

Georgia College & State University  
Student Government Association  
2014-2015 – 79<sup>th</sup> Session

## **End of the Year Report**

### ***Executive Officers***

#### **President**

The Student Government Association had a very productive year on our campus. We made great strides in numerous areas on campus as highlighted below. Our success was possible because of our commitment to work together across branches: executive, legislative, judicial and staff as well as the connections and partnerships that we made across departments on campus and engagements in the community.

#### **Public Safety**

- Fully funded the expansion of SNAP to 7 days a week
- Continued the funding of the Thursday Night Shuttle

#### **Student Activities**

- Funded the coming renovation of the Bobcat DEN, improving a major attraction for prospective students
- Increased funding to Intramurals to ensure that our students do not have to pay out of pocket.
- Provided leadership for the establishment of the West DEN

#### **Support for Student Organizations**

- Provided \$242,277.00 in funding the registered student organizations on campus to build campus ethos through their programs and activities

#### **Campus Issues**

- *Communications:* Oversaw the consolidation of GC Communication emails into a daily digest
- *R25 Room Reservations:* Worked with Public Services to tweak the R25 system to allow student groups to request room reservations in a more efficient manner.
- *Student Fees:* Developed Prioritization Report (w/ fee reductions)

#### **Early College**

- Created a mentorship program between Early College Student Council and SGA
- Made the Centennial Center & pool available for utilization by Dual-Enrolled students

### **Campus Sexual Assaults**

- Officially joined the It's On Us Campaign!
- Accepted an appointment by the Chancellor to serve on the Campus Safety Committee for the system
  - Successful efforts to include additional support for Women's Centers around the USG to be included in the USG Campus Safety Report to the Chancellor

### **Campus Ethos**

- Organized Bobcat Madness to celebrate our institution's quasquicentennial anniversary alongside RSA, CAB and Thunder Crew

### **Working with University Officials**

- Increased the number of students serving on university-wide committees
- Worked with Auxiliary Services as we moved towards developing the Arts & Sciences courtyard into a space for study, grill-out, and outdoor class space

### **Sustainability/ Healthy Eating**

- Planted fruit plants around campus
- Approved composting project

### **Diversity/Inclusiveness**

- All SGA members are taking necessary steps to become Safe Space certified

### **Commencement-Related Issues:**

- Creation of souvenir tassels to be given to graduates
- Institution of a Student Regalia Closet
- Adding the degree program to diplomas

## **Vice President**

In the Fall 2014 Senate elections there was a total of 37 applicants. Upon election results, Edwards and McKenna resigned, and there was one vacancy in the senior class. After appointments, the freshman, sophomore and junior class had five members, while seniors had four and at-large had six. Wicker and La Rotta resigned due to time commitments, leaving a vacancy in the senior and freshman class. McNeal (junior) was appointed to replace Wicker, and Davis (sophomore) was appointed to replace La Rotta. Over winter break, Nowak and Burns resigned due to time commitments. Also over winter break, Short didn't meet the GPA requirement and McAlpine was removed due to behavior.

In the Spring 2015 Senate interviews there were a total of 40 applicants—but only about half showed up to interview. Madamidola (junior) replaced Nowak, Kapadia (freshman) replaced Burns, Aladesuyi (freshman) replaced Short, and Romanos (sophomore) replaced McAlpine. Many of the applicants were freshmen or sophomores. In April, Kahiga resigned due to behavior, Madamidola was removed due to inability to attend

senate sessions, and Sims was removed due to senate and committee absences. Zoeckler (junior) replaced Kahiga, Pack (sophomore) replaced Madamidola, and Bracewell (freshman) replaced Sims.

Sophomores had the largest class representation with seven senators, followed by freshmen with six senators, then at-large with five senators, juniors with four senators and seniors with three senators. Comparing September to April, freshman gained one seat, sophomores gained two seats, juniors lost one seat, seniors started with four seats and lost one seat, and at-large started with six seats and lost one.

As VP, this change in the senate body came as a concern. In September we had four returning senators—Nowak, Wicker, Faber and Stanley. We only had four representatives from the senior class, and six at-large. Throughout the year we lost returning senators, juniors and seniors, and we gained freshmen and sophomores. The executive board was made up of 3 seniors, 1 junior and 3 sophomores—SGA was young this year.

As for committees, there was: Appropriations, ATFC, Public Relations, SRO, Student Services, Academic Affairs, Campus Ethos, Campus Safety, Community Relations, Campus Wellness and Students Helping Students. Faber, Gastley, Stanley and Nowak were returning SGA members and were given chair positions. When reading the surveys from the end of first semester, I found that most people enjoyed their committees or wanted to be on a committee such as ATFC or appropriations the next semester.

