

The Golden Ticket Platform encompasses one, overarching theme:  
**Improving the Quality of Life for a UGA Student.**

Each platform point reviews how we will address specific issues relating to a student's quality of life and the Student Government's role in making this happen.

### **UGA1101: AN ESSENTIAL FIRST YEAR INRODUCTION**

#### **PROBLEM:**

As first year students, many aren't aware of what exactly is offered here at UGA, and in Athens. Students often aren't informed about the school's history, service opportunities, available majors and other important details about college life. First year student rarely get the opportunity to interact with tenured staff.

#### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We are going to propose a mandatory class for first year students. This class will be taught by a tenured faculty member along with a student peer-aid; so new students get both college perspectives. This class will cover information that will help students become more immersed in the bulldog nation.

#### **IN GENERAL:**

As students at the University of Georgia, we are all very proud of the university that we attend and represent. We believe that is very beneficial for first year the students to feel comfortable and become immediately acclimated to UGA and Athens. SGA should pay attention to these student's needs along with the rest of campus.

### **CREATING CAMPUS COMMUNICATION**

#### **PROBLEM:**

UGA is too great of a school to see the divisions on campus that we do. There is not enough communication between the facets of our university.

## **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We are going to implement a comprehensive network for campus communication. Starting with adding a new administrative position in SGA that deals exclusively with communications across the board. We want to swing open the flood gates of communication between North and South Campus; between the minority community and the majority students. We are going to take communication to a new level. We want you the student or your student organization to know that we'll be listening out for you. We will make certain that communication is held to the highest of priority.

## **IN GENERAL:**

In order for our campus to be united and successful as a whole we must have a solid line of communication. SGA should promote communication. SGA the overarching connector for the campus.

## **IMPLEMENTING WITHDRAWAL REFORM**

### **PROBLEM:**

There are only a certain number of classes available for students to enroll in and when someone enrolls in a class without the intention of staying in the class, it prevents another student from taking the class.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will propose a system that will guarantee that more classes are available by working with students and administrators to limit the number of withdrawals a student may make. Also under this plan, we will seek from the administration a compromise where a student can fully replace up to 2 grades by retaking a class they did not perform well; currently a student's two grades are averaged, under this plan the most current grade would stand alone.

### **IN GENERAL:**

SGA should make sure that students can get into the classes need. By limiting the number of withdrawals a student may make, students will be more inclined to seriously consider taking a course. Also, students should be given a second chance to replace a poor grade.

## **WORKING TOWARDS CAMPUS DIVERSITY**

### **PROBLEM:**

At an Institution of our caliber, we should be on the cutting edge of diversity. We are not. There are many elements of Institutional Diversity where we are lacking.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will promote, sponsor, and co-sponsor events for students that have been accepted to the University that will help them to see what the University has to offer. We will assist the Office of Multicultural Affairs in their programs by continually communicating with potential students. We will allow minority students feel at home after they decide to attend UGA by implementing different round table discussions and events that invite students from all ethnic, religious and social minorities to meet and greet each other. Encourage student organizations to promote and to sponsor events that allow students from different ethnic, religious and social minorities to meet and greet each other.

### **IN GENERAL:**

SGA should seek to be aware and sensitive to the needs of the minority community. SGA research and develop programs designed to enhance understanding and quality of life for all students.

## **FOCUSING SOUTH CAMPUS RELATIONS**

### **PROBLEM:**

In years past there has been a disconnect between SGA and South Campus and the organizations involved on South Campus. This impedes the growth of our campus as a whole.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will work closely with Ag Hill to ensure communication is priority number one between the two. We will evaluate the South Campus Committee of SGA and restructure it to be more of a tool for South Campus students as opposed to the current state of the committee. We are going to make certain South Campus students realize that SGA only wants to promote the goals of South Campus and be an inclusive organization that is welcoming for all students.

**IN GENERAL:**

SGA should be a tool for South Campus students and the organizations of South Campus. SGA should cooperate and communicate with Ag Hill and other organizations to ensure that SGA is beneficial to all of its constituents, while paying special attention not to impose on current operations.

