

MINUTES
Graduate Student Association
2006-2007 Academic year
April 23, 2007

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

12 present plus the GSA President and Vice-president

B. Donation Information

There is a memorial fund for Yongsheng Li, the UGA Grad Student who died in March, to help his family who is still in the US. GSA is encouraging grad students donate, even if it's a small donation.

Check made to: Yongsheng Li Benefit Fund
Sun Trust Bank
GA-Ath-8503
180 Gaines School Road
Athens, GA 30605

We are also encouraging grad student to donate to the Virginia Tech memorial fund.

Check made to: Virginia Tech Foundation Inc.
Memo line: Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund
Address: Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund
University Development (0336)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
http://www.vt.edu/tragedy/memorial_fund.php

if you are interested in a specific student's fund visit:
http://www.vt.edu/tragedy/memorial_services.php

Note that GSA is not allowed to make charitable contributions from it's budget.

C. Welcome Reception Sign-up

There is a sign-up sheet for the Fall Grad School Reception during orientation, contact gsa@uga.edu if you are interested in helping out.

II. Elections

A.Improvements for next year

There were problems in dealing with the IT professional at the Grad School for this years election, so we should come up with a new method for next year, perhaps though OASIS. Send suggestions to gsa@uga.edu

B.Results

Wesley Burnett is the new GSA President, after the first ever runoff election, with nearly equal turnout for both elections. Matt Gore was elected Vice President. If you want to contact Wesley over the summer his email is wburnett@uga.edu.

C.Secretary position

Jess Nakaska was elected as the GSA Secretary for 2007-2008

III. Insurance

A. Updates

None at this time, although there are rumors that it will be the same at this year's but with an 8% increase in the premium and a reduction in the drug benefit.

UGA administrators would like to increase the UGA contribution to 75%, but nothing is decided and nothing can be decided until the BOR makes a final decision.

The staff council is proposing to raise the living wage at UGA to \$25,000, if this passes, then it may affect the university's ability to make an insurance contribution for grad students.

B. Future in 2008

UGA has three options. 1) Stay with BOR plan - this is not likely. 2) Form a plan with the other three BOR Research institutions to get a nationally competitive grad student policy - most likely. 3) UGA could go it alone and require ALL student to have insurance on the a UGA only plan.

C. What you can do

If you have any suggestions, email gsa@uga.edu.

IV. Budget

A. New Budget Process

There is a new budget process for next year. Now for each student who pays the student activity fee \$2.16 goes into a general student government fund and GSA and SGA split that based on the proportion of graduate and undergraduate students. For next year our budget is \$4,225.

B. How should GSA spend our money

Most of the money will go toward the Fall Welcome Reception and the GGSIC. It has been proposed that GSA joins the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (www.nagps.org) at a cost of \$50 per year.

C. Fundraising in future?

Any ideas? Send them to gsa@uga.edu

V. Graduate Council

The graduate council is composed of Dean Grasso and various departmental graduate coordinators and often times doesn't have to pass policies through the larger University Council.

The best practices policy that was discussed in February was passed. This policy is basically a statement of student's rights, but it is not enforceable. They are just guidelines to make UGA to look good.

A. Student Voting Member

A faculty member asked if a graduate student could have voting rights and Dean Grasso made it very clear that the answer is NO. It should be noted that the GSA President has voting rights on the University Executive Council. Even though there are no student voting rights on the Council, any student can attend and be heard. Wesley has expressed interest in pressing the issue to get a voting student member.

B. Incomplete Proposal

At the last meeting the Grad Council discussed the policy on limiting the time that graduate students can make up incompletes. The new policy is such that all incompletes must be made up in the second semester after it is given or it will be made an F.

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. End-of-year Social, Friday, May 4th, location TBA
Max Canada @ 6:30 pm on Friday, May 4th.