



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**  
Graduate Student Association

February Update for University Council

The officers and members of the Graduate Student Association concluded the Fall semester on a high note, and we are looking forward to an equally successful spring semester! Below is a summary of our fall efforts and a preview of spring activities.

**Outreach Success**

- Through our social media channels, the Graduate Student Association has promoted programs, services, resources, and opportunities developed by multiple campus units.
- From September 10 - December 8, the Association's Instagram account received 26,681 views and has reached 7,345 accounts (a 628% increase in reach!).

**Advocacy Successes**

- 41 Graduate and Professional student representatives were recruited from academic departments across the university to represent Graduate and Professional Students as members of the Association's Council.
- Students' participation in multiple university committees has brought graduate students' experiences, perspectives, and voices into decision-making spaces and planning efforts. Graduate student representatives are participatory in:
  - University Council (Executive Committee, the University Curriculum Committee)
  - Graduate Council
  - Student Affairs Advisory Board
  - Student Technology Fee Advisory Committee
- During the spring semester, we are looking forward to sending graduate and professional student representatives to additional committee including the:
  - Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics,
  - the Committee on Facilities, the Strategic Planning Committee,
  - the Student Experience Committee and the
  - University Libraries Committee
- During the Spring 2025 semester, the President of the Graduate Student Association will represent students as a member of the university's mandatory student fee committee and a USG system level advisory board regarding the student health insurance plan.
- The President and Director of Internal Operations will serve as members of the university's student activity fee allocation review board in February-March.

- The President of the Graduate Student Association provided feedback to leaders in Auxiliary Services, which led to a new meal plan designed for graduate and professional students.
- During the spring semester, the Graduate Student Association is excited to work with the Office of Student Transitions to support the development of resources designed to address housing concerns for graduate and professional students.
- After discussion with leaders in the Division of Student Affairs, the Graduate Student Association became a partner (with the Student Government Association and the Division of Student Affairs) in support of campus-wide efforts to address food insecurity.
- We established and are working to maintain a robust relationship with graduate and professional students at the Griffin campus.
- The Association's Constitution Revision and Review Committee has been busy revising its our bylaws. The aim of these revisions was to make GSA more inclusive and enable greater representation of graduate and professional students. Graduate and professional students should expect to review and vote on these revisions during the spring semester.
- Through the Graduate Student Association representatives for academic departments in the Franklin College of Arts & Sciences were connected directly to Dean Stenport to advocate for students at a more local level.

### **Programming Successes**

- In August, the Graduate Student Association met and welcomed 150+ graduate students to the University of Georgia through the university's welcome event and our first graduate student social event of the year, Pizza Palooza.
- In September, Uyi Ugiabe, the Vice President of the Graduate Student Association (PhD Student in Mathematics Education), connected with campus community members during International Coffee Hour!
- During the Fall 2024 Dawg Day of Service Team, seven graduate/professional students contributed to improvement efforts at the Cleveland Road Elementary School Garden.
- On November 14, 50+ graduate and professional students participated in a social event, Bowling & Bonds, co-sponsored by Graduate and Professional Scholars (GAPS).
- On November 18, we engaged 25 graduate and professional students during a panel event tailored to the experiences of international students. This event was a part of the Office of International Student Life's International Student Month Programming. Panelists for this event included an international student and administrators from the UGA Graduate School, Human

Resources, and the Office of Global Engagement.

- We are analyzing data from our recent leadership development workshop for graduate and professional students that we held on January 28.
- During the spring semester, the Association's Professional Development Committee looks forward to organizing multiple programs prioritizing graduate and professional students' leadership development, financial literacy, and connection to alumni/mentors. Be on the lookout for these programs!
- We are also very excited about our upcoming sponsored session of International Coffee Hour, an event that we are co-sponsoring in collaboration with the Office of International Student Life.

### **Organizational Transitions**

- Election and appointment season is fast approaching for GSA, so please be on the lookout this information. We are looking for Graduate Coordinators to encourage students in graduate and professional departments to represent students in their programs.
- We also have representative seats for graduate and professional student organizations. We're hopeful that revisions to our bylaws will enable greater representation for students at satellite campuses and students in online programs.

Further questions regarding the Graduate Student Association may be directed to the President at [gsa@uga.edu](mailto:gsa@uga.edu).