

MINUTES
Graduate Student Association
2006-2007 Academic year
January 29, 2007

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

24 + GSA President & VP were present

B. Tutor Program

Elizabeth Fields from education is recruiting tutors for community tutoring. The program's purpose is to lower the achievement gap for latino students by improving their English (especially reading) skills. Here are some stats. Athens: 28.3% overall poverty rate (1 in 4 kids). Hispanic Comm. in Athens: officially 10,000 but may be 20,000, 15% students in ACC schools. Teachers need tutors to help hispanic students learn english. Tutors just help students with their homework (basic math & reading). No Spanish knowledge required. As little as 1 hour per week. Four locations in Athens. Contact Elizabeth at ebeth08@uga.edu or 336-391-5080 with any questions or to learn more.

II. Internal

A. Committee sign up

Sign up for committees, talk to Lindsey for more info on the committees and joining. Info is also on the GSA website. You don't have to be a department representative to be on a committee.

B. Committee and representative listservs

Is there a better way to communicate with committees? Lindsey seems to get little response from the listservs. Last year, most committees met by email, but this is up to the individual committees. Maybe committees could meet before or after the scheduled GSA Meeting. Most present seem to think this is a good idea, at least for an initial meeting for people to meet and set agendas.

C. Member engagement

How do we get representatives to and grad students in general to be more engaged? The listservs and blogs aren't too effective. Suggestion: better promotion via flyers.

D. Next social

What should we do for the next social? The first one was well attended, but the last two were poorly attended. Suggestion: a coffee shop for a more low key event. Suggestion: beginning of the semester is better than the end.

E. Relay For Life – April 27-28

April 27-28 (Fri & Sat) to raise money for cancer research. The GSA Team needs at least 10 people to sign up and help raise money by getting sponsorships and walking at the UGA Track. We may also be able to raise money from a band event at JR's. Sign up by emailing Lindsey (gsa@uga.edu) or online at www.uga.edu/relay. The team is called Graduate Student Association. We can even join teams with other departmental or student group teams.

III. Health Insurance

A. Summer Care

Currently, to use the health center during the summer you must pay the health center fee, even if you are not taking classes. Since the insurance requires students to use the Health Center, you must pay the fee during the summer, even if you don't use the center. Lindsey is looking into setting up a system to waive the summer fee for grad students.

B. Satisfaction Survey

The survey was sent out this morning and we have nearly 500 responses already. Please fill it out and encourage people in your department to do the same. The results will be sent to the BOR, Graduate School and Health Insurance Committee.

C. Fellowship students

We are working with Dr. Edelbrock at the graduate school to get a change in policy, which currently excludes some fellowship students.

IV. Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference (GGSIC) Held on March 24

A. Keynote Panel

The theme this year is Globalism. Globalism is defined loosely to encourage an interdisciplinary discussion. Todd has contacted 10-15 UGA professors to be on panel but wants suggestion from other programs at UGA and other Institutions. Send Todd suggestions (thawley@uga.edu).

B. Friday Seminars

At previous conferences there were professional development seminars on Friday, but these are poorly attended. Should we do them on Saturday? Suggestion: have the seminars on Saturday morning. Suggestion: have seminars right before social.

C. Lunch

We lost money on the lunch last year because people signed up then didn't eat. This year we are going to do a more informal box lunch. Ideally, we want everyone to stay for lunch. We should make the invitations more explicit about our expectations that people attend the lunch or include and RSVP. Suggestion to keep people longer is to have one long session in the morning from 10-noon (instead of starting at 8 or 9) then go to lunch directly. Suggestion: have panel from 10-noon then lunch then student talks, which can have Q & A that can incorporate panel discussion.

D. Recruitment for presenters and attendees

We only have about 15 abstracts so far. We need to recruit more presenters as well as non-presenting attendees. Suggestion: Have professors announce conference in graduate classes. Some courses actually require a presentation. Suggestion: Get flyers up now with a description of format, talk length etc. Suggestion: encourage your peers to attend, word-of-mouth. Suggestion: encourage undergrads that you TA to attend or try and make it a Blue Card Event. Suggestion: in presenters' acceptance letters, encourage presenters to bring an audience.

E. Other ideas for improvements

Send suggestions to Linsey (gsa@uga.edu).

V. Best Practices

A. University of Nebraska example

UGA is basing our policy on the UNL policy. A link to the policy and PDF is at <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/>

B. What do we need at UGA?

Please read Nebraska proposal and send comments on what we think should or should not be included. Also encourage your peers to comment too. Email Lindsey (gsa@uga.edu).

VI. GSA Elections

A. Oasis/Web election

There were problems last year, should we use OASIS?

B. Candidate Recruitment

Email Lindsey, Todd or Noel if you are interested in running and want more info on the job.

C. Ticket ballot?

You do not need to run on a ticket. President and Vice President can run separately.

We might want to start the election process early so that we know who will be officer when the 2007-2008 budget is finalized, this is important because the budget will be affected depending on if the President is a Master's or Ph.D. student.

VII. Next Meeting

A. February 26, 2007. At 6:30 p.m. in room 147 of the SLC