

**MINUTES**  
**Graduate Student Association Meeting**  
**2005-2006 Academic Year**  
**August 29, 2005**

I. Introductions  
A. Members

*Those present introduced themselves*

B. Officers  
Daniel Byrd, President  
Todd Hawley, Vice President  
Noel Heim, Secretary

*The officers introduced themselves.*

C. The GSA Welcome Party

*It was held on Aug. 15, ~350 attendees despite extreme heat. We had the most people ever at this welcome reception. Pictures by Janet Geddis are online.*

*The suggestion was made to hold it few days later next year b/c some students are arriving on campus later from out of state. The rationale has always been to hold it on the same day as orientation because more graduate students are in one place and it seems easier for GSA to follow that with the reception.*

II. The new direction of GSA

*GSA will continue to be a forum for all grad students to have a voice in policy decisions made by the UGA administration and will begin the process of.*

A. Representatives, Ambassadors, and the Council

***ISSUE*** *The proposal has been made to have multiple representatives from each academic dept. and ambassadors from student groups. GSA wants as many people in meetings as possible so that we have opinions from as many points of view as possible.*

B. The GSA Forum

*Everyone should share their feelings on Item II-A, and other issues, on the GSA Forum.*

*The forum will allow those not able to attend meetings, for whatever reason, to participate. Spread the word about the Forum*

C. The GSA Website

*We have recently changed and updated the website as a medium for all GSA information and resources. Any suggestions for improvement are appreciated.*

D. The GSA listserv

*Sign up at the website if you haven't done so already. It will provide you with lots of news on what's going on at UGA and with GSA.*

**ISSUE** *Should we automatically sign people up for the listserv and have people unsubscribe who don't want to be included?*

- 1 Departmental listservs
- 2 Graduate Coordinators Meeting

*For now, representatives can go to their departments' graduate coordinators and get access to their dept. listserv and forward GSA email that way.*

E. GSA and the media

*Todd will be on WUOG to take questions and GSA will be working with other media outlets...the Red and Black and The UGA Channel so students can keep up with our progress even if they can't attend the meetings.*

III. Committees and the GSA Constitution

**ISSUE** *Standing committees need to be evaluated for usefulness and efficiency. Any changes will require changes to GSA Constitution. These will be voted on at the next meeting.*

A. Suggestions for improvement

*Make a comment on how GSA can be improved on the GSA Forum*

B. Voting at the next GSA meeting

All proposed changes and issues will be voted on at the next meeting (open to all graduate students) and feedback is strongly encouraged via the forum.

IV. Issues

A. Health Insurance

*Provost Arnett Mace spoke to GSA last spring. Graduate assistants want a subsidy for health insurance (Georgia Tech is at 25%). The university is searching for a new insurance provider to start in Jan 2006 and at least a 25% subsidy. What is a fair and equitable policy? Would an emergency hospitalization policy to supplement the health center be feasible? An update will be posted on the GSA website after the Labor Day weekend.*

B. The GSA Budget

*Total budget: \$23,370*

*President's assistantship is taken out of this.*

*\$1500 for speaker*

*\$2000 for food and hospitality (\$1000 went to Welcome Party)*

*Rest is for office supplies etc.*

*If you need more specifics, please contact Daniel.*

**ISSUE** *GSA's money comes out of student fees. How should we spend the money? Speakers? Socials?... These issues can be discussed at our meetings or the forum.*

C. Graduate version of "The Key"

*This is a professor rating service that SGA began.*

**ISSUE** *Would GSA be interested in a similar service to help improve graduate teaching? Although grade distributions may not be as important to grad students, being able to make anonymous and public comments about courses could elevate the level of teaching and improve the overall learning experience in classes. Having syllabi posted in advance of a class (or at least the required texts) would also help students prepare for class at the time of registration.*

V. Events

A. GSA Social -Thursday, September 15, 8:00 at Allgood Bar (256 E.Clayton St).

*We will be upstairs and on the outdoor patio. Show up to have fun, enjoy a cold beverage, and get to know people.*

B. Diversifest - Thursday, September 22, 4:00 Legion Field

*GSA will have a table there along with other student groups. Food will be there along with student entertainment.*

C. 2<sup>nd</sup> GSA meeting - Monday, September 26, 6:30 SLC room 348

VI. Closing Comments

*Question to Daniel: What is GSA going to do, or have its members work on?*

*Response: We will advocate to the administration and the Graduate School.*

*We will facilitate volunteering for students who want to volunteer for the Athens community. We are working closely to create ties with GAPS, SGA, International Student Life and all other students groups to establish a network of communication among all these organizations and create a space where all voices are heard.*

*We want to make GSA fun, hold social events, and meet new friends from all across campus and in every academic department.*

*Question: Does GSA advocate for particular students on personal conflicts with depts/admin.*

*Response: It's always possible, we are open to anything – Daniel*

*Jessica won \$20 to the Transmetropolitan for traveling the farthest distance to get back home from the GSA meeting.*