The only committee change that was made during the spring semester was Campus Wellness replaced Campus Safety. Standing committee chairs remained the same, as did Academic Affairs. Jeffers, McNeal, Lowe and Green replaced former chairpersons. Second semester, committee chairs experienced absences or lack of signing up for events, as well as confusion due to the changing senate body.

When reading through end-of-the-year surveys I found that senators felt there was a large learning curve, lack of commitment and second semester burnout. I attribute this large learning curve to an overall young senate body and executive board—as well as an influx of new senate appointees. As for lack of commitment, I believe some senators were spreading themselves too thin between classwork and SGA-related meetings. Lastly, I believe burnout could've been caused by the return of the same committees/chairs in combination with a new or spread thin senate body.

While I think we ended up with an incredibly fantastic senate body, I think it became unrepresentative of the student body. Georgia College has (roughly) 6,700 students. Each SGA senate class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, at-large) represents 1,340 students. Each SGA senator represents 268 students from their corresponding class. It was great that we had new, young members appointed to SGA, but I think senate became unrepresentative of the student body as a whole. With a total of 12 appointments made throughout the year, and ending with 10, that almost makes up a simple majority.

My recommendation for future senate appointments is to appoint and apportion by class. In making senate appointments, future SGA prospects should not be considered as it only pertains to the current academic year. To combat burnout, I recommend rebooting SGA committees or chairpersons in the second semester. I also recommend having less reoccurring events, and focusing on bigger events the senate can work on together as a whole. I also recommend having more tabling, senate bonding, etc. I think committees became too isolated from each other, which can also be attributed to their continued membership from first semester.

As for the executive board and the senate body's relationship, I believe we all got to know each other and we had a good working relationship. Unfortunately, the senate became divided during winter elections this year, as did the executive board. This division created "tension" (as many senators said in their survey) throughout the senate and created an overall lack of communication among SGA. I believe that current and former SGA members have worked too hard to let differences divide the organization and senate body as a whole. SGA should never be working against each other unless there is a threat to the student body's representation or needs. Rather than encouraging political avenues (ex: resolutions), I recommend having more conversations between senators and the executive board. It is my belief that before being removed or resigning from office, senators should be given a chance to speak for their case. SGA should encourage, not discourage!

To end with my final recommendations, SGA needs to be more cautious with incremental spending of SGA funds—there were a few awkward moments in senate this year regarding appropriations. I recommend presenting a budget at every senate session, and having more transparency regarding internal SGA spending. There should never be a time where SGA has money for a luxury, but not for an RSO. I also recommend inviting staff and justices to senate meetings rather than having SGA meetings—possibly as a discussion item. As for SGA trivia, appoint two students to handle questions and emceeing, then have the senators do other SHS events. Lastly, I wish there was more tabling and SGA promotion this year. Tabling is great because we can give useful promo items right back to the students, and tell them about SGA's work! Also, it's a great senate bonding experience. In next year's budget I would include tabling materials; posters, koozies, a wagon, "swag," etc.

As Vice President, I learned a lot about leadership, organizational management and conflict resolution. I loved working with the senators and I loved meeting so many new and excited students! We had lots of interest in SGA this year, and an overall productive organization. I enjoyed the Senate Workshop, the retreat at East Campus, Charter Day and 125 events, Early College SGA, MLK Day, Homecoming, Capitol Day, giving the green towels to local businesses and speaking up about overall student needs (graduation, LGBT policies, etc.). I think SGA really focused on diversity and community engagement activities this year, which were great for the senators to experience! Lastly, I loved presiding over senate sessions and watching the senate mature and gain confidence throughout the year. SGA continues to be fantastic, and I can't wait to see what the senate body has in store for next year!

## **Secretary**

With the help of the Vice President, I feel that the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the Student Government Association had a very successful and organized year. I mainly assisted with the documentation and maintenance of the official business of the Student Government Association, including organizing all legislation that passed through the Senate body, specifically bills and resolutions.

### **August**

- Held an informational session with the Vice President for any students interested in becoming SGA Senators

### **September**

- Held mandatory SGA Senator campaigning meeting with the Vice President
- Helped facilitate successful university-wide election process for the senators of the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of SGA
- Held Senate workshop to acquaint all senators with each other and explain their duties – distributed senator handbooks and SGA office supplies
- Assigned each senator to a Standing Committee and an Ad Hoc Committee
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Held SGA Retreat at East Campus for all SGA branches to meet each other and bond
- Documented reports and attendance at the first senate session of the academic year
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

### **October**

- Documented minutes for the first SGA Meeting that included members and updates from all branches, and distributed minutes
- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

### **November**

- Documented minutes for the SGA Meeting on the first Monday of the month that included members and updates from all branches, and distributed minutes
- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

