

AGENDA
Graduate Student Association Meeting
2007-2008 Academic Year
Monday, January 28, 2008

1) Old Business

a) Health Insurance Informational Video

(1) Met with the HR Department

(a) They are still working on the script for our video project

Wesley is in the process of contracting a video production company to help produce the video. He has asked for the assistance of the graduate school, the HR department, and the Health Center with financing this project. The video is slated to be a fourteen minute informational video about the state-mandated insurance plan. GSA has established an account on the streaming server within EITS so that it will be a streaming video available to all students.

b) Expansion of Childcare Facilities

(1) I posted information about the preliminary meeting on my blog at <http://www.gsainfo.blogspot.com/>

The following is an email from the child care exploratory committee that Wesley received the afternoon of the meeting (he had already printed the minutes so it was not included):

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Thursday, February 14 from 3 pm - 5 pm in the Peabody Board Room in the Administration Building. We will be sharing the draft report of our findings from the study with you at that time.

To give you a quick update, the survey closed at the end of the day on January 22. We had slightly more than 4,300 responses: the response rate for faculty was 41%; staff response rate was 32%; graduate student was 12% and undergraduate was 8%.

We were on campus to conduct focus groups on January 15 and 16. Eight groups were held over the two days (three faculty,

three staff, two undergraduate/graduate students). We had 300+ volunteers and more than 100 participants in the groups.

c) The “Red & Black” published the following article about the latest updates with the child care assessment on campus on January 10, 2008. I spoke with the writer and let her know our position of supporting the expansion of the child care center but my information was not featured in the article:

Univ. to assess need for day care: Center lacks available space

After last semester's debate about the University's child care services, administrators will conduct an online survey starting today and create focus groups to gauge the community's child care needs.

Faculty, staff and students were informed of an online survey concerning campus child care, according to a news release issued Monday by Arnett Mace, University provost.

An e-mail will be sent today with a link to the survey, and everyone in the University community, regardless of child care needs, is encouraged to participate, according to the news release.

The survey can be completed until Jan. 22, said Donald Bower, head of the child and family development department.

The focus groups, which will be held Jan. 15 and 16, will include faculty, staff and students who volunteered or were recommended, Mace said Tuesday in a telephone interview.

After the survey and focus groups are completed, WFD Consulting, a paid firm, will observe child care services in the area and offer suggestions to the University, Mace said.

A child care committee appointed by Mace will review the results and provide input, Bower said.

The Child Development Lab of the McPhaul Child and Family Development Center, the only child care facility on campus, offers services for 100 children, with 56 tuition-based and 44 state and federally funded spots, said Amy Kay, director for the Child Development Lab, Wednesday in a telephone interview.

Kay said the waiting list includes 230 people vying for the 56 tuition-based spots, and the waiting time lasts one to three years. Based on space availability, there is no guarantee of a spot.

Priority for admission is given first to siblings of children enrolled in the program, then to children affiliated with the University and, finally, the general public, Kay said.

Bower, a member of the child care committee, said feedback from the University community was important. He said there are three criteria many people review when choosing a child care facility.

"In the discussions I have been in, people are interested in quality care, care that is near campus and whether [the child care] is affordable," Bower said.

Kay said the main concern about the program was the wait time. "The biggest complaint I've heard from some is that it's so convenient and high quality, but there's no space available."

Despite recent debate, the Child Development Lab received the Georgia Association on Young Children's award for Program of the Year in October 2007.

Kay said factors such as low child-to-staff ratios and teacher-training requirements enhance the program, and the research component makes the facility stand out.

"The lab school component and its connection to the University ... is not replicable in the general community," Kay said.

As for any future services in the Child Development Lab, Kay said, "I'm always open to ideas and suggestions. Whatever is demonstrated as a need, I would definitely entertain a conversation about it. I will continue to make myself available for information and guidance about [the lab]."

2) New Business

a) Kimberly Davis

[Kimberly spoke about the Diversity Advisory Council that met on 1.11.08. They are soliciting support for diversity issues at UGA.](#)

b) Bailey Partlow

[Bailey made an announcement about a colloquium being held by the graduate student association within the Department of Child and Family Development in the College of Family and Consumer Science.](#)

c) The executive committee voted to limit the number of withdrawals for undergraduates to four over their career as a student at UGA

[These measures will go in front of the University Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 07, 2008. The measures are four fold: 1\) increase drop/add by one day, 2\) limit the number of withdrawals for UNDERGRADUATES to four for their undergrad careers, 3\) move the withdrawal deadline back an additional two weeks from the semester midpoint, and 4\) change withdrawal status to WP \(withdrawal with passing\) or WF \(withdrawal with failing\).](#)

d) Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference

(1) The title this year will be "Constructing an Interdisciplinary Community of Young Scholars"

(2) We have set the date for March 22nd, 2008 from 10:00am to 6:00pm

(3) Deadline for papers is January 30, 2008

(5) Dean Maureen Grasso (Graduate School) agreed to be the keynote speaker this year. Associate Dean Craig Edlebrock will be a moderator for a panel discussion featuring three faculty members on campus that will discuss interdisciplinary education; thus far Dr. Russell Malmberg (Botany), Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences—whose duties include oversight of Research and Graduate Education activities in Franklin College—has agreed to be one of the panel discussants

(6) I sent invitations and the call letter to MCG, GSU, and Georgia Tech—unfortunately no one from these schools sent in submissions

(7) Franklin College is in the process of voting on this event to make it a “Blue Card Event”

(8) The Office of Professional Development within the Grad School will offer a couple of professional development seminars at the conference

No additional details necessary.

e) Optimal Doctoral Completion

This is audit that the Graduate School is conducting in conjunction with the Council of Graduate Colleges. The school is auditing the doctoral completion rates within departments across campus and offer advice to departments to improve completion rates.

f) Matt Gore

As a member of the Educational Affairs Committee (the committee that brought the withdrawal proposal to the Executive Committee) Matt discussed the proposed changes to the current withdrawal policy.

5) Future Events

a) GSA Meeting – Monday, February 25, 2008, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 214