**INSTITUTING ELECTION REFORM**

**PROBLEM:**

There are a number of issues with the election procedure:

- 1) OASIS is not the easiest program for voting.
- 2) Voter turnout is low.
- 3) The election dates cut right through the middle of the semester.
- 4) The current campaigning process is long and drawn out.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will explore and instate alternate methods of the polling process in order to make the voting process easier for the student and also to increase voter turnout. We will work with EITS to see this through, also benefiting the Homecoming Election Process. We will publicize the fact that any student that meets grade and hours requirements may seek office within SGA prior to candidacy cut-off. We will shorten the current campaigning period to include only one week of campaigning and two days of voting. We will seek extend the election date so that the administration may serve a school calendar term; effective after the upcoming term is done

**IN GENERAL:**

Voting should be a simple process and should be representative of the student body as whole. SGA should be more informative of election protocol, candidacy requirements and voting procedures.

**CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

**PROBLEM:**

The current Constitution is simply outdated. There are many inconsistencies and loopholes. Many facets of the organization are loosely defined and the document as a whole is muddy.



**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will continue and support the new and current process of overhauling a vague and ineffective Constitution. We want to see more accountability focused within SGA, mandated by the Constitution. We want to see a more concrete document with no loopholes and inconsistencies. We will oversee more complete and comprehensive definitions of the organs and positions within SGA included.

**IN GENERAL:**

The Constitution should be a tool and guide, not a fortress of ineffective language. It should be concise, but complete. Finally, it should clearly provide the standard at which SGA operates.

**FORM ETHICS/ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**PROBLEM:**

There is a lack of accountability internally in SGA. Likewise, SGA Elections are often deemed inaccessible to the average student.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will create a new committee that will address internal accountability by monitoring the actions the organization. This committee will consist of members from other organizations as well as SGA members. This committee will investigate claims of unethical practices and behavior; ensuring that we are held accountable for how we hold office. This committee will also serve as a standing elections committee that will prepare the election process far in advance as to notify all students of elections. This committee will monitor elections and ensure their fairness.

**IN GENERAL:**

SGA should be a more accountable organization both within itself and to the student body. Also, SGA should make certain the elections process is fair and respectable.



## IMPLEMENTING AN OPEN RECORDS ACT

### **PROBLEM:**

There are three issues that will be subject to this act:

- 1) Senators are currently unaccountable to their constituents by their voting records.
- 2) Legislation is inaccurately tracked and recorded.
- 3) The SGA budget is not presented to the students on a regular basis.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will instate a Mandatory Roll Call Vote before entire Senate Body on every piece of legislation. The voting records of each senate will appear online immediately following the evening's business, along with all senators' track records. Every piece of legislation will have a track record and paper trail; we will document each piece and keep to ensure constitutional accuracy along with the accountability and credibility of SGA. The treasurer shall present a state of the budget, which will include a full, detailed report of the budget at each senate. This report will also be updated and presented online for student access.

### **IN GENERAL:**

SGA should be more transparent in its activities. If we are to be student advocates, the students must be privy to the procedures regarding how we operate.

## IMPENDING SENATE REFORM

### **PROBLEM:**

Student feedback has noted that SGA senate often seems inaccessible to the student body. Students also feel that our operating procedures are not widely known, harming their chance to exercise their privileges.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We want to make the SGA senate more accessible to the student body as well as most effective and conducive for the conduction of business. We want to ensure the location of senate is easily accessible yet maintains a professional atmosphere in which to conduct business. We want to ensure that the timing and date of senate is most convenient for the senate body as well as the student body. We want to assure all in attendance are aware of

Senate procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. At every senate, senate protocol sheets will be distributed as to how the Senate operates in order to avail students the best opportunity to voice their concerns to the body.

**IN GENERAL:**

The SGA Senate should be a place where students feel welcomed to attend and participate. It is the responsibility of SGA to inform its constituents as to how it operates and how they can voice their concerns.

