

University Council Report

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Good afternoon!

We've had a busy start to the semester, so I am excited to share a number of updates from SGA.

Many of you have heard me, Melissa, and Nav talk non-stop about the Georgia Way. We are elated to say that the Georgia Way, our student-driven values statement, unanimously passed through the SGA Senate a few weeks ago. Our next steps for the initiative include framing the statement, hanging it up in Tate, and working with other organizations to have the Georgia Way visible across campus.

Currently, we are collaborating with CAPS on the creation of a concierge-style mental health survey on the UGA App. This would include a perceived stress survey for students to take, which would lead them to the specific resource or clinic that best suits their needs. Speaking of mental health, I want to thank you all for working alongside SGA to pass through University Council the mental health statement on syllabi. We are confident that this addition to syllabi will elevate knowledge of these resources and allow us to better support students.

In early January, we hosted a week of programming in collaboration with CAPS and the Student Health Advisory Committee centered around mental wellness. The week included the Mental Wellness Summit, where psychiatrists and students from all across campus came together to engage in important conversations regarding how to care for our mental health.

Mental Wellness Week was a great example of campus-wide partnerships working on behalf of the student body. Another great example is the newly launched student resources page, student.uga.edu. As a student, I can discover resources available to me, which are organized into 7 buckets. In short, student.uga.edu is a one-stop shop for everything students need. Soon, the page will also be included on the UGA App.

Thanks to Transportation and Parking Services, we will soon see the roll-out of new and improved bus stop signs all across campus. These new bus stop signs will include the name of the bus stop, which will correlate to the name of the bus stop on the UGA App. These signs will be installed this summer, and they will help students and guests better navigate our campus. Also, we are currently working to improve the parking priority system so that students, faculty, and staff can better understand which lots and decks are prioritized for them based on their classification.

Our partners in the SGA Senate continue to build on their progress of making professional clothing more accessible to all students. We are actively accepting clothing donations for our new Professional Clothing Closet, and we are in the process of hiring student staff to work the

closet. In January, the closet served 79 students. In total, the closet has received \$15,000 in grant funding.

Food insecurity is an issue that affects far too many students on our campus. A new program called Round Up is part of our solution to that problem. Round Up offers the opportunity to round up the cost of any purchase at any on-campus retail location by set amounts in multiples of quarters. Proceeds will go to the Let All the Big Dawgs Eat Scholarship Program. Auxiliary Services has approved our plan, and implementation will occur sometime between April and August. At our peer and aspirational institutions who have similar programs, they have seen approximately \$30,000 dollars each year raised through this program for food insecurity. We look forward to seeing similar success here.

A key focus of our administration is to find ways to provide greater support for transfer and spring start students. During the second week of the school year, SGA co-hosted a Spring New Student Welcome in the Indoor Practice Facility. After Coach Crean, Coach Taylor, Dr. Bill, and Nicole McConnell spoke and welcomed our spring and transfer students to UGA, we cheered on the lady dawgs in Stegeman Coliseum.

Another transfer initiative was an event called Transfer Student T-Shirt Swap. Transfer students were invited to Tate Plaza to bring a t-shirt from their former college or university. In return, we provided a UGA shirt designed by our communications team. Soon, we will donate those t-shirts received to a local women's shelter.

With SGA campaigning in full swing, the lame duck period for me, Melissa, and Nav as well as our senators will soon began. This means that after today, you only have to sit through one more of my reports at University Council. Our successors will be elected next week, and I look forward to bringing my successor to future UC meetings.

Once again, thank you for your time. It is T minus 47 days until retirement, but who is counting.