## **December**

- Organized the most successful Study in the SAC yet!
  - Offered beverages (coffee, water), scantrons, pencils, SGA goodies
  - 3,000+ students participated!
- Assisted in the decorating and planning of the annual Hanging of the Greens event on Front Campus
- Documented minutes for the SGA Meeting on the first Monday of the month that included members and updates from all branches, and distributed minutes
- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

## **January**

- Documented minutes for the SGA Meeting on the first Monday of the month that included members and updates from all branches, and distributed minutes
- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

## **February**

- Documented minutes for the SGA Meeting on the first Monday of the month that included members and updates from all branches, and distributed minutes
- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly
- Assisted in ordering SGA promotional items for the SGA Tent City tailgate
- Ordered additional SGA office supplies and materials (including padfolios and pens)

## **March**

- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly

## **April**

- Documented reports and attendance at weekly senate sessions
- Sent out weekly senate minutes and agendas to keep all executive members and senators up to date
- Updated Committee Minute files on SGA Dropbox account
- Documented executive board meetings by taking minutes weekly
- Currently working on planning the semi-annual Study in the SAC event, hopefully even more successful than last semester!

## **Overall**

- Documented 25 successful senate sessions
- Assigned all senators to RSOs both Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters and kept updated with any changes in the composition of the senate body
- Passed 12 bills and 16 resolutions
- Signed all bills and resolutions that passed and kept online copies as well as paper copies in the archives
- Ensured senators sent emails to their RSOs explaining SABC funding and the process, broke a record with over 80 RSOs applying!
- Planned two successful Study in the SAC events, for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters!

## **Treasurer**

In the 79<sup>th</sup> session, the GC SGA came well under the budget allocated by the university. This is because we had a 5% contingency and budgeted everything else out appropriately. Therefore, we did not have to spend any of the extra money we had set aside in savings or emergency funds. The budget was reformatted on Excel to make it easier for future treasurers to edit and update the budget. Also, a database was created with the current term's budget as well as budgets from the past four years. This will allow future Executive Boards to make wise financial decisions based off of previous budgets all next to each other. This will be more effective 20 years down the road when there is a wider variety of data to be compared to. With some of the remaining money, the Executive Board plans to buy a smart scanner, for all of the receipts and invoices that pass through the Treasurer's office. Not only will senators and students be able to see an itemized report, they will also be able to see the receipts in the budget. In essence, most all of the changes and improvements made will help benefit SGA further down the road rather than just in the here and now. A lot of changes needed to be made in order to keep better records.

## **Attorney General**

Charges for the year are as follows:

SCC1a: Alcohol: 9 amnesty, 47 responsible

SCC1c: Alc+Drug: 1 amnesty, 20 responsible

SCC2a: DUI: 6 responsible

SCC2b: Assault: 2 responsible

SCC3: Obstruction of Policy: 0

SCC4a: Public Drunkenness over 21: 5 responsible

SCC4b: Inappropriate Conduct: 20 responsible

SCC5: Intentional Harrasment: 1 responsible

Honor Code Stealing: 4 responsible

HC Vandalism: 2 responsible

HC Academic Dishonesty: 3 responsible

HC Plagiarism: 6 responsible

HC Lying: 2 responsible

At least 150 students were found not responsible and were seen by the Board. These statistics do not reflect those numbers. Additionally, there are at least 15 more cases to be heard by the board and will not be listed in the statistics above.

Total Found Responsible SCC: 382

Total Found Responsible HC: 14

## **Chief of Staff**

### **Athletic Affairs**

Starting this position at the end of Fall Semester 2014, the duties included for this job were:

- Supervising and managing the performances of Thunder
- Managing travel arrangements for Thunder to and from appearances
- Actively seeking opportunities for Thunder that are high impact and appropriate
- Acting as an escort to the costumed Thunder mascot as needed

All of these duties were carried out by this term. Examples of events in which Thunder appeared include:

- Georgia College Athletics' Mascot Day

- Baldwin County Book Fair
- Appearing in the RSA promotional video for conference
- Visiting various schools within the community as a part of the YES Program
- Science Fair
- Make A Wish Foundation Wish Reveal
- Bobcat Awards
- Various Homecoming festivities

And many more. The Thunder mascot has been very active this year.

## **Environmental Affairs**

### **August**

- Met with President Dr. Dorman about his 3-5 year goals for Sustainable Initiatives
- Met with SGA President Juawn Jackson about goals for the current year
- Met with Gardening Club/Campus Garden Project leader, Lindsay Crowe about proposal timeline for the year
- Met with Georgia College's Director of Sustainability, Lori Strawder to discuss 3 year goals and goals for the year
- Met with Environmental Science Club President (Murray) to discuss goals and partnerships for the year

### **September**

- Attended Morehouse Campus Sustainability Conference
- Met with Susan Daniels and Lori Strawder about the Environmental Science Club's project to plant 250 trees around Georgia College
  - SGA President Juawn Jackson stated a goal to add on fruit plants (blueberries & pomegranates) to the project
- Attended Sustainability Council's monthly meeting
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

