

MINUTES
Graduate Student Association Meeting
2005-2006 Academic Year
October 24, 2005

I. Welcome

A. Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves and stated what department or student organization they represent.

II. Requirements of Representatives

A. Come to monthly meetings

B. Encourage all students to sign up to the GSA listserv

C. Contact your Graduate Coordinator to have access to your listserv and forward all GSA announcements

D. Post flyers for socials, events, etc.

These requirements were explained as a reminder to all representatives.

III. Health Insurance Update

An update has been posted on the GSA website.

IV. Committee Assignments

All were encouraged to look at the GSA website and decide what committee they would like to join. Of particular importance right now is the GGSIC (conference) committee. Volunteers signed up for this committee and will hold online discussions about the conference this spring.

V. Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference (GGSIC)

See above

VI. Tate expansion suggestions

Students were encouraged to submit their suggestions for the new Tate center in the GSA forum online. GSA has also requested the Tate advisory board provide a space on their website for student suggestions.

VII. Technology Fee suggestions

In light of the recent UGA proposal to increase student tech fees, GSA requested that UGA create a survey to see if students see a need for this increase, and if so, how that money can best be spent.

VIII. Bus maps for UGA routes

GSA is working with SGA and the UGA bus system to place route maps at bus locations across campus.

IX. Pandora Yearbook Photo

A picture was taken of all those in attendance for the Pandora yearbook.

- X. Discussion of GSA Issues (also on the online forum)
 - A. Representatives, Ambassadors, and the Council (revised proposal)
 - B. The GSA listserv
 - C. Committees and the GSA Constitution
 - D. The GSA Budget
 - E. Graduate version of "The Key" or similar online system for anonymous course and professor evaluations
 - F. GSA and unionization
 - G. GSA Intramural sports

The decision was made after revision to an original proposal that GSA will encourage multiple representatives from every department and student organizations on campus in an effort to provide as many different voices as possible in our meetings and greater graduate/professional student representation. Any voting that occurs will now be held online in order to give every student the opportunity to have a direct voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

As such, GSA will make a formal request that all graduate and professional students have immediate and automatic access to the GSA listserv. Since GSA is charged with the responsibility of representing over 8,000 students, those students have a right to know what we are discussing and they deserve a medium to express their own opinions.

The GSA committees will be kept as is, but the Constitution will be revised to reflect recent changes.

The GSA Budget is available at the GSA office for anyone to make suggestions on how these funds should be spent.

Although grade distributions don't seem to be of interest, it is possible that GSA might create an online anonymous forum for students to openly and publicly evaluate the quality of teaching they receive. Most students get information about their professors informally however and this may be a project that GSA decides not to do.

GSA is still considering the pros and cons of forming a union or similar structure both within UGA and with other graduate organizations from across the state of Georgia in order to have a voice in issues such as health insurance and workload requirements.

GSA will begin organizing teams to participate in various intramural sports for all interested graduate and professional students.