



Graduate Student Association

Report to University Council

September 23, 2010

Report on Completed Activities of GSA

- **The 2010 GSA Interdisciplinary Conference:** Due to scheduling conflicts, no report was issued on the 2010 conference during the final University Council meeting of 2010. I am pleased to report that the conference was a resounding success, and that we received a great deal of positive feedback from conference participants and attendees. The 2010 conference theme was *Health and the Disciplines*, and featured Dr. Steve Oliver as the keynote speaker. Additionally, the conference consisted of 15 panel discussions, 38 paper abstracts, and 25 poster abstracts. For 2011, we intend to build on the successes of the conference by inviting students from other neighboring universities to participate. Our first meeting to begin discussing the 2011 conference will take place on Wednesday, September 29th.
- **GSA Reception for incoming graduate students:** GSA was pleased to welcome the entire incoming class of graduate students during the Graduate School orientation on August 11th. In addition to addressing the new students and adding over 200 students to our listserv, we also hosted a tour of campus and provided lunch to approximately 500 new students in a reception at the MLC. Thanks to generous support from Athens Transit and Georgia Federal Credit Union, limited student funds were used to put on these events.

Report on Ongoing Activities of GSA

- **GSA President's Council:** For the current school year, GSA has launched an initiative to better foster communication between GSA and the various graduate student groups around campus. Many of these student groups are very active in their specific disciplines, but bringing them together to work on major GSA initiatives will help GSA in providing a more diverse voice. Similar initiatives have been used in the past, but the GSA executive board felt that the current structure was lacking formality, which typically inspires students to take the role more seriously.

Report on Upcoming Activities of GSA

- **50th Anniversary Celebration of Desegregation at UGA:** GSA is very excited about participating in the "50 Days for 50 Years" celebration scheduled to take place in 2011. Plans are not finalized at this time, but GSA is working to put together a visual timeline that will showcase the progression of graduate students at UGA with regards to the pioneers of desegregation.
- **Social Events to Promote Interdisciplinary Knowledge:** In cooperation with Graduate and Professional Scholars (GAPS), GSA has scheduled a graduate student book swap to occur in November. This is the first of many social events we have planned which are intended to increase cross-campus dialogue between graduate and professional students from different disciplines. We believe that in addition to the research and policy oriented efforts of GSA, a robust social calendar will provide students with a more thorough graduate experience.