### **October**

- Met with multiple departments to discuss the Bike Share Proposal (Murray & Randall)
- Found locations for trees and fruit plants
  - Budget & Space Allocations Committee pending
- Senate passed CGIF's \$180,000 proposal for the Georgia College Composting Program (Randall & Wright)
- Interviewed for GC360 with CGIF Chair, Wesley Randall, about current and future projects
- Campus Sustainability/Food Day
  - Conducted Green Initiative Survey while tabling and Movie Night: Cowspiracy
- Attended Sustainability Council's meeting
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

## **November**

- Housing Department installed new Energy Star washing & drying machines in the Villages 1-3
- New Bike Share Programs introduced (GotchaBike, NextBike, Student-led)
- Worked with Housing about signage for the recycling initiative at Main Campus and West Campus
- Aided Dr. Oetter's Resource Class' Waste Audit in light of National Recycling Day being postponed
- Attended Sustainability Council
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

## **January**

- Meet with Larry Christenson to discuss better signage and a proposed recycling plan in on-campus housing
- Attended Sustainability Council
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

## **February**

- Wrote formal letter to organize a recycling effort at Tent City with the Environmental Science Club. Report was filed for next year
- Met with Dr. Harshbarger and Dean Leuter about proposed recycling plan and gained their support
- Met with Lori Strawder to discuss signage and some recycling recommendations
- Community Tree Planting of 250 trees and blueberries with Env. Science Club
- Presented sustainability recommendations to Resource Planning Committee (RPIPC)
- Attended Next South Conference in Atlanta with Env. Science Club
- Attended Sustainability Council
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

## **March**

- Sustainability Council provided a sustainable spring break opportunity to students in East Tennessee
- Attended Sustainability Council
- Attended CGIF Committee's monthly meeting

## **April**

- Earth Week

- Env. Science Club and Sustainability Council passed out CFL lightbulbs to students
  - Env. Science Club conducted Earthfest on Front Campus
  - Director Brodzik has taken on a campaign to challenge our administration to move towards a campus with clean energy and solar panels, known as “Seize the Grid”, a national campaign with the Sierra Club
  - Campus Green Initiative Fund Committee presented the annual Symposium in Arts & Sciences’ Auditorium
  - Sustainability Council awarded the Colin Maldonado Environmental Hero Award
- Attended Sustainability Council
- Attended CGIF Committee’s monthly meeting
  - CGIFC Elected and transitioned new officers for 2015-2016 year

## **May**

- Director Murray presented Sustainability Council’s recommendations for the future of resource consumption and disposal at Georgia College’s University Senate

## **Ongoing Projects**

- Campus Garden at West Campus proposed by GC Gardening Club has been approved and awaiting construction through the summer with official opening in the fall of 2015
- Campus Bike Share Program is stagnant until funding source is achieved
- GC Composting Program is still awaiting installation, hopeful for Fall 2015

## **Fraternity & Sorority Affairs**

Since Stephen and I (Lauren Cyder) received our positions last spring, we have been working very closely with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, SGA President Juawn Jackson, and our Chief of Staff Mahmood Al Bayati. Last summer, Stephen and I started working with Juawn about getting signs in front of the historical homes of Milledgeville that are sorority houses. We worked with the city of Milledgeville briefly about this but were unable to make any progress without their approval. We helped with the process of supplying transportation for the Kappa Alpha Order and Delta Sigma Phi “County Line” field party back in August. Things worked out perfectly with that.

Stephen and I emailed all of the sororities and fraternities and introduced ourselves and gave our contact information for any of them to contact us if they needed anything. Later during fall semester, Stephen and I became members of the OFSL Event Planning Team. With the team, Stephen and I assisted in planning and executing Big Greek Give and

Greek Week. We voted on and approved many things in the Event Planning Team and brought our own ideas to the table as well. Stephen and I came up with the idea for supporting the troops/veterans service event for Big Greek Give. We also voted on, approved, and disapproved many events regarding Greek Week. Tiffany and Stacey made me the chairman of new member education of the Event Planning Team. They asked me to make a Fall 2015 Spring 2016 event schedule for the new members. Events on the schedule included multiple seminars for new members of Greek Life to attend that helped them with various things regarding Greek Life, how to behave downtown, personal protection, social media awareness, and other informative seminars. The plan was to have several seminars and have the new members plan which ones they wanted to attend as long as they attended at least 2 a semester. This plan, along with the others Stephen and I had for the OFSL Event Planning Team quickly dissolved after team disbanded over winter break. Stacey, Tiffany and I briefly discussed a seminar for the Greek Life community about sex trafficking to raise awareness, however, we ran out of time planning it for this semester but we plan to have one in the fall.

