

AGENDA
Graduate Student Association Meeting
2007-2008 Academic Year
Monday, March 31, 2008

1) Old Business

a) Health Insurance Informational Video

(1) Met with the HR Department

- (a) HR has agreed to fund the majority of the costs of the video
- (b) Tungsten Media is the outside contractor that has been hired for the project
- (c) The video will consist of interviews with key people in the University's administration

b) Expansion of Childcare Facilities

(1) WFD presented their findings

- (a) The findings are posted on our website's index page at <http://www.uga.edu/gsa>
- (b) Some highlights from the report:
 - 1) 882 graduate students responded
 - 2) Approximately 75% of those respondents reported that they have a total combined household income of less than \$50k
 - 3) 76% of respondents (or **671 grad students**¹) reported having a child under five years old
 - 4) Another 40% (or **353 grad students**²) of respondents indicated that they planned on having a child (or and additional child) during their tenure at the University
 - 4) Only 23% of local child centers (or 9 centers) charge \$165 per week or more and that is for infant care which is more expensive
 - 5) A majority of comparables charge \$150 or less per week (page 34 of the report)

¹ 0.76*882=670.32

² 0.40*882=352.80

6) 79% of grad student respondents (or **697 persons**³) indicated that they would be *very likely* users of the child center

7) Report indicates: “Using the same estimating technique, but considering graduate students alone, WFD estimates that there would be a need for an additional **40** or more slots for full-time care for children under the age of 5. These estimates are based on those respondents willing to pay \$165 or more per week for infant care.”

c) The University Council voted unanimously to create a task force for the creation of a women’s center on campus

(1) This proposal came out of the Student Affairs Committee which I have a seat on

(2) I helped this issue get passed within the Executive Committee and then had a proxy speak on my behalf at the University Council meeting

(3) The President also announced that the University would adopt a measure presented by Patricia Richards and Janet Frick to create an ombudsmen office on campus

(a) The president has agreed to hire three ombudsmen

(b) Cases of harassment will also no longer be dealt with through the office of Legal Affairs

d) Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference

(1) Had a little bit of hiccup in the beginning due to staffing issues at SLC but everything went smoothly once the keynote address began

(2) I would like to thank the following people for helping out

(a) Tony Snodgrass

(b) Kate Kruskamp

(c) Matt Gore

(3) We had over one hundred people come out for the conference

³ 0.79*882=696.78

2) New Business

- a) SGA has very graciously offered there four graduate student seats to persons within GSA to sit on the University Council, so we need four volunteers for next year—this is an excellent opportunity to make real change in the University
- b) GSA Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates for the 2008/2009 Academic Year
 - (1) Introduction of the candidates and campaign speeches of three Presidential Candidates (order of speakers was decided by a random draw of numbers before the meeting)
 - (2) Voting will begin tonight at 8:30pm—right after the meeting—and will last through Friday, April 4th at 5:00pm
 - (3) Information about candidates can be found on our website at <http://www.uga.edu/gsa/elections.html>
 - (4) Unfortunately EITS was unable to do our elections this year through Oasis due to scheduling conflicts, however, I have an appointment set up for the next President to meet with the EITS staff during the Summer to schedule our elections process for next Spring 2009
- c) Eric Drucker—Vice Presidential Candidate—running unopposed, however he is running as a ticket with Tony Snodgrass

5) Future Events

- a) GSA Meeting – Monday, April 21, 2008, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 214
- b) If enough money is left over in the budget we are planning on having an ice cream reception for grad student the last week of classes

Henry (Hank) Clay (Presidential Candidate)

The graduate students at the University of Georgia are a unique group of individuals. As a body, we have numerous goals that unite us, but we also have competing needs that I do not pretend to oversimplify in this campaign.

If I were elected to serve as your president I would work to represent the collective and individual needs of this student body through a relationship-based approach. I would use the office of the president to relate your needs to the administration in a way that captures the nuances of a student body that varies in age, gender, race, sexual orientation, level of disability, ethnicity, and many other ways.

I would work to represent our collective needs for access to resources, health care, and a constantly improving education. Moreover, I would build upon the efforts of previous GSA officers to encourage a greater degree of community among graduate students through volunteer opportunities, social events, and special programming.

Finally, my most cherished role as president would be to serve as a resource to connect individual graduate students to the administration, and act as an advocate on their behalf.

As a master's student pursuing dual degrees in public administration and social work, I have been blessed with many opportunities to serve through leadership. Currently, I represent all the social work graduate students in the state of Georgia, and as an undergraduate at UGA I represented the undergraduate students. On the individual level I served as an advocate and case manager at two homeless shelters in Athens.

I cannot express how absolutely honored I would be to represent the graduate students as president of GSA.

Erick Drucker (Vice Presidential Candidate)

Eric Drucker is a first year Masters student in the Artificial Intelligence Center. His primary concentration is in the field of Computational Intelligence. Although only in his first year in the Graduate School, Eric spent the previous four years at UGA completing a BS in Computer Science. On top of classes, Eric is also a lab technician for the Artificial Intelligence Center. His duties with this involve regular PC repair as well as server maintenance and system administration. Outside of school and work, Eric enjoys spending time with his girlfriend Brooke and his dog Hershey.

Eric fully supports GSA presidential candidate Tony Snodgrass and his platform. As a candidate for vice president, Eric hopes to ensure that the University continues to provide adequate health coverage for all students. Other interests of his include increasing student involvement in GSA and increasing awareness in the annual Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference. As a fifth year student at UGA and a former employee of the Department of Campus Life, Eric is well equipped to fulfill the duties of vice president of the GSA.

Tony Snodgrass (Presidential Candidate)

Hello, my name is Tony Snodgrass. I'm currently finishing an MS degree in Artificial Intelligence and will be starting my Linguistics MA next year. My undergraduate degrees are a BA in Philosophy and a BS in Computer Science from the University of Florida. The breadth of my graduate education reflects one of GSA's main tenets: interdisciplinary study and cooperation. I have taken classes in Education, Philosophy, Psychology, Computer Science, Linguistics, Anthropology, Neuroscience, Statistics, and Engineering. As an undergraduate, I held consistent office in the undergraduate Philosophy Society for three years.

As a graduate student, I have been the Artificial Intelligence Center's GSA representative for the past 2.5 years. In that time, I've been a fairly active GSA member. I helped out with the GSA's summer reception for new graduate students, assisting with the Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference, and volunteering to be on the Student Tech Fee Subcommittee for this year. On April 3rd, I will be waiving the GSA flag as a 1st Tier judge at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. I have tried to be as involved as possible balancing out my assistantship as a systems administrator as well as a consistently full course load.

As president, I'll be able to exponentially increase my involvement to keep up the good momentum GSA has gained in the past year. My biggest concern is the Graduate Student Health insurance: I want to make sure that the best interests of graduate students are being served. Secondly, I want to be involved in the allocation of space in the newly renovated Tate Center; a Women's Center would be a good addition. Third, I want to keep us moving with what we already have established: the summer greeting session, the yearly conference, and good service projects. My hope is that I can follow Wes's example and maintain GSA's good reputation and increase our presence on campus. As GSA president, with the help of my friend and VP running mate, Eric Drucker, I will ardently represent the interests and address the concerns of the University of Georgia's Graduate Student Body.

Josh Waters (Presidential Candidate)

Currently a Master's Student in the Department of Housing and Consumer Economics I am excited about this opportunity to serve the Graduate Students at UGA in the role of GSA president. Originally from Warner Robins, GA I grew up in Georgia and have spent my whole life here. I attended the University of Georgia for my undergraduate education and received my bachelor's degree in Political Science in May 2007.

My motivation for seeking this office comes from a variety of sources. The University of Georgia has always held a unique place in my heart. From the time I was very little my granddad and I would drive to Athens on Saturday's to watch the football games. Until I enrolled in school here, I have to admit, that is really all the university was to me, a fun place to watch football. After becoming a student, I became keenly aware that there was much more to this great University than football. I was drawn to its academic nature and research contributions that one does not always find at all institutions of higher learning. As such, I decided I had to go to graduate school. My grandmother, a life long educator who eventually earned her doctorate plays another large part of my motivation. She has always shown me that higher education is important and that through it, you can benefit not only yourself, but the others around you.

When these two things, along with this opportunity to seek the election of GSA president, came together I realized that I had a tremendous chance in front of me. I can combine my love for the University and my understanding of the importance of a graduate education and research to further both the Graduate School as an entity and the education of its entire enrollment. I want all of us to be a part of making the University of Georgia's Graduate School the envy of all others.

The possibilities for a graduate school of this size are expansive and limitless. First, we must have faculty dedicated not only to research, but research alongside graduate students. It is an asset for both the faculty as well as the student to work together with each other. Not only do the faculty get much needed assistance, but graduate students receive the valuable guidance. The result is two-fold, better research as well as graduate students who have hands-on research experience that will be with them whether going into academia or industry. Secondly, being that the GSA is a multi-disciplinary organization, I would like to foster more participation from all departments so that students are able to meet and work with students across the Graduate School. Also, being that I have spent my life in Georgia I have had the opportunity to meet many people in many different fields. I will use this experience to bring in professionals for not only the Graduate School as a whole, but also for individual departments so that each department can have focused attention on what is important to them specifically.