1. Special Guests
   1) Dean Zierolf and Dean Hanson
      I. Document outlining the details of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) distributed
      II. Potential scams discussed—fraudulent individuals/hackers targeting international students
         1. One UC student scammed for over 5 figures
         2. Ron Cushing created a list of precautions and security measures students should take to protect themselves—information available through the Graduate School’s webpage

   2) Hillary—writing/editing GA for the Graduate School
      I. Wrote the ACA article that was featured in Grad Currents
      II. Her recommendations
         1. Look into UC’s health policies and explore plans through the Health Exchange
            i. All students are eligible to submit a health insurance waiver, but the waiver is not guaranteed
            ii. Free enrollment in the Health Exchange is available until March 2014—advised students to sign up for the Exchange and opt out of it at a later date

      III. Question tabled by UC distance learner (attended GSGA meeting remotely via Skype): Why can’t distance learners enroll in UC’s health insurance plan?
         1. Dean Hanson: Distance learners are not eligible for health care through UC because they do not pay the fees required from students attending classes on campus

      IV. Dean Hanson’s recommendations regarding ACA and the Exchange
         1. “UC’s plan will still be the most affordable for students. Look into ACA for spousal and dependent care coverage because UC’s plan is still quite expensive”

      V. President Mazman’s input: “The lowest deductible plan available through ACA does not meet the requirements as dictated by UC health insurance’s policy
         1. If UC deems a student’s plan inadequate and denies their waiver, the student will automatically be enrolled in UC’s health insurance plan—avoid paying for two separate plans simultaneously

   3) Kim Fulbright from OMBUDS Office
      I. OMBUDS = informal conflict resolution office
      1. Anyone who has a stake in the University has access to services offered through the OMBUDS office
         i. This includes alumni, administrators, faculty, staff, and students
ii. OMBUDS also deals with interpersonal issues between students and populations

2. What is the mission and objective of the OMBUDS office?
   i. An informal and confidential meeting place to work through conflict resolution—no records are kept regarding cases
   ii. OMBUDS acts as an impartial third party and will not advocate for any one person, department, office, etc.—instead their mission is to advocate for a fair process
   iii. Staff consists of two full-time employees
   iv. OMBUDS office has not authority; all they can do is ask questions and facilitate communication
   v. OMBUDS is funded externally and independently and is, essentially, paid to be separate of the University (meaning the office has no stake in the University)
   vi. Five steps of conflict
      i. 1) Disagreement...5) Disrepair
         1. Graduate students, more often than not, approach OMBUDS when it’s too late (usually at Step 5), usually when they are aware that their department is trying to kick them out of the program

3. Constituent input: “Graduate students are told by faculty to not go to OMBUDS. In fact, a faculty member was quoted as saying, ‘What, are you going to sic OMBUDS on me?’”
   i. Important to change perception of OMBUDS, both within the faculty and student communities—OMBUDS is not a threat

2. President’s Address
   1) Safety
      I. UCPD does not give follow-up reports following safety alerts (e.g., gunman active on campus)
         1. Extended information concerning crime alerts available through Nixle alerts (www.nixle.com)
      II. Reported back to the Safety Summit Committee, asked for more attention to be given to areas where graduate students live (streets that need more lighting)
         1. Increased officer patrols from 4 to 7 days per week.
         2. Increased the number of off-duty police officers from 8 to 13
      III. President charged body to submit safety concerns

2) BTS (Bearcat Transportation Services)
   I. 3 new 30-passenger shuttles started service on October 30.
   II. GSGA has been compiling a list of complaints and incident reports about BTS service.
      1. We will collect more feedback by the end of December/early January
3) Research Fellowship
   I. Deadline: November 22, 2013 by 5:00 p.m. EST
   II. Please consult website: ()

4) Graduate Councils
   I. Guest: Emilia Oddo (sits on the A&S Council as the graduate representative)
      1. Hopes that other college representatives will be identified and will be able to meet 2 or 3 times per academic to collaborate and discuss initiatives and issues (as most are not exclusive to each college/program)
      2. No good procedure in place for college administrators to select these student representatives
         i. President Mazman hopes to instate an election process to fill these positions each academic year

5) Dissertation Writing Group
   I. Link to register for writing sessions is now open:
      http://grad.uc.edu/content/dam/grad/docs/Events/Dissertation_Writing_Group_Schedule_Fall2013.pdf
         1. Open to all graduate students who have reached the dissertation/thesis stage
         2. Will create a structured writing environment for students and a system of accountability
         3. Goals: write, build community, create a positive environment to discuss research

6) Conflict Resolution Workshop
   I. GSGA/OMBUDS Office/Graduate School Conflict Resolution Workshop on Monday, November 18, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. in the Max Kade Center (Old Chem, Room 736)
   II. Registration required and lunch will be provided

7) Tenant/Legal Rights
   I. Potential workshop in the works
      1. Met with the current Tenant Information Project (TIP) President, Perry Thompson.
      2. Potential collaboration with Legal Aid of Greater Cincinnati

8) Administration, Government, and Graduate Students
   I. Ohio Board of Regents – Vice Chancellor Cates’ visit
      1. Met with Greg Vehr, