPC will be hosting in April we would like to make this one of the important issues that we focus on. The hope is that if we can generate enough to resistant they would put the dispersion in the government hands.

What is the legitimate reason for using private lenders?  
There is none. It is in the structure of the budget.

4. **Resolution 0506-08:** A resolution to amend the MSA/GPC Articles of Cooperation regarding Student Fee Review Committee (SFRC) – Mark Beard and Al Ludwig (15 minutes)  
The SFRC was a joint committee between MSA and GPC, but only existed in the MSA bylaws. MSA basically had complete control of this committee. They have been able to pull it out of the MSA bylaws and make it a true joint committee. Passing this resolution gives us a binding voice and solidifies our position on this committee. The structure of the committee will basically remain the same. We need a 2/3 majority vote to pass this and will be voted on by MSA at their meeting tomorrow.

What is the procedure if one body or another refuses to accept?  
MSA will have the committee completely to themselves.

Is this the only amendment to the articles of the cooperation that we will make this year?

Answer: Because they wanted to do a resolution we also needed to. Per MSA operating guidelines.

How many GPC seats will we have on this committee?

We will have one for an appointed GPC representative.

What would be the procedure of choosing the other committee member that are not GPC representatives (the other 2 grad students)?

The committee chair, assigned through the VP of GPC, and applications have to be made to be on the committee. It is hard to get graduate students to go.

April: If we pass this as a resolution we must pass the amendment on a separate vote.

Answer: We will have to have 2 votes.

Pius Nyutu: Had a question regarding the other seats that are not from MSA or GPC. He wanted to know where they were coming from.

Mark: They are called student fee analysts. It is for a true perspective of the students regarding student fees. It is to get other perspectives outside of student government. If other groups want to have a say on this committee this is their chance.

Resolution passed by majority.

Amendment passes by 2/3 majority.

5. **Articles of Cooperation** – Mark Beard (15 minutes)

a. Mizzou Club Sports Federation (MCSF)

To help classify Sports clubs to familiarize these groups with the resources available to them and the policies of the University. They will allow one seat to the Committee to a GPC representative and would allow for us to interact with them.

April: Is there any money that goes along with this cooperation?

No, we give them no money.

The Articles of Cooperation passed by 2/3 majority.

b. Organizational Resource Group (ORG)

This is a legality issue. We created these in the fall and then found out that ORG no longer keeps a web server, so this was removed this from the duties, and we also need to add an Amendment Clause. Everything else remained the same.

Amendment to the ORG articles of cooperation. Passed by 2/3 majority

- c. Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM)  
This was passed in the Fall. We added an amendment, termination clause.

Amendment to the changes to the ASUM articles of cooperation passed by 2/3 of majority.

## VII. Officer Reports

Lucas Kunce: ASUM had a meeting last week. There is nothing to report from the house. The MOHELA discussion is on-going, a few representatives do not want UM to get the fundings. He is resigning his position at the next ASUM meeting as he is running for state representative.

Josh Holmes: The elimination of the Pell grant program. April 12<sup>th</sup> will be the student march for higher education to raise awareness of state and national education.

Al Ludwig: The budget will be presented at next General Assembly meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss travel scholarships, revising general funding guidelines, and the budget. In the last 2 weeks we found out that we had 12,000 dollars less than we were originally told. We are cutting back in a few areas (programming, RCAF, Rollins and gold chalk, we have no carryover) for next year we will be cutting back even less. Cuts will be made across the board. We think we have it down to a level that is workable but the committee will be reviewing this at the upcoming meeting. Please email Al if you are interested in helping out with the finance committee.

Dan Robinson: The Latin Dance event went well; they had approximately 200 people attend the event. The Spades Tournament is this Saturday at 9:00. Free food, have fun, meet some people. Karaoke night is in March at the Days Inn. With cut backs we are still trying to host all of our events. With the RCAF event we will have 85 presenters. He could use a few more people to help out and be there to help with the running of the event. MSA events coming up are the International Fashion Show on March 11<sup>th</sup> and Keller Williams on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Jesse auditorium.

Steve Schuster: Gold Chalk and Rollins society nominations are due this Friday. He could use volunteers at 10 am this Saturday, March 11 to help with the election of these awards. At the next meeting we will have the first round of nominations for GPC officers. February 9-12<sup>th</sup> he went to the NAGPS national meeting in Miami. He found the organization disorganized but has a lot of potential. He thinks if we would like to take a leadership

role at the national level this would be a major possibility. They worked on building the legislative platform for the coming year (mainly to do with the HEAEA), the tuition endowment plan [www.nte.org](http://www.nte.org), and they had multiple conferences on how to make GPC stronger.

Mark Beard: He will be sending a comparison sheet (Government Blunt to House proposal on allocation of MOHELA funds). There are multiple differences and they are proposing more monies towards community colleges and towards state debts, rather than higher education. He encouraged representatives to get the student perspective and also talk to Lucas about issues that can be taken up to the capitol.

Last meeting we talked about a 6% increase in tuition, now looking at 5.8% and a 3% increase in supplemental fees. The facility fee has been dropped; we had supported a \$4/credit hour fee to help with renovations across campus. Look for this to reappear next year, it will probably come back. The architectural and science lab course fees will be increasing, but only apply to undergraduate courses.

April 12<sup>th</sup> we would like to do a letter writing campaign. If you are interested in serving on a committee to help planning this event please put your information on the contact sheet. The idea is that on this day around the fountain they will have tables representing every district. They would like to support one state and one national issue. We will have people helping at the tables to help students write a personal letter to their representative regarding this issue. We will do things to get students interested. MSA is already talking about how they can help to get undergrads involved as well.

Question about house and Governor's plans?

The governor's plan was to go to 4 year higher education facility, campus improvement (not to our college specifically). It was staying within the system, according to his plan.

When is the tuition increase taking into effect?

Next fall.

Mark will also be sending out an application for the SFRC chair position. Deadline is March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please pass out to your students.

## VIII. Liaison Reports

ABGPS: They recently hosted their professional development seminar on grant writing and then had a social activity. The next meeting is this Saturday. And March 15<sup>th</sup> they will have another professional development. They will be sending an ABGPS rep to a national meeting March 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

SBA: They had their annual dance a week and a half ago.

Vet School: nothing to report at this time

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.