

Good afternoon everyone,

As you can see I am not William Rooks, who was the Graduate Student Association President last semester. This spring Will is actually studying abroad with UGA's law school in Oxford, England. Due to his absence I, who was GSA vice president, have become president.

Concerning last semester, the main report I want to share is how the UGA's graduate students voted to implement a health insurance rider to decrease the maximum out-of-pocket amount from \$10,000 to the original \$2,500. This aided several students around campus who were going over the \$2,500 amount and were experiencing financial stress on top of their serious health condition. We are grateful for the administration's support in this initiative and continuing to subsidize a portion of the graduate health insurance costs.

Currently I am working with UGA's Human Resources office to continue advocating for UGA graduate students to the Board of Regents and Pearce and Pearce, our insurance providers. With UGA highly valuing their graduate students, desiring to increase graduate enrollment and recruitment efforts, and having the highest percentage of graduate students, it is essential to continue advocating on their behalf concerning next year's health insurance plan and future plans and providers.

Besides health insurance, I have taken the advice of an administrator, and have chosen to focus on one initiative this year. In taking his suggestion, I have decided to focus my and my executive committee's efforts and time on planning and organizing the Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference being held at the Miller Learning Center on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Currently we have over 80 submissions from UGA masters and doctoral students desiring to present their research. With this conference we are hoping to lay the foundations for future interdisciplinary conferences at UGA and possibly partnering with other universities to possibly establish a regional conference. To aid us in making this conference a success, please consider coming yourself and encouraging your undergraduate and graduate students to attend. If you would like to learn more about the conference or know how you could help us, please meet me after the meeting.

I appreciate your continued support of and cooperation with the graduate student body.

Thank you