**REGAINING CONTROL OF STUDENT ALLOCATION FEES**

**PROBLEM:**

Currently, SGA does not have the infrastructure and measures in place to gain control of student allocation fees.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will introduce new infrastructure to accommodate the process of allocating student fees. This will take form in a Senate Finance Committee, which will also work to openly prepare SGA's budget and eventually oversee the allocation process. We will also put in place measure to react to ineffective administrations so as to protect the process and student's fees.

**IN GENERAL:**

Before SGA takes control of allocation fees, it should have in place the necessary means to accomplish that goal. It should act responsibly and effectively to prepare for that transition in the future.

**ADDRRESING CAMPUS POLLING/OPINION**

**PROBLEM:**

While recent polling efforts have made progress, there is still a need for more campus opinion gauging and polling. SGA is still not made aware of all issues facing students and students need a medium through which to express those opinions and issues.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will make campus wide polling more representative of the student body through increased participation through more frequent polls, more widely published results, and working out tangible results regarding student opinion.

**IN GENERAL:**

SGA should be responsible for seeking out and responding effectively to student concerns.

**ACTING FOR SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STUDENTS**

**PROBLEM:**

Students in SPIA have difficult times getting classes, due to an incredibly unbalanced student/teacher ratio.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

As a long term solution to the problem, we will encourage the administration to make Political Science a “High Demand Major” in order to balance the SPIA student/teacher ratio. As a short term solution, we will lobby the state for increased funding. If funding is available, we will support the administration’s expressed desire to increase faculty in SPIA. Either way, students will see smaller class sizes and a more manageable selection of classes available.

**IN GENERAL:**

Students should not have to worry about the availability of a class in their major. Student concern will be expressed to the administration, and SGA will see to it that a solution is implemented.

**CREATING A RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITY ACT**

**PROBLEM:**

Students have expressed that they sometimes are caught in conflicts regarding testing and other assignments being due on religious holidays.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We are going to pass legislation that encourages deans, department heads and professors to be more sensitive to major religious holidays. We will create a comprehensive calendar including these dates so that planning and schedules can be made in a manner that does not conflict with major religious holidays. In doing so, we will ensure that students are not forced to take exams, make class presentations or be mandated to participate in class activities that are in conflict with major religious holidays.

**IN GENERAL:**

Students should not have to choose between recognizing religious holidays and their academic career. SGA should present this issue to the administration and provide a solution.

**LOBBYING STATE GOVERNMENT**

**PROBLEM:**

There is seemingly always debate on the HOPE scholarship and funding for UGA.

**GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We pledge to serve as advocates for student interest at all levels of government. We will act as liaisons between the student body and the Georgia Assembly by promoting and lobbying for the fiscal health and survival of the HOPE scholarship and its application to all collegiate majors. We will also lobby the Georgia General Assembly to encourage the allocation of full-formula funding to the University of Georgia.

**IN GENERAL:**

SGA should give students a voice, especially in those areas where it is more difficult to be heard- Atlanta politics. SGA should focus on its representative duties no matter the venue.



## **WORK WITH ARCH FOUNDATION**

### **ISSUE:**

The Arch Foundation is a newly formed body. There is an incredible potential to make sure students are kept at the forefront of the University via a relationship with the Arch Foundation.

### **GOLDEN TICKET RESPONSE:**

We will continue to foster a positive relationship with the Arch Foundation, while exploring all methods to promote student interests within that body.

The **GOLDEN TICKET** is dedicated to the betterment of higher education and student life at the University of Georgia. With our decision to run for this position, we hereby promise to be accessible to the students, remain sensitive to the concerns of all students, and be a voice for student issues. The **GOLDEN TICKET** is committing itself to creating and maintaining an environment for the promotion of student excellence.

Important to note that when elections are over, these topics are going to be tackled with force. A committee or position will be created to address each and every one of these topics. Come out to SGA on Tuesday Nights at 7:00pm in the Tate Theater to help make these items happen with the **GOLDEN TICKET!**