

**University Council Remarks**  
**Graduate-Professional Student Association**  
**11/16/2016**

- I. Report on October-November Initiatives
  - a. STEM Outreach Program
    - i. October 13 Pilot
      - 1. Support from Presidents Venture Fund
      - 2. Hosted Rockdale County STEM teachers and students
      - 3. Mentorship sessions and campus tours
    - ii. Future program dates and planning underway
  - b. UGA Alumni Association
    - i. Discussions with the Executive Director of the Alumni Association about how we can work together in the coming years to engage graduate and professional students and cultivate lasting relationships which continue long after they graduate.
  - c. “Shut Up and Write” Days
    - i. One hour on a designated day each week at a designated space. Graduate students working on publications, theses, etc. can join each other for focused writing time.
- II. National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS)
  - a. GPSA President Michael Snell and GAPS President Bridgette Burton attended national conference at Stony Brook University from November 3-6.
  - b. Assessing potential bid for national conference in 2018.
  - c. Development of working relationship with peer and aspirant graduate/professional student leaders. Additional relationships formed between UGA and MIT, West Virginia University, University of Missouri, and Carnegie Mellon.
  - d. Regional conference in April
- III. Upcoming
  - a. Interdisciplinary Research and Ideas Symposium (IRIS) 2017
    - i. Call for Proposals is active until mid-January
    - ii. Conference on March 20, 2017
    - iii. Working with NAGPS
  - b. Graduate Student Life
    - i. Research initiative; investigating quality of graduate and professional student life at UGA, ways we can work to improve