Stephen and I reached out to all the sororities and fraternities about coming to SGA Trivia Nights and the Scholars of Distinction. However, only a few got back with us. Although, Stephen and I were both avid supporters of SGA Trivia all Spring semester and informed and invited many people on campus. We worked with the Georgia College police about getting the city ordinances and policies regarding house parties and such in Milledgeville, however Gary Purvis never got back with me about getting them. Throughout the year, we did small tasks Tiffany, Stacey and Juawn asked us to do including reaching out to Greek Life about various things, contributing to ideas, and executing anything they asked of us. Overall, Stephen and I had a very productive year, we thoroughly enjoyed getting to work together and we are so grateful for this wonderful opportunity to serve the Greek community and SGA. It's been a truly wonderful year.

## **Governmental Affairs**

This semester I have gathered information for a program called SeeClickFix, which helps with the maintenance of small cities. I have gathered cost analysis and provided simple means for implementation among the Milledgeville government.

I have also worked with Rusty Kidd to get someone from the Office of Fire Safety to our school to inspect our elevators, which have been out of inspection date for some time now.

Finally, I have been working and will continue to work throughout the summer on a task force on deferred action students. As chair of this task force, I will be gathering information on the effects of allowing deferred action students into GCSU and other selective universities.

I have enjoyed my time serving with you all!

## **Multi-Cultural Affairs**

### **January**

- Attended Project BRAVE Bystander intervention training

### **February**

- BRAVEheart interest meeting took place
- Assisted in advertising for the Cultural Center's Black History Month events

### **March**

- Assisted Women's Center with V-Day and the Vagina Monologues
- BRAVEheart clothing swap takes place—BRAVEheart donates large amount of remaining clothing to Macon Crisis Line and Halfway House
- Met Sargent Johnson for the first time—she is the new sexual assault investigator for the GC campus
- Attended 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Women's Center
- Ladyfest Atlanta Brunch + Discussion "Feminism in New Media" in Atlanta on behalf of the Women's Center
- Attended UGA Connect Conference—Participated in panels that centered around LGBTQ issues. Met and collaborated with other college leaders on addressing these issues on a campus wide scale
- Attended It's On Us "Downtown Funk you Up" to give brief presentation about Project Brave and BRAVEheart
- Participated in CAB's Buddy Crocker Event—an event geared toward getting men involved in what are typically considered female issues

### **April**

- Helped execute Women's Center Take Back the Night
- Led BRAVEheart Miss Representation film discussion
- Planned and executed BRAVEheart Police Officer Meet and Greet where students met with the individuals on campus who deal with sexual assault
- Alerted Dr. Womack of the events surrounding the Chops incident
- Participated in Diversity Action Plan meeting

### **Press Secretary**

As the press secretary of the Student Government Association, my job has been to deal with the student media, keep the social media and website presence up to date, and to send out press releases for all SGA events. Through my year in this position, I have managed to follow out each of these duties. I was also responsible for making sure that when any member of SGA spoke with any student media groups, nothing would be wrongfully printed, and that SGA would not be shown in any negative light. For the entire year, we did not have any issues with the student media misrepresenting SGA. In addition to this, I have also put together a binder with all of the clippings of news articles from the Colonnade where SGA was mentioned, as well as all of the information

I have needed for my position. I put it all in one designated place so when I hand off my position to my successor, it will be a very smooth transition, which will result in a successful Press Secretary to follow. Below I have outlined specifically what my job entitled for each project that I was responsible for, and the success of each.

### **Social Media**

- Facebook
  - Received an increase in percentage over the past year in total page likes, total reach and people engaged
  - The past week alone increased 0.4% in total page likes, 746.1% in total reach, and 775.4% in people engaged
  - Weekly FB events for Amici Trivia Night with 300+ impressions for each event
  - SGA Spotlights over the entirety of the year each received 1000+ impressions
- Twitter
  - Updated weekly
  - Live tweeted senate and updated followers on bills and resolutions that were passed to keep the student body informed of what SGA was doing during senate sessions
- Instagram
  - Updated with pictures of SGA spotlight, as well as other things to promote SGA and SGA events

### **Press Releases**

- Sent out press releases for all important SGA events that needed coverage by student media outlets
- Received coverage on all events due to press releases to the media groups
- Specifically received coverage and reports from multiple student media groups for Amici Trivia Night, Special Senate Sessions and SGA Elections

### **Graphics**

- Created graphics for all Facebook event cover photos
- Created brochures for Fallfest, Springfest, and how to vote for student elections
- Created graphics for SGA spotlight photos
- Created posters for Amici Trivia Night and other SGA events that needed promotion via social media

### **Website**

- Kept the website up to date and managed changes to it
- Edited and uploaded all of the staff and executive board pictures to the website

## **Surgeon General**

This year, I have coordinated a few events for the It's On Us Campaign. In the Fall semester, I got a committee together and created an awareness sheet sign that remained by the fountain all week. At the end of that week, I coordinated a round table discussion with a guest speaker, Dr. Sunita Manian.

