

Student Government Association
Report to the University Council
March 22, 2007

SGA would like express our concern regarding the University's wide-scale use of Social Security numbers, including, but not limited to: distribution on class roles and grade sheets, requests from faculty for SSNs on loose sheets of paper for quizzes and attendance, and the expectation that SSNs be given over the telephone during the registration process (POD, POM, POH courses). While we understand that the long-term solution to this problem may require an overhaul of the University's information system, we hope that steps can be taken to protect students at this point in time as well. Whereas many University issues affect students for four years, the loss of one's identity is a problem that can follow a student for the rest of his or her life. Students have recommended exploring the option of using student ID numbers, which are already the primary source of identification for Bulldog Bucks and in the campus dining halls, as an alternative for SSNs. During this long-term process, we ask that faculty not only be aware of this issue, but be proactive in eliminating the use of this personal information in their own classrooms and urging their colleagues to do the same.

While we are eagerly anticipating both the construction of the Tate II Center and the extension of the hours of the Student Learning Center, the loss of parking due to the construction project and the later hours that students will on campus focusing on their academic pursuits, creates a concern regarding the insufficient lighting between the available parking lots and the SLC. Currently the N11 parking lot provides a well-lit area for students to park and allows them to feel safe returning to their cars after a night of independent study, but the S02 lot and the Hull Street Deck do not provide this same sense of security. The S02 lot is poorly lit and the commute between the SLC and the Hull Street Deck involves a trek through darker areas of campus. We urge this committee to keep student safety in the front of your mind during campus construction and hope that you will consider adding additional lighting in these areas, either temporarily or permanently, depending on each individual safety need.

Finally, at the last Council meeting students were charged to participate more actively in the proceedings of the Council, and particularly within the committee structure. However, in order to be in attendance, students need to have access to the time, date, and location of all committee meetings. We ask that all committee chairs, as many already do, post their meetings on the UGA Master Calendar so that all members of the UGA community can be in attendance.