

**MINUTES**  
**Graduate Student Association Meeting**  
**2006-2007 Academic Year**  
**August 28, 2006**

23 Members Present – ALL graduate & professional students are GSA members

1) Introductions

a) Members

b) Officers

(1) Lindsey Scott, President

(2) Todd Hawley, Vice President

(3) Noel Heim, Secretary

c) The GSA Welcome Party

Lindsey offered thank to everyone who helped make the Welcome Reception a success. An estimated 350-400 people attended and consumed food and beverages, of which there were plenty this year.

2) Health Insurance

a) Mandatory plan and voluntary plan in place

The period to waive out of the mandatory plan has passed. For those wishing to sign up for the voluntary plan the signup period has been extended 40 days. There will not be an extension in future semesters. UGA is providing those on the mandatory plan a 40% contribution towards the premium. Georgia State is the only other school offering a contribution and theirs is only 20%. The university health center website is the primary repository of health insurance information.

b) Proposal with Georgia Tech

On Thursday UGA and Georgia Tech are submitting a proposal to the board of regents to provide cover 100% of the insurance premium for all graduate assistants on the mandatory plan. The governor has put a 4-year tuition cap on all BOR schools and has barred any new budget requests from the BOR. This means an increase in the University's contribution towards the insurance premium is not likely to increase.

c) Forum

GSA has an online forum ([www.uga.edu/gsa](http://www.uga.edu/gsa)) where students can post their comments and concerns anonymously or not. The online forum is an easy way to communicate concerns and suggestions but it also provides solid evidence of what the concerns of UGA graduate & Professional students that can be taken to the administration. Please read and use the forum often. You may also email any comments directly to The GSA President, VP or secretary. Those email addresses are on the GSA website ([www.uga.edu/gsa](http://www.uga.edu/gsa)).

### 3) Committees

#### a.) Member sign-up

GSA committees are designed to help GSA be more effective and also to get more people involved with GSA's activities. Any graduate or professional student at UGA can serve on a committee or as a committee chair and everyone is encouraged to get involved. The current committees are listed on the GSA website ([www.uga.edu/gsa](http://www.uga.edu/gsa)). Send Lindsey an email if you would like to join or have suggestions for a new committee. At the meeting a technology committee was created and a research committee was proposed to help GSA collect data on Graduate life at UGA.

#### b.) Budget

Last year the GGSIC went over budget by about \$250. This money is coming out of this year's budget for the GGSIC. We need ideas for fundraising or creative budgeting to compensate.

#### c.) Representatives

GSA Departmental/Organization Representative responsibilities are to attend the monthly GSA meetings, report back to your 'constituents' about what is discussed at the meetings and encourage other students to participate in GSA either by attending meetings, attending events, joining committees or at least signing up for the listserv.

### 4) Issues

#### a) TA and RA work loads

Dr. Craig Edelbrock, Assoc. Dean in the Graduate School, is collecting information on campus-wide TA and RA workloads. The ultimate goal is to standardize the amount of hours spent on TA and RA as much as possible. GSA will be involved in the collecting of information on workloads and is looking for ideas on how to best collect accurate data.

#### b) Code of Conduct

GSA is working on a code of conduct that will apply to both graduate students and graduate faculty. Currently there is no written policy outlining expectations and acceptable behavior/expectations for either party. A proposal was submitted by GSA several years ago but was rejected by the grad school. If you would like to be involved in drafting a new proposal contact Lindsey.

#### c) Family Leave

The Graduate School will be deciding very soon on a family leave policy that will include 6 weeks maternity leave for graduate students who adopt or give birth to children. The issue of leave for a death or sickness in the family was also brought up. If you have comments please submit them to Lindsey ASAP.

#### d) Minimum stipend amount

Dean Grasso is submitting a proposal to establish a minimum stipend amount for graduate assistants. This will allow the graduate school to force low-paying departments to grant their graduate assistants periodic standard of living increases. Previous attempts to set standardized stipends have failed in the past.

5) Future Events

a) GSA Social – Thursday, September 14, 8:00 p.m.

[This will likely be at Allgood Lounge, but firm details are TBA.](#)

b) GSA Meeting – Monday, September 25, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 367