

MINUTES
Graduate Student Association Meeting
2007-2008 Academic Year
Monday, October 22, 2007

1) Old Business

a) Social on Saturday, October 20, 2007

- (1) Special thanks to the persons that volunteered
- (2) We had approximately fifty people come out

Good time was had by all. Thanks to all the volunteers.

b) Expansion of Childcare Facilities

- (1) Sent a “formal” letter of support to the university administration stating that we support talks going forward
- (2) Copy of the letter is attached to the back of this packet

Susan Nordstrom and others helped with drafting the letter.

c) Campus bus maps

- (1) Sent an email to Rob Hamlin approximately three weeks ago
- (2) Mr. Hamlin ensured me that the maps would be addressed in the near future

Bus maps will be fixed soon.

d) Lack of weekender service to Family Housing with Athens Transit

- (1) Pat Hale responded that Athens Transit offers service on Saturday from 6:35am to 11:00pm

2) New Business

a) Health Insurance

- (1) Established a streaming server account
- (2) Meeting with the HR Department on October 31, 2001
- (3) I am awaiting numbers from HR department so that I can approach Provost Mace and ask for an increase in our health premium subsidies

b) Kimberley Kelly—Doctoral Candidate Department of Sociology
Kelly

(1) Grievance over GSA's position on the childcare initiative

Ms. Kelly discussed her position. Wants GSA to take a stronger position rather than wait for the feasibility study. Wait and see may be step backward. GSA has been very supportive in past. 1) Feasibility study might be a stalling tactic. 2) GSA afraid to rock the boat and negatively affect its position and effectiveness on healthcare. 3) Broader support means lower costs and higher benefits. 4) Not just a grad student parent issue. Hurts recruiting and effects family-planning decisions for students already here. Parents turn to lower quality care, leave graduate school, and some have to take out extra loans. Hurts their marketability. 5) A matter of social justice. Any position not in favor of change is a vote for the status quo. Current policy is both sexist and biased. Women traditionally bear the greater burden for children. Refusal to endorse position with the administration is unacceptable. GSA needs to endorse childcare issue with the university administration.

President Burnett response: GSA has been facilitating initiative since July. GSA voted as a collective body last meeting to draft a "formal" letter to the administration expressing GSA's support of the initiative and the discussion with the exploratory committee. Google search reveals first link with GSA. Has supported Campus Coalition in a variety of mediums; online, Athens Banner Herald, Red and Black. GSA officially endorsed childcare initiative. Wesley has done surveys and gone out of his way to advocate on this issue. Both Wes and Matt have officially given their support—this was made clear at the meeting in September. Further discussion of what GSA's letter really meant. What it in fact an "endorsement of support?" GSA has always supported the initiative it seems that there was a misunderstanding though of what it meant to "endorse" the initiative. This was debated for over an hour at the meeting in September. No guarantee that feasibility study will return just one suggestion, they might have multiple suggestions.

VP Gore, this is largely a faculty and staff initiated initiative and GSA does not want to become a bargaining chip between them and the administration. Susan Nordstrom, question of good faith, what would

Ms. Kelly liked to have seen. She is content with the nature of the letter that the GSA did send out. (See below).

c) We may begin experimenting this evening with offering VODcasts of our meetings

GSA was unable to acquire a digital camera for today's meeting. Next meeting will have digital pod-casts of our meetings to be streamed online. People will be able to go online and see the content of our meetings and debates to be better informed about GSA issues.

d) Educational Affairs Committee—the Administration wants to limit the amount of withdrawals and drops in a given semester

Wesley sits on this committee. Withdrawals and drops, primarily by undergraduates; Mace are both strongly supporting this.

e) Graduate Council—voted that if an incomplete “I” grade is given in a graduate-level course, a graduate student must complete the course requirements by the end of the next semester

This will now be stringently enforced through the individual colleges.

f) Matt Gore

(1) Executive Committee update

Provost Mace discussed that childcare committee will be set up by middle of next month. Consultant to be hired. Expects preliminary report by end of January 2008, and final report by the end of March 2008.

President Burnett will be on executive committee and will keep the GSA constituency informed of the decision-making of this committee. If needed, GSA will conduct a vote.

Water issues will be discussed in the Chapel on October 23, 2007.

g) Graduate Student of the Month

(1) Vote on nomination

Jessica Van Cleave is the nominated student. Vote passed to have Jessica as second GSA student of the month.

(2) See attachment of nomination and CV

h) Listserv policy

(1) The website current has the following statement on the website in regards to the listserv:

“By subscribing to our low-traffic e-mail listserv, you will get news and updates on UGA graduate student issues, GSA socials, and many other interesting events.”

I would like to add the statement that it is up to the discretion of the GSA president as to what is an acceptable email announcement to be sent over the listserv.

Cemetery clean-up from a student to be sent out last week via the listserv, was curtailed. Only UGA or university administration or GSA-related information will be sent. At the time, the language was not clear enough.

Suggestions were made about creating a new listserv or combining non-marketplace announcements into one mass email. President Burnett believes that ultimately the final decision should be up to the GSA President.

Suggestions for modification to the language:

“By subscribing to our low-traffic e-mail listserv, you will get news and updates on UGA graduate student issues, GSA socials, and GSA events.”

Also might want to include language saying that “those who disagree with the President’s decision not to send out specific event information”, may come to the next GSA meeting to be heard.

(2) Vote on addition

Vote passed for changes. The changes will be sent out to GSA reps for clarification before changes are put out on the website.

Insurance issues and policy. Wesley hopes to get the administration to help him create informational videos explaining decisions and health insurance to graduate students.

Wesley will receive final insurance numbers next month. President Burnett will go to Provost Mace to discuss increasing subsidies.

i) GSA needs a proxy for the next University Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 3:30pm

This offer is open to anyone. Susan Nordstrom volunteered to attend as GSA proxy.

3) Committees

a) Break-out session (time permitting)

There was not enough time for these this meeting.

(1) Issues/Advocacy Committee

(a) Discuss the health insurance survey and coalescence of questions

Will be sending out a questionnaire to people about state insurance information. President Burnett is developing this with UGA human resources. There is a state manager that deals with university and Pearce & Pearce health insurance. This person is responsible for dealing with student health insurance policy.

(2) Social and Service Projects Committee

(a) Discuss Social for end of the semester

Have social committee organize a social for the end of the semester.

(3) GGSIC Committee

(a) Start discussing upcoming Spring Conference

5) Future Events

a) GSA Meeting – Monday, November 26, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 214