University of South Carolina
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2014-15 MISSION STATEMENT

1. The GSA supports the University of South Carolina’s campus-wide vision and mission for exceptional educational quality, leadership, innovation, diversity, access, global competition, and community engagement.
   The GSA will strategically frame initiatives that align with the vision and mission of the University of South Carolina. With these goals in mind, the GSA will work to create an optimal learning environment that supports graduate students, facilitates graduate student progress and persistence, and contributes to achieving graduate-level academic and research goals.

2. The GSA recognizes that a strong foundation of graduate students is integral for the success of our advocacy and programming. Increased visibility is the first step to achieving substantial involvement among the graduate student body.
   The GSA will take a thorough approach to advertising events for graduate students by the GSA and other on-campus offices through social media, a comprehensive bi-weekly newsletter, flyers, and email dissemination. The GSA will also increase involvement of professional students (e.g., medical students, nursing students, law students etc.) by directly advertising to these respective units.

3. The GSA serves as an advocate for graduate students as well as a clearinghouse for graduate student questions and concerns.
   The GSA will work to maintain existing contacts and establish new relationships with university administrators, faculty, and staff in order to provide a network of resources to graduate students, and will continue to work closely with the Graduate School to advocate for graduate students. The GSA will serve as a point of contact for graduate student questions and concerns, linking students to appropriate resources within the university where possible.

4. The GSA is dedicated to the success of graduate students outside of the classroom and appreciates the importance of professional development in graduate school to prepare for career paths.
   The GSA will host a Certification Series to help graduate students become certified in various skills of professional development. The GSA will also create a position for a Professional Development Liaison who will work with Leadership Programs to develop a Graduate Track within the Professional Development Certification Program. The Certification Series and Program will prepare students for their careers after graduate school and help them to develop skills outside of research and teaching.

5. The GSA is responsible for allocating funds to all registered graduate student organizations through the GSA’s Finance Committee.
   The GSA will create a webpage that will clearly explain the funding request process for graduate student organizations. This website will also provide direct links to necessary documents to increase efficiency of the funding request process for graduate students.

@uscsnga
http://gradschool.sc.edu/gsa

November 13, 2014
6. The GSA is dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of the graduate student body and works to support current university-wide health initiatives.
The GSA will establish a Graduate Health Task Force that will promote health-related initiatives and events to graduate students. The Task Force will collaborate with university offices to provide events specific to graduate student health and wellness and will work as a representative and liaison for graduate students to these offices.

7. The GSA recognizes the importance of maintaining a collaborative relationship with the Student Government of the University of South Carolina.
The GSA will create a position for a University Affairs liaison who will attend Student Government Cabinet meetings, advocate on behalf of graduate students, and update the GSA cabinet about campus activities hosted by Student Government. The GSA will also collaborate with Student Government to organize university-wide initiatives to better represent and involve the entire student body.

8. The GSA recognizes the importance of library resources to aid in graduate research and academic preparation.
The GSA will collaborate with the Dean of Libraries to maintain a Graduate Libraries Committee. This Committee will advocate on behalf of graduate students to provide feedback on existing library resources as well as recommend additional resources that would be of use to graduate students. The Committee will also inform the Thomas Cooper Library on graduate student preference of furnishing the Graduate Student Study Space.

Brittany S. Walter, President
Meagan Conway, Vice President
Brianna Hughes, Treasurer
Danielle Schoffman, Grad Council Rep

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