

Graduate-Professional Student Association
University Council Report
March 22, 2017
Delivered by: Michael Snell

- A. Integrative Research and Ideas Symposium
 - a. On Monday, 3/20, more than 300 graduate and professional students, faculty, and others came together to share research, to form relationships, and to be exposed to novel new ideas and professional development opportunities at the Tate Student Center for the inaugural Integrative Research and Ideas Symposium. The event was a great success, with reports already of new grant co-applications resulting from the event, and with high praise from the event speakers, which included Dr. Marshall Shepherd (UGA), Dr. Maarten Bos (Disney), “Science Mike” McHargue, and Microsoft.
 - b. The second annual IRIS is slated for April 13, 2018 at the Classic Center.
- B. Georgia Science and Engineering Fair
 - a. On Friday, March 31, GPSA will be sponsoring a snack break and scholarship at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. In addition, hundreds of graduate students will be present to act as judges for the event.
- C. Jittery Joe’s Partnership
 - a. The “College Graduate Blend” was launched at IRIS on 3/20 to raise money for a community-engaged research endowment. Will be available in Jittery Joe’s stores starting next month.
- D. GPSA Budget Allocations
 - a. GPSA will defend its FY18 budget proposal to the All-Campus Allocation Committee on Monday, March 27, at 4:45PM. The budget proposal includes funding for \$50,000 in small Conference Travel and Professional Development grants. This funding would mark a significant step forward in how graduate education is represented in the programs and services offered through the Division of Student Affairs.
 - b. GPSA at UGA has the lowest funding among graduate student organizations at peer and aspirant institutions, and at R1 institutions.
- E. Next year
 - a. GPSA will continue to expand its program and service offerings via graduatestudents.org, including benchmarking interest in the STEM Outreach Program launched in Fall 2016.
 - b. GPSA will continue to work with EAC in order to assess opportunity to enhance daily class schedule as a remedy for many calendar issues exposed this year.
 - c. @gradstudents on Instagram will continue to be a place where news is shared with our community, and student/research profiles will be highlighted
 - d. GPSA will work with Student Affairs and The Graduate School on a Task Force on the Graduate Student Experience. Recommendations for the improvement of graduate education at UGA will be delivered to the campus community by December 2017.