Also, I met with Mahmood, Amy Whatley, and Laura Childs at the Wellness and Recreation Center to analyze the possibilities of extending hours of the facility.

I also met with Rachel Pope and Alice Loper to discuss what I could do to help Health Services run more smoothly. After the meetings, I created a sheet sign for them to help get the word out for free flu shots.

This semester, I collaborated with Nora Anderson and held an event in Adams Hall to raise awareness for the dangers of drinking and how it contributes to a higher risk of sexual assault. The new sexual assault investigator, Cynthia Johnson, joined us in this event and ran a drunk goggles program. Liz Rary from BRAVEheart also came to the event to get the word out.

I also worked with Senator Lowe and her Campus Wellness Committee to develop the It's On Us Campaign that included a table talk with Cynthia Johnson and a Downtown Initiative with the campus organization ANGELS and Gamma Sigma Sigma, where we handed out condoms downtown to promote safe sex.

Lastly, I have been working on putting together a mental health awareness play with To Write Love on Her Arms and the Theatre Department. The event is taking place on May 6th. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of mental health and to end the stigma that comes along with it by educating the audience about the daily struggles one goes through with a mental health battle.

## **University Housing Affairs**

Duties and responsibilities of the Director of University Housing Affairs include:

- Act as a liaison between SGA and the campus's Resident Student Association (RSA)
- Identify and address issues that impact both on and off campus residents
- Seek out opportunities to further on-campus housing throughout the Georgia College community
- Search for new ways to promote on-campus housing to the student body

To fulfill my duties and responsibilities this year I coordinated a voting registration program with Jonathan Gwaltney in September in the residence halls, was actively involved as a member of the prioritization task force October through November, facilitated a conversation via email about an icemaker machine issue in Bell in December, coordinated a Homecoming voting program in February in the residence halls,

met with Housing Associate Director Lori Burns to have a conversation about golf cart covers for CAs during their nightly rounds in December, advocated recycling bins to be put in the residence halls, regularly attended weekly meetings for RSA, communicated RSA events to SGA, and communicated SGA events to RSA . Fall semester I had a night class during the scheduled RSA general assembly meeting time but Spring semester I attended all of the meetings.

To further explain these instances, the golf cart cover conservation was settled with an agreement that University Housing would look into buying raincoats for CAs in their respective buildings to share during inclement weather. The icemaker issue in Bell concerned residents leaving food in the icemaker instead of the refrigerator. The conversation via email between President Juawn Jackson, Housing Director Larry Christenson, and myself concluded with the responsibility left to CAs to investigate and monitor the icemaker machine. I advocated for the effort created by Director Murray and Director Brodzik to put recycling bins in the residence halls. The idea has been left in University Housing's hands with the proposal that blue bins should be assigned to each resident in the residence halls as a part of their furniture inventory on their room condition report. Lastly, both voting programs in the residence halls were successful with at least 30 University Housing residents at each event.

Next year I hope my successors collaborate more with other SGA staff members, follow up with the administrative staff of University Housing, further advocate for my efforts, and create their own efforts that they feel passionate about. More events in the residence halls would increase the presence of SGA and allow residents to be interested in becoming involved in the halls' community council governments or SGA. I also recommend my successors to advocate for CA equality and value compared to internal housing jobs, external jobs at Georgia College, and also with other CAs in the state.

## **President Pro Tempore**

- Helped with the creation of 15 new Registered Student Organizations
- Played a vital role Fall semester by creating innovative ways to increase the Student Emergency Fund
- Controlled Senate and made sure all view points were heard
- Made sure all decisions I had a say in made within SGA represented everything Georgia College stood for
- Gained a genuine relationship with 87 student organizations on campus
- Conducted University Students' Council
- Created an advertising program for out of state recruitment to help increase diversity on our campus. The plan is not in place as of now.

## ***Committees***

### ***Standing Committees***

#### **Academic Travel Fund**

This year in the ATFC, we took the approach of how an airline sells airline tickets. Meaning that if an airline has 100 seats, the company will sell 110, knowing that at least 10 people will not make it to the flight every time. ATFC in the past has always come under budget because students simply do not come back for funding or missed a deadline. Even still, with over-appropriating this year, ATFC still came under budget by roughly \$3,000. Executive members are unsure because receipts are still coming in by the day. However, ATFC allocated the entirety of its budget. To ensure that ATFC does not come this under budget in the future the committee will assign a senator to each student that comes through the process. The senator will email and call the student until the process is complete and will assist them with each step along the way. Next year, ATFC will work more closely with URACE to ensure that students are not double funded. Lastly, a “how to run ATFC” manual is in the works to ensure that there is a more smooth transition process for future treasurers and committee members. Even this late in the year, I am still learning new things about the role of the Treasurer. With one-year tenure, it is difficult to maintain a consistent committee standard.

#### **Appropriations**

##### **Activity**

The Appropriations Committee reviewed preliminary bills to be presented to the Senate body for discussion and decision.

##### **Bills Passed by Senate Body**

SB1415.03 – Campus Outreach ( <i>Crowson</i> )	\$311.67
SB1415.04 – Music Therapy Society ( <i>Bolak</i> )	\$1300.00
SB1415.05 – Equestrian Team ( <i>Stanley/Jeffers</i> )	\$2296.18
SB1415.08 – Students for Community Engagement ( <i>Gwaltney/Narea</i> )	\$2000.00
SB1415.09 – Campus Activity Board ( <i>Armstrong/Bolak</i> )	\$1050.00
SB1415.10 – Lacrosse Team ( <i>Bolak/McNeal/Green</i> )	\$2460.00
SB1415.11 – Bobcats Against Hunger ( <i>Williams</i> )	\$4108.09
SB1415.12 – Best Buddies ( <i>Lowe/Gwaltney</i> )	\$600.00

## **Public Relations**

### **Events Summary:**

**Constitution Day:** Passed out all Constitutions; Successful event

**William Y. Atkinson Day:** Ordered koozies late, but quickly recovered by setting up a photo booth and taking pictures for William Y. Atkinson Day. Handed out Atkinson information and t-shirts

**Green Towel Pass-out:** First attempt Fall semester was not a success, assigned towel tasks for members that were not completed. Second attempt Spring semester went well. Took a meeting day to go downtown with the committee, introduced ourselves to business owners and handed out towels

**Bulletin Board:** Completed second semester – problem is that senators change and we could not continuously edit the bulletin board. Goal next year may be to create a template, so it's easy to print out new members as they change

### **Updates:**

- Would like to work more closely with Press Secretary. If Press Secretary can not make it to events, we would like to have committee members cover them
- Taught the committee basic Photoshop skills, but would like to have done a few more training lessons. That way, the committee is prepared to create graphics for student organizations - rather than just forward them to the Chair
- When contacting organizations, move on to others if the organizations do not want to work closely with SGA. Too much attention was focused on too few organizations, but some work went well
- Prepare “swag” orders and contact businesses well in advance (about two months prior to expected delivery date)
  - At the end of the year, we were left with unspent money because the businesses we contacted about “swag” orders were not willing to work with us unless we were licensed business owners for bulk orders – giving us little time to contact other businesses
  - Form a list of ideas with businesses that have already been contacted about pricing and shipping estimates, so if you need to order spontaneously, you have the information

**Order Placements:**

**Koozies:** Ordered by VP and Secretary for Tailgate, arrived on time

**T-shirts:** Ordered for Student Government Association, expected arrival May 8<sup>th</sup>

**Senate Rules and Oversight**

SRO accomplished a lot this year. We as a group came together to discuss issues within the senate and how we can stay within Roberts Rules of Order to tackle them. Also, we approved over 14 new Registered Student Organizations as well as made a verbal sponsorship with the GIVE Center for using University Students' Council as a way to bring RSO's together to give back to the Student Emergency Fund. It was a very successful 2 semesters.

**Student Services**

This year Student Services has helped create the bike share poll, and we have also followed up with issues about the charging stations and table outlets on the first floor of the Library. We have taken an active role in ensuring that the West Den satisfied students' wishes. We have taken steps to better understand the R25 facility reservation system so that we can help improve the system in any way we can, and discussed methods of improvement with Artis Williamson. Student Services has also worked with the Directors of Environmental Affairs to get sufficient signage at the West Campus Recycling Center. We also conducted a survey about textbook rental services, as well as researched a free textbook company called Openstax College, that could possibly be used to lower the cost of textbooks for students.

***Ad Hoc Committees*****Academic Affairs**

Started off the year by conferring with President Jackson regarding the Student Bill of Rights about what the priorities as a committee should be. Our first assignment as a committee was to better the use of D2L. We first contacted Daniel McDonald from Library Media and technology and were redirected to Wesley Smith, Director of Ideas located in the Library. We met with him to talk about the situation with D2L and gathered information concerning usage and where it stands. We also constructed a survey of our own along with collecting IDEAS survey information. We continued to coordinate with him. We also helped remind students about registration for both semesters. We tried to find a way to possibly implement an Academic Forgiveness Policy that can be implemented at GCSU. We continued to coordinate with Juawn and Provost Brown and found that the policy was not feasible at GCSU. Later in January we mostly focused on more D2L observations and registration. We observed and reported registration improvements with coordination from Bob Orr from IT. Juawn then tasked us with

finding out about Graduation application fees and what they might be used for since commencement has changed. By studying roughly 30 colleges around the southeast we found the correlation between the size of the school and the price. Usually the larger the school the price would be free along with private institutions the price was also free. Smaller schools like GCSU had higher graduation application fees. We planned to meet with Provost Brown about this along with D2L but committee members had either time conflicts or emergencies and could not meet. We also wrote a letter of endorsement for the Writing Center.

Along with many of the tasks given to us by SGA we responded to any problems or concerns posted in social media from GCSU students.

### **Campus Ethos**

The Campus Ethos committee of Fall 2014 had a good semester. We started and promoted Bobcat Fridays. We tried to get everyone to wear green and blue on Fridays. We planned and put together Hanging of the Greens on Front Campus.

The Campus Ethos committee had a pretty successful Spring 2015 semester too. We started off with a great SGA Tent at Tent City. We helped spread the word about the Bobcat Rewards App at University Students' Council. We set up a plan for next year's Campus Ethos Committee to continue spreading the word to the student body about the Bobcat Rewards App. We also had a very fun booth at the Country Carnival at West Campus. We had a cornhole booth and a pie in the face booth. We gave our recommendation to the school's higher ups regarding the underage drinking issue at Tent City. We even talked about a plan to set up a big Tent City event in the Fall for volleyball. We also organized an inventory list for next year's Hanging of the Greens to make it better and more organized.

### **Campus Safety**

The Campus Safety committee had a successful Fall 2014 semester. We helped push to get a problematic crosswalk fixed. There is now a crossing guard at the crosswalk closest to the Student Activities Center. We helped promote the Thursday Night Shuttle to keep the numbers for it up. We met with SNAP and the officials in charge to try to increase the hours that they run. We helped alert campus officials about the need for lighting to be fixed/added around not only campus, but around Milledgeville too. We even met with officials to ask if the unpaved parking lots around campus could be paved. The overall semester went so well that we dissolved for the Spring 2015 semester to add another committee that would have more to accomplish during the Spring semester.

### **Campus Wellness**

- It's On Us Campaign
  - Completed and shared a campaign promotional video that denounced on-campus sexual assault

- Facilitated a table talk with Cynthia Johnson, Georgia College sexual assault investigator, as the speaker
  - Partnered with Gamma Sigma Sigma and A.N.G.E.L.S. for Downtown Initiative (passing condoms out downtown to prevent AIDS)
- Health Expo
  - The event was moved several times due to complications with other events and reservation issues
  - Partnerships with other organizations also fell through making the event unsuccessful
- Farmer's Market
  - Discussed with Directors of Environmental Affairs the possibility of having a Farmer's Market on campus
  - However, the Farmer's Market has been struggling with growth and stability and would like to focus on bringing students to their current location
- SGA vs. Ambassador Kickball Game
  - Coordinated with Alanna Gardner and Kellie Pitts, Council of Student Ambassadors, the traditional kickball game
  - Due to inclement weather, the kickball game may be postponed or cancelled
- Resolutions
  - Supporting the placement of information cards on how to self check for Testicular and Breast Cancer in University Housing bathrooms
  - Denouncing the Group Policy in the Fitness Area at the Wellness and Recreation Center

## **Community Relations**

### Semester Goals:

- This semester the Community Relations committee tasked itself with expanding its network within the community, and helping students and student organizations utilize our committee as a bridge towards Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville community

### Semester Accomplishments:

- This semester the Community Relations committee, under Johnathan Gwaltney's chairmanship, provided informational pamphlets for the Voter and Gun Registration event that was held on campus. Also, relationships inside the community were extended
- This semester the Community Relations committee, under Ian McNeal's chairmanship, began development of a Milledgeville orientation pamphlet, coordinated with GC students to hold a collaborative event between Crisis Line of Macon and SGA's Trivia Night at Amici

Semester Criticisms:

- Too small of a committee, I feel that this committee would be able to accomplish more goals, events, etc... as long as it contained at-least five members

Next Semester's Goals:

- Issue new Milledgeville orientation pamphlet
- Broaden the Community Relations Committee's community network and establish more relationships within the Milledgeville/Baldwin County community

**Students Helping Students**

This year, the Students Helping Students Committee has set the bar high with raising money for the Student Emergency Fund. Every Monday night, SGA held a trivia session at a local restaurant. By doing this, we were able to reach out to the student body, raise awareness for various groups on campus such as the GIVE Center and the sexual assault/crisis awareness groups. I also was able to grow closer to my committee and improved my leadership skills. Students surveyed enjoyed the SGA Amici Trivia Nights very much and I for one hope that it will remain next year. It was most definitely one of my best experiences on SGA.

As another successful year closes for the Student Government Association of Georgia College, we hope for an even more successful and enjoyable 80<sup>th</sup> Session during the 2015-2016 school year! Go Bobcats!