

AGENDA
Graduate Student Association Meeting
2007-2008 Academic Year
Monday, February 25, 2008

1) Old Business

a) Health Insurance Informational Video

(1) Met with the HR Department

(a) Have contacted outside vendors to help produce the video

(b) I am in the process of putting together a formal proposal to get funding for the project

A formal proposal has to be presented to the departments to raise money for the project

b) Expansion of Childcare Facilities

(1) WFD presented their findings, although they have not been made available yet to the public

Wesley had a meeting with the exploratory committee on Thursday, February 14th. WFD presented the results of its survey and focus group discussions. WFD did a formal pro-forma estimate of the cost of building and operating the new facility. The results will be made available in mid-March. GSA will present a copy of the findings at the next meeting if they are available, and start a dialogue with students based upon the results.

(2) WFD's report will be made available in mid-March

c) The University Council voted to limit the number of withdrawals for undergraduates to four over their career as a student at UGA. This measure only affects undergraduates. However, at the same time the University Council did decide on other measures that will affect graduate students. 1) Drop/add period has been extended by one day. 2) Withdrawals have been changed from "W" to "WP" which means Withdrawal Passing. The "WF" has stayed the same—it means Withdrawal Failing. It is up to the professor to grant a WP to a student. 3) The withdrawal deadline has been pushed back two weeks from the mid-point of the semester as some professors do not offer mid-term exams until just before or after the withdrawal deadline.

- d) Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference
- (1) Is going to be hosted on Saturday, March 22, 2008 from 10:00am to 6:00pm
 - (2) Please tell your department's and come out
 - (3) The format will change a little bit this year so that some presentations will be in symposium style
GSA has asked that some of the presenters present their work as a symposium—i.e., the two or three presenters present their work (based upon a common theme) back-to-back and then the audience addresses questions to the presenters either individually or as a group.
 - (4) The program will be available in early to mid March
 - (5) Over 40 presenters will present poster and paper presentations this year
 - (6) One person from GSU is presenting this year so it is officially the Georgia Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference

2) New Business

- a) WatchDawgs, Inc.
- (1) More info can be found at <http://watchdawgs.blogspot.com/>
A spokesperson from Watch Dawgs, Inc. came to raise awareness about her organization. Watch Dawgs is a student organization on campus that drives intoxicated students home from downtown Athens on weekends to prevent the student from drinking and driving. They are seeking volunteers for this semester. If you're interested please visit the link above.
- b) Appeal for a change in the University's Policy on Harassment
- (1) A petition group on campus is requesting that the university hire an ombudsman to help facilitate cases of harassment on campus
 - (2) The Red and Black published an article in today's issue entitled, "University's policy comparable." A copy of the article can be found at:
<http://media.www.redandblack.com/media/storage/paper871/news/2008/02/25/News/Universitys.Policy.Comparable-3230569.shtml>

(3) I went to the President's Faculty Advisement Committee to discuss this issue further

Wesley went to a meeting with the President's Faculty Advisement Committee on Tuesday, February 19th. A faculty member and founder of the petition group on campus presented her proposal for the establishment of an ombudsman office on campus. She also wished to remove the current review process from the Office of Legal Affairs.

The University's lead council explained how they review each of the cases.

President Adams assured the committee that the administration was working hard to change the current policy. He indicated that if the faculty would like to change the policy it would have to be voted on the University Council meeting. The current policy was established by the faculty and staff back in the 1998.

c) GSA is seeking candidates for President and Vice President for the 2008/2009 Academic Year

An email will go out through the Graduate listserv explaining that GSA is seeking candidates for President and VP. Introductions and speeches will take place at the next meeting. GSA will change its voting procedure this year so that it will be done on Oasis.

(1) Introduction of the candidates and campaign speeches will take place at the next meeting on Monday, March 24, 2008

(2) Voting will begin in early April 2008

(3) Announcements of the New President and Vice President will be made at the April 21, 2008 meeting

d) Vice President Matt Gore

5) Future Events

a) GGSIC – Saturday, March 22, 2008, 10:00am - 6:00pm, 2nd Floor SLC

b) GSA Meeting – Monday, March 24, 2008, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 214