



Graduate Student Association

Report to University Council

December 2, 2010

Report on Completed Activities of GSA

- **Fall Semester 2010 Activities:** GSA has successfully improved attendance at both our general meetings and social events in 2010. Through partnerships with Graduate and Professional Scholars and other graduate student groups, we are continuing to build the network of graduate students who work in both a professional and a social setting. We held a total of 6 meetings during the semester to discuss policy updates, professional development opportunities, and academic advancement.

Report on Ongoing Activities of GSA

- **GSA President's Council:** For the current school year, GSA has launched an initiative to better foster communication between GSA and the various graduate student groups around campus. Many of these student groups are very active in their specific disciplines, but bringing them together to work on major GSA initiatives will help GSA in providing a more diverse voice. The President's Council has been initiated, but we are still lacking participation from many important graduate and professional student groups. As we enter the Spring semester, we will again place an emphasis on including as many graduate student groups across campus as possible to continue to provide a unified for graduate and professional students.

- **2011 Interdisciplinary Conference:** GSA is currently finalizing plans for our 2011 Interdisciplinary Conference. 2011 will be the 11th iteration of the conference and will build on the success of the previous years. The conference planning committee is in the final stages of their work and we will be making several announcements in the coming weeks.

Tentatively scheduled for mid-March, the 2011 Conference is entitled, *Building Bridges: Impacts of Graduate Research*. GSA will be announcing both the keynote speaker and the call for abstracts very soon. The abstracts will be peer-reviewed by a GSA committee and will be accepted based on merit. We ask that faculty who have exceptional graduate students working with them consider this opportunity for current students to participate in a research conference as a way of advancing their academic and professional careers.

Report on Upcoming Activities of GSA

- **50th Anniversary Celebration of Desegregation at UGA:** GSA is very excited about participating in the “50 Days for 50 Years” celebration scheduled to take place in 2011. GSA is developing a graphical timeline that can be physically displayed at events during the commemoration ceremony.
- **Service Projects:** During 2011, GSA will be choosing a local non-profit to facilitate community service opportunities for graduate and professional students. While we recognize the numerous opportunities available to students at UGA, the GSA executive board wants to make a point to engage students in learning more about the community around us. In the theme of our 2011 Research conference, building bridges is a goal of our graduate research. Whether we research locally, regionally, or globally, using the knowledge we acquire while in graduate school to give back creates a lasting effect for many generations.