User Data

- Largest response came from TRS, NCSSS, English, SLIS, Psychology, History, MSPS, and Philosophy.
- 53% Doctoral, 45% Masters, 1% Non-Degree Seeking
- 50% First/Second Year, 30% Third/Fourth Year, 20% Fifth+
- 57% 20-30, 27% 30-40, 8% 40-50, 5% 50+
- 41% Off-campus with family/spouse/partner, 31% Off-campus with roommates, 21% Off-campus single, 4% Religious community

General

- 50% consider themselves “Somewhat Aware” of the GSA’s mission and purpose. 20% consider themselves “Well Aware,” and 30% are either Mostly Unaware or Somewhat Unaware.
- Most students have never contacted a GSA senator or officer. Of those that have, only a small portion felt the response they received was unsatisfactory or took too long.
- 50% consider the e-newsletter s “Somewhat informative.” 17% find them “Highly informative,” and the rest consider them “Not so informative” or disregard the e-newsletter.

Social Events

- 87% believe the GSA should sponsor social events.
- Crabfest – 40% Could not attend, but wanted to. 30% Attended and had a positive experience. 20% Did not want to attend at all. Eight students that attended were disappointed. The major complaints about Crabfest were that not enough seating was available, that the side options were too-limited (especially for vegetarians), and that crab ran out too early. A few students believe the price is too high for guests. Many comments show that people enjoy the idea of Crabfest, but feel a different menu would appeal to a larger audience and make the event more affordable. A few do not believe a large event like this is necessary, and several that could not attend said it was due to living far from campus.
- Free tickets – 35% love the selection of events offered, while 40% feel they are “okay.” 10% rarely see something that interests them, and another 10% are simply not interested. Many comments show that students prefer weekend events and that specifically, too many are held on Thursday evenings. About five commented that they do not feel these events are worth sponsoring. Several also said they did not realize these tickets were available. Most students agree that 7 events or less each semester is enough, and when asked if the GSA should make family oriented events a priority, half said yes.
- Other events – 50% would like to see more events on campus, such as happy hours, concerts, mixers, etc. Comments reveal that students that commute from a distance would like to see events held in their area (Baltimore, Montgomery County, Northern Virginia, etc.).

Conference Support

- 95% believe the GSA should sponsor students that attend conference.
• 60% have never applied, but would consider doing so; 15% have applied for funding and could not have participated without the support; 10% appreciate, but did not depend on the support; and 10% are not interested.
• 75% believe limited assistance for those that only attend and do not present is worthwhile.
• 80% feel that students that attend conferences farther away should receive more support.
• 80% believe we should support international conferences, pointing out that the major conferences in their fields are often held overseas.
• 75% prefer the current reimbursement method as opposed to set amounts (grants).
• Comments suggest that students would rather see smaller caps so that more students can benefit; some even specifically requested we do this. A small number of students believe the university should do more to help students attend conferences to lighten the GSA’s burden.

Lectures

• 85% feel the GSA should sponsor guest lectures.
• 60% have never applied, but would consider it; 30% doubt they would apply themselves 5% have applied.
• 60% have never attended a GSA lecture; 25% have attended and enjoyed a GSA lecture; 10% are not sure if a lecture they have attended was sponsored by the GSA.
• 60% feel localized lecture budgets would be better than a centralized lecture budget, though many students recognize this would limit smaller departments. Some felt perhaps a central smaller central budget would that could help the smaller departments out would be a good idea. Several students commented they did not have information to answer that question.

Fee Increase

• 45% would not support an increase; 30% would support a fee increase; 25% have no opinion regarding a fee increase. Some students pointed out that they would be more comfortable with a fee increase if the GSA improved its transparency and spent the funds more wisely.
• If the GSA had to cut one area of focus, 40% felt Lectures should go, another 40% felt Social Events could go, and only 17% felt Conferences could go.
• When asked which area the university should take over, 50% said Lectures, 30% said Conferences, and 16% said Social Events

Health Insurance

• 45% have purchased health insurance in the past from CUA. 45% said they have not and are not interested; the rest said they could be interested.
• Of the students that have dependents, about 12% have purchased dependent health coverage through CUA. 50% are not interested, and 25% may be interested.
• About 20% of the students with dependents said that the cost of insuring dependents affects their ability to afford staying in school.
• About 60% of the students with dependents purchased dependent health coverage outside of the CUA plan because they found better coverage and prices elsewhere.

• Students that currently use, have used, or would consider using the university’s student health insurance are strongly disappointed with the options available. These students are also disappointed with the decision to discontinue dependent coverage, often citing the conflicting with Catholic values that such a decision creates.

Graduate Student Housing

• About half of the students surveyed said they would consider living on campus if graduate student housing was available.
• 60% said they would consider living in university-owned off-campus housing if available.
• When asked which type of university-run housing would be most appealing, off-campus studios, two-bedrooms, family, and couples housing received the most votes. 20% said on-campus single housing would be appealing, and only 6% were interested in on-campus housing with roommates.
• 70% feels the university does not do enough to assist graduate students with housing needs.

Other Comments

• Students that took the time to share additional comments mostly agreed that conference funding should be made the priority, and that these funds should be better controlled so more students can benefit from them. They would like to see a limit on the amount of money one student can receive. Many students are still unclear as to how the conference funding was exhausted so quickly and want a better explanation of how this happened.
• A few students are still disappointed with the amount of graduate-specific space on campus for studying/relaxing.
• A few students suggested that the GSA push lectures onto departments and as a whole, focus on interdisciplinary events.
• One student would like to see a hostel or some form of service that allows campus students to spend one or two nights on campus each week (for those that drive long distances two or more days in a row).
• A few students suggested charging a reduced activity fee to non-resident doctoral students or students that live far away.
• Some students suggested that the GSA sponsor fellowships.
• Many students are disappointed with the university’s support of families, including on-site day care, changing stations in restrooms, family events, and especially the dependent health-care cut.
• The religious orders on campus would like to see more offered for them from the GSA.
• At least one student suggested that the GSA and the activity fee be abolished.
• Based on a handful of responses, it is clear there are many misconceptions about activity fees, GSA policies, and executive committee/senate activity.