

Graduate Student Association Report
University Council
Thursday, April 23
Hank Ryle Clay, President

It is my pleasure to be able to stand before you today to introduce our new president-elect, Mr. William Rooks. Will is a first year Master of Public Administration students in the School of Public and International Affairs. He is extremely knowledgeable about the issues facing graduate students, and is very hard working. He ran against a very competitive field of three other candidates. The race ended in a runoff with one the highest turnouts in our history.

Will has been meeting with many of you since he won, and he will be anxious to start his term that begins June 1st. I know that William will do an incredible job, and please join me in congratulating him.

I stand before you in my last address to this body with the same message as I began the year with: the graduate student body understands the extremely difficult budget situation that we are in, and we wish to join you in working toward a solution together.

Graduate students work along side you as your assistants, they teach your classes, and they serve as your students. We know this university from all levels, and with this knowledge we can work with you to come to a shared solution.

We are pragmatic, and we know that difficult choices will have to be made. Our wish is to work with you to identify our priorities both during this budgetary crisis, and as we move forward.

As I graduate in two weeks and prepare to begin the next phase of my life I am confronted with mixed emotions. I am excited about the path before me, but I am leaving an institution that I have come to love over the five years that I spent here as both an undergraduate and a graduate student.

Over the course of my time here I have found a deep level of commitment to the students on this campus. You have consistently shown your commitment to the graduate students here, and you should be proud that you have always opened your door to the concerns of graduate students. I ask that you continue this pattern as Will takes office, and that you work with graduate students as we all work together for the good of the University of Georgia.