Platform for Vice President

John Stovall

First, the GSA needs to build graduate student involvement. We are sorely lacking in true representation from all graduate students. How can we go about doing this? We must start with you, the graduate student. We will:

- Involve student groups in the process of discussion
- Go into your offices and listen to your ideas and your concerns
- Offer and improve services that mitigate some of the pressure stemming from the graduate student crisis, such as increased access to research and conference grants and professional development funding.

Second, we need to build a strong and effective GSA assembly. The monthly meeting has been a source of frustration and apathy. Instead, I envision a streamlined assembly that prevents the tyranny of one or two people and allows for needed debate and grad student action. We need knowledge of how meetings can run quickly, effectively, and equally open to all points of view. Specifically:

- We will embrace the wisdom of skilled professionals and employ a parliamentarian, to make sure that no one’s voice is inappropriately silenced.
- We will avoid wasting your time at meetings, by making information available beforehand, so that the best arguments and most important concerns can be raised and considered.
- Use the meeting to respond to grad student concerns
- Enhance the committee structure, by incentivizing service in the GSA, by training and planning with you, not for you.

Finally, I fully support candidate Beach in his desire to continue the valuable work of the previous administration.

With these points in mind, I look forward to the coming year.