

**MINUTES**  
**Graduate Student Association Meeting**  
**2007-2008 Academic Year**  
**September 24, 2007**

- 1) Judith Milton, Assistant Dean—Director of the Graduate School Special Projects
  - a) Professional Development Seminars for 2007/2008
    - “Ethics in Life, Organizations, and the Professions” by Dr. Archie Carroll, Seminar Leader, Mon. Oct. 15, 3:30-4:30pm 214 SLC
    - register to attend at [www.uga.edu/gradschool/student/seminars.html](http://www.uga.edu/gradschool/student/seminars.html)
  - b) Ideas
    - looking for feedback, topics, future seminars, to be directed by graduate students
    - feel free to contact, Judith Milton, Assistant Dean, Grad School, with suggestions/questions, [jmilton@uga.edu](mailto:jmilton@uga.edu)
  
- 2) Quick Introductions again for new representative
  - a) Officers
    - (1) Wesley Burnett, President
      - Heads the Interdisciplinary Conference Committee (spring 2007)
    - (2) Matt Gore, Vice President
      - Heads the Service and Socials Committee
    - (3) Jess Nakaska, Secretary
      - Heads the Advocacy/Issues Committee
  - b) Service Project for September 22, 2007
    - (1) Special thanks to the persons that volunteered
    - (2) Twenty one people
    - (3) In one and a half hours we packaged over 22,000 lbs. of food which will provide approximately 16,000 meals to needy families in Northeast Georgia
  - c) Discuss moving the meeting room to a different building because of parking issues at SLC
    - vote passed to continue to hold our monthly meetings in the SLC
  
- 3) Brian Gamsey, Executive Director—Triple Play Foundation
  - MPA student
  - [www.tripleplayfoundation.org](http://www.tripleplayfoundation.org)

- a) History
    - raises funds for greater Atlanta, for kids sports
    - adult kickball tournament in past, golf tournament in two weeks
  - b) Discuss potential future Service Projects with GSA and Triple Play
    - moving to Athens
    - want support from GSA, ideas, looking for good non-profit/community organizations to support
    - Vice President Gore is a big proponent of this, could involve the next GSA service project
- 3) Progress-to-Date
- a) Health Insurance
    - at the state-level, not going to change
    - University-subsidy not going to change at all this year
      - (1) Proposed VODcast with Department of Human Resources
      - (2) Will begin working with HR department in mid October on this project
        - VODcast, streaming video to be made
        - through issues/advocacy committee, GSA to find common concerns that students would like to have addressed by in the video
      - (3) I would like to send out a survey fielding graduate students for questions they have about the program; I would then like to collate that list into broadly ten to twelve commonly themed questions
        - this would give GSA better influence and coherence when we make or address health and insurance-related suggestions
  - b) University to include additional graduate student travel funds in the university budget
    - (1) Meeting with Provost Mace on Friday, August 31, 2007
    - (2) Will continue to work on this initiative
  - c) Facility exclusively for graduate students
    - (1) Discussed this item with President Adams and Provost Mace—both agree this an excellent idea, however, this is at least three years out
      - might be able to get some space in Tate 2
  - d) Childcare Initiative
    - (1) Rally scheduled for Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>
    - (2) Administration has created an exploratory committee and has a hired a consulting firm investigate this initiative

**\*GSA discussion about childcare\*:**

- Faculty and staff-based initiative
- will present 2000+ petition to University Council on Thursday
- GSA has endorsed support for better childcare at UGA
- has been some early surveying about percentage of UGA grad students with kids
- could hurt retainment and recruitment
- Childcare, where to spend GSA capital, limited influence
- Co-op, capital off-sets in manpower
- what form would GSA support take – webmail, emails, listserv
- how does GSA focus its support, best way to do this
- don't want to push against the administration too hard – agenda, listserv, emails, front page of website, VP Gore; negative consequences of official endorsement? Admin? – facilitate without endorsement
- shouldn't GSA take a position? – encourage turnout, participation, too passive, start some dialogue on institutional issues
- we need to see info on costs, graduate student impact, economic issue
- wait and see attitude, follow based feasibility study
- problems with having issue only effect grad students, also staff, faculty
- GSA is best when we have healthy dialogue
- could GSA over-extend itself by supporting childcare, on other issues that are potentially contentious, strong positions
- should we say something, on some things we need to have a stance, could benefit us as a more diverse body
- GSA doing to counter-resistant
- we need to have more preparation, research, and concrete numbers
- how do we shape the question, whom to send it to, how to show that support, do we wait until the university exploratory committee finishes
- letter to founders/admin showing support
- straw-poll (1): GSA letter of encouragement about open dialogue childcare-passed, to go out this September 27, 2007, sent also

- straw-poll (2): GSA supports childcare on campus formally-waiting until exploratory committee comes back with information

- e) Open the floor to discuss issues amongst representatives and guests
  - (1) Discussion with Ron Hamlin, Director of UGA bus transit
    - Wesley will speak with Ron Hamlin about improving this
    - no-Weekender service for Family Housing during the summer, Wesley will pass this on to Athens Transit

- f) Matt Gore

- (1) Executive Committee Update
  - two minors in grad degrees being withdrawn
- (2) Student Ticket Initiative
  - ensure that students who want football tickets have better access
  - all students pay athletic fees, yet it pays for reduced or subsidized access to all UGA supporting events
  - improved access, not all students received access
  - tickets received, fulltime – 12hrs undergraduate/9hrs graduate
  - VP Gore involved, not a GSA endorsed initiative

### 3) Committees

- a) Break-out session

- (1) Issues/Advocacy Committee
  - (a) Discuss the health insurance survey and coalescence of questions
- (2) Social and Service Projects Committee
  - (a) Discuss Social coming up on October 20<sup>th</sup>
  - (b) Possibly plan a smaller social before then
- (3) GGSIC Committee
  - (a) Start discussing upcoming Spring Conference

### 3) Graduate Student of the Month

- (1) Vote on nomination
  - start a grad student of the month, vote on person each month at meeting
  - Ruth Neustifter, Ph.D. student, in Child and Family Development program, is inaugural nominee
  - vote: passed, first grad student of month

4) Other Items

a) Budget

b) New Representatives

(1) Please fill-out the 2007/2008 Representative Roster

5) Future Events

a) Social—Saturday, October 20, 2007, 11:30-3:00 p.m.

- non-game day, bye football weekend

- Lake Herrick, field#6

- encourage families and students who don't make bar socials

c) GSA Meeting – Monday, October 22, 6:30 p.m., SLC Room 214