

P.A.N.T.S. Party Platform

Students at the University of Georgia deserve a better SGA. For far too long, the organization charged with representing the student body has failed to adequately address the needs of Georgia's flagship university. Instead of viewing their term in SGA as an opportunity to serve their constituents, many of our elected representatives have simply used their time in office to add fluff to their bloated resumes. While many other representatives have actually tried to attend to the concerns of the students, their efforts have largely been stymied by the bureaucratic nature of the SGA. It's time for change!

The P.A.N.T.S. Party recognizes that the SGA needs to be reformed. It understands that the SGA can and must be transformed into an effective body capable of aggressively advocating on behalf of the student body. Members of the P.A.N.T.S. party are also committed to ensuring that the SGA becomes more responsive to the needs of the UGA community and should be accessible to all students. Finally, in order to promote a more responsible SGA, P.A.N.T.S. also supports a variety of initiatives designed to increase government accountability. Lend your support to the P.A.N.T.S. Party this semester and we will work to promote a new, trustworthy Student Government Association that will work tirelessly to help our university achieve an even higher level of excellence!

I. Ensure that SGA is Accountable to the Students

P.A.N.T.S. believes that SGA works best when the public can strictly scrutinize it. Therefore, if given the opportunity to govern, P.A.N.T.S. would energetically work to create a more open student government.

Weekly Press Conferences With the Red and Black

Post Fiscal Records and Meeting Minutes on the Internet

Improve Student Oversight of the TATE II Project

Create A Caucus System that Encourages Senators to Focus on Representing Their Schools, Not Their Individual Political Interests

Increase student polling and student awareness of polling to gauge student concerns on important issues.

II. Increase Student Involvement in SGA

Sadly, only a small percentage of the student body at the University of Georgia has ever had any involvement with the SGA. The P.A.N.T.S. Party hopes to end the elitist culture that surrounds SGA and encourage an atmosphere that fosters interaction between UGA students and their elected representatives.

Move Senate Meetings Back to SLC or TATE

While Demosthenian Hall is a beautiful building, it is a terrible place to hold SGA Senate meetings. Demosthenian is not handicap accessible and therefore prohibits some students from attending Senate meetings. Many students who have tried to attend Senate meetings complained that it was difficult to find parking near Demosthenian. Additionally, Demosthenian's upper chamber, while historic and elegant, is simply not large enough to accommodate a large student audience. Moving the SGA meetings to the Tate Student Center or the Student Learning Center would make it easier for students to come to Senate meetings and get involved with SGA.

Do A Better Job Advertising Meetings

Students cannot attend meetings unless they know when and where they will be held. The SGA should use the Red and Black, flyers, street chalking, and other promotional tools to notify the public about meetings. This should boost regular meeting attendance.

Provide More Material To Students That Explain How SGA Works

III. Empower Students and Organizations

Over the course of the past few years, SGA has placed too much emphasis on programming events. P.A.N.T.S. believes that SGA best serves the student body when it simply serves as a resource for other organizations.

Redesign the Committee Structure to Incorporate a Liaison System

Lobby State Officials for more Education Funding to Hire More Faculty and, consequently, Improve Class Availability.

Use SGA's resources to Promote ALL Athletic Events.

Create An Award/ Reward for Students who attend a variety of UGA Athletic Events Throughout the Year

Help UGA students avoid getting gouged at the Bookstore by Advertising the Dawg Swap Program. Eventually, Dawg Swap could be Expanded to Include Athletic Tickets as Well.

Expand the SLAC Committee to Include More Organizations that Contribute the Well-being of the Marketplace of Ideas on Campus (I.E. College Republicans, Young Democrats, Demosthenian, Phi Kappa, etc.)

Revamp the SGA website and Transform it Into A Valuable Resource for Students. Also, provide a link to this website on the My UGA page to let students have easier access to these resources.

IV. Promote A Safer UGA Campus

Several heartbreaking events that have occurred over the last year serve as reminder that our campus can be a very dangerous place. Understanding that campus safety is a critical prerequisite to encouraging a

positive and healthy academic environment, P.A.N.T.S believes that the SGA must do everything in its power to protect UGA students from harm.

Increase Bike Patrols and Police Presence on North Campus

Improve Lighting, Access To Call Boxes

Create A Blue Card Event that Promotes Responsible Alcohol Usage

Use SGA's PR Resources to Promote Watchdawgs, Cab Services, etc.

SGA Needs to Facilitate Better Communication Between Safe Campuses Now, Safe Alternatives for Peers, Watchdawgs, the UGA Police, UGA Escort Vans, and Other Organizations Dedicated to Campus Security Issues.

V. Work with other campus organizations to increase Diversity

VI. Lobby for a More Flexible Meal Plan

UGA is fortunate to already have a great food services department. SGA can, however, make our award winning meal plan even better by lobbying for a special "lunch- option" that will enable off campus students to eat in the dining halls while on campus during the day. In addition to benefiting students who otherwise might have to eat downtown, this program would also likely increase food service revenue because it would expand the customer base.

VII. Improve Access to East Campus

The East Campus Village has proven to be a fantastic addition to our university community. Unfortunately, it is often difficult for many students to find a bus that will take them to it! P.A.N.T.S., if allowed to govern, will work to reorganize the bus route system to improve access to East Campus.

Additionally, P.A.N.T.S. plans to examine the feasibility of re-organizing the bus system to better accommodate the needs of students across campus.

VII. Transform SGA Into An Organization That is Better Equipped to Deal With The Needs of the Students

SGA is a broken organization. Its bureaucratic nature means that it is simply not flexible enough to respond to the demands of the student population. P.A.N.T.S. believes that it is time to cut through the red tape that is strangling UGA's student government. If elected, the members of the P.A.N.T.S. Party promise to redesign SGA through a series of constitutional and internal reforms and create a new governing body that is better equipped to serve the university.