

# GSA Newsletter

Dear Graduate Students!

We are almost at the end of the semester, I hope everyone is doing well so far.

**Connect.** Be sure to connect with us via social media handles – [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [website](#), and email. You can get involved by attending general body meetings and events as well as potentially serving on the Graduate Student Council.

**Follow us for emails, attend meetings and events!**



## Upcoming GSA Events!

### ○ GSA General Body Meeting:

4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 @ 7:30pm via Zoom

### ○ GSA Council Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 @ 7:30pm via Zoom

### ○ Virtual Trivia Night:

Date – 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Venue – GSA General Body Meeting

Prizes – First 15 Winners get free T-shirts

### ○ GAPS-GSA Joint Event:

Date – 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Venue – TBD

Highlights – Free Food, Games, Interactive Painting Sessions, Music by DJ, and more!

## Minutes from Previous GSA Meetings

- Updates from different University Committees
  - Strategic committee meeting: enhancing student learning by active learning
    - Timeline? Report given by an outside body, Sarah (GSA VP) will not be a part of that
  - Office to academic integrity Policy wording is changing
  - University libraries: new research building at an off-campus location
  - Innovative teaching methods for COVID
  - Technology fee committee
    - Today's meeting talked about library and public health technology budget
    - The committee will be going through 150 proposals to decide where to allocate the one-time funding. Review of one-time funding proposals will happen next meeting- Nov 18.
  - The Educational Affairs Committee is trying to retool the excused-absences policy
    - Have you experienced any situations where your professors refused to let you be absent for a class?
- Guest Interaction with Jennifer Zhu – Executive Vice-President of Asian American Student Association
  - AASA aims to raise cultural awareness of Asian culture
  - They host events such as a night market on Nov 13, 2021- all are invited
  - AASA wants to establish a connection with GSA in order to establish undergraduate and graduate relationship
  - AASA is seeking guest speaker or mentor/mentee program from GSA and other graduate students
  - An email with google form sign up and a brief summary will be sent

- Updates from different Committees of GSA Council
  - With any issues or approval of events
    - Previously: Once passed within committee, item is presented to the executive members, then voted on it in council meeting (can be time consuming)
    - Instead, send it to (president) Leena at least 2 days before the council meeting to include in agenda
    - For urgent matters: Leena (GSA President) can send a vote through the list serve
  - **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
    - **Co-Chair: Jaminque Adams and Aria Kumar**
    - Talked about issue with all gendered bathrooms
  - **Social Committee**
    - **Co-Chairs: Daniel Suh and Darrian Talamantes**
    - Talked about in person events
  - **Professional Development & Student Support Committee**
    - **Co-Chairs: John Y and Jade Frederickson**
  - **Advocacy and Campus Issues Committee**
    - **Co-Chair: Andrew Simmons and Justin Simpson**
  - **Health and Wellness Committee**
    - **Co-Chairs: Jasmine Badiee and Maryam Almansi**
  - **International Student Support Committee**
    - **Co-Chairs: Saurabh Anand and Madhav Subedi**
  - There are funds available for committee

### **CONGRATULATIONS to all the Committee Chairs!**

- Tenure Review Policy changes (discussion about the impact on Graduate Students; New Policy file attached with email)
- Brainstorming future events and ideas
  - De-stressing events: e.g. cuddling puppies, lumberzaxe
  - Covid conscious events i.e. outdoor, masks available for whoever needs it
  - Free food
  - Corn maze at Washington farms
  - Yoga classes
  - Music sessions/open mic night
  - Activities/games night
  - Zumba classes
- Updates about Upcoming GSA events
  - Oct 28: Free Pizza at Creature Comforts
    - Pet friendly
  - Nov 19: Collaboration with GAPS
    - Music
    - Canvas to paint on
    - Games
    - Possibly Hotdog/corndog stand
    - Free food
    - Geared towards mental health: UGA mental health resources will be shared
- Additional Discussion points: UGA outsourced mental health counselling with Jed, and there are currently no changes to insurance policy, and the amount paid by students.

If you have any questions about the minutes, please contact [gsa@uga.edu](mailto:gsa@uga.edu).

## Upcoming Events Across UGA Campus

### Cultural Dynamics of Job Searching in the United States

Monday, November 15th (3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.)

Tate Student Center, Room 479

For graduate students seeking jobs within industry, government, non-profit organizations or other non-academic settings, navigating the unique culture of professionalism in the U.S. can be challenging. Join us for an interactive discussion on the cultural dynamics of networking, interviewing, and job searching. We will review basic and advanced concepts and allow plenty of time for questions. This program is intended to support international students who are completing their graduate degrees at UGA. Register [here](#) for the program.

### The Transitions MSI to PWI Series

The Transitions MSI to PWI Series is a series of workshops and events that are held monthly throughout the Fall semester. The workshops are led by university faculty and staff, and are designed to give graduate students an opportunity to learn about campus resources, and start building community with other graduate students coming to UGA from minority serving institutions. The final event of the semester will be offered Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 4pm at Tate Student Center, Room 482. The workshop titled “Finding a Professional Mentor” will feature a presentation from Marques Dexter, Assistant Director, Office of Institutional Diversity.

The Graduate School would like to invite all current students to participate in this series, and meet and establish relationships with other students who are finding ways to best navigate graduate education. The Graduate School hopes to create a welcoming environment that assists students with their transition to graduate education and encourages student empowerment. Please RSVP to the workshop at this link: <https://gradstatus.uga.edu/Events/Register/4209>.

For questions, please contact Geovani Ayala, Associate Director, Office of Recruitment and Diversity Initiatives, UGA Graduate School at [grecruit@uga.edu](mailto:grecruit@uga.edu).

### ASPIRE Clinic

The ASPIRE Clinic at UGA is a pro-bono clinic dedicated to helping clients in the areas of financial planning, therapy, legal advice, and nutrition. Clients voluntarily sign up for the clinic to get help in one of these areas from clinic service providers. Each service provider is a voluntary student at UGA who is studying one of the above topics. The service providers are monitored by both a professor and a client communication expert.

Many graduate students need financial help or at least have questions that they want to talk out regarding their financial lives. The ASPIRE Clinic at UGA is a free resource that would help graduate students who have financial questions but don't necessarily want to pay for a full-time advisor. Please contact Christopher Thomas Lee at: [christopher.lee99@uga.edu](mailto:christopher.lee99@uga.edu) if you have questions, and visit <https://www.fcs.uga.edu/aspireclinic> for more information.

## Presidential Summit

Presidential Summit serves as an opportunity for networking and fellowship among chief officers of registered student organizations. Presidential Summits focus on various topics such as managing highly effective teams, money management, and officer transitions. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in roundtable discussions and hear from guest presenters, including student organization leaders, and gain best practices to take back to their respective organizations.

Our November Presidential Summit will be held on Tuesday, November 16 from 6:30-8:00pm, focusing on managing highly effective teams.

Please complete the [RSVP](#) by Monday, November 15. Chief officers are welcome to invite additional members by having them RSVP on the Involvement Network.

## LGBTQ+ community

Are you a UGA graduate student interested in connecting with the LGBTQ+ community on campus?

Come join UGA Grad Pride! We host both in person and virtual events to connect queer grad students. Please fill out this [interest form](#) to get on our emailing list to be notified of future events.



## 2022 World Leader Applications Now Open!

Apply now to be a 2022-2023 World Leader! World Leaders provide the first official welcome to all new international University of Georgia students and help them prepare for a successful beginning on campus. This position provides a unique opportunity to have a positive impact on newly admitted international students while also developing leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. The majority of incoming international students are graduate students, so we are looking for current graduate students to join our team! World Leaders work closely with ISL staff to ensure a successful orientation. The opportunity to work closely on a team with a select group of fellow student leaders is the most challenging and potentially rewarding aspect of the World Leaders experience. Any undergraduate, graduate or professional students may apply! The application is due by Friday, December 3 at 5 PM EST. To learn more about the World Leader program, visit [isl.uga.edu/world-leaders/](http://isl.uga.edu/world-leaders/) and to apply, visit [bit.ly/worldleaders2022](http://bit.ly/worldleaders2022). Please direct any questions to Sayre Weir at: [sayre.weir@uga.edu](mailto:sayre.weir@uga.edu).

## Want Us to Share your Information about Your Events/Opportunities?

GSA Newsletter will be sent out in the first week of each month.

Please write to [gsa@uga.edu](mailto:gsa@uga.edu) before the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month to be featured in the newsletter of the upcoming month!

### Resources Against Racial Injustices

One of GSA's missions is to advocate for a more equitable campus and social space. We have listed several resources for gaining knowledge about and combating racial injustices, for those who may need it. While our intent is to be resourceful, this list is not an exhaustive one, but there are endless books to read, films to watch, and so on for more engagement. Keep following us for special movie nights!

**Learn, Share, Act.** [Click here for a list of resources inclusive to books, movies, and strategies to combat racial injustices.](#)

**Support.** [Click here for a list of Black Businesses to support locally here in Athens.](#)

**Engage.** [Click here for a list of organizations/groups to get involved with for racial justice.](#)

### COVID-19 Resources and Other Information

**DawgCheck.** DawgCheck is a tool available on the UGA app and website for Covid-19 screening and notification. Anyone in the UGA community with a positive test result is required to report it on DawgCheck. This reporting will then notify: the Student Care and Outreach team to help coordinate procedures and help with any assistance necessary. [Click Here for Dawg Check.](#)

**Underlying Health Condition(s).** Requests from students for an accommodation related to Covid-19 are being handled through the Disability Resource Center's (DRC) existing accommodations process. Take note that DRC handles medical challenges (disabilities) not only inclusive to COVID-19, but all student disability cases. [Click Here for DRC.](#)

**Contact for Concerns.** COVID-19 Student Educational and Response Team (CO-SERT) is a temporary collaborative team at UGA, charged and led by Student Affairs, to provide a central point of contact, review and response or referral on identified questions and concerns involving students and COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. [Click Here for CO-SERT.](#)

**Mental Health.** If you are feeling anxious or stressed as you enter the semester in the midst of such uncertainty there are resources available to help you navigate it. UGA has health educators, wellness coaches, mindfulness instructors, trained dietitians, and counseling and psychiatric services (CAPS) at the University Health Center (UHC). [Click Here for UHC.](#)

**Emergency Funding.** The Graduate Student Emergency Fund is available to provide limited, one-time financial assistance, up to \$2,000, to enrolled degree-seeking graduate students who, due to circumstances beyond their control, have suffered a temporary crisis. This fund can help with crises that are related or unrelated to the Covid-19 pandemic. [Click Here for Resource.](#)

**[Click for UGA COVID-19 Vaccine Website](#) & Get a Chance to Win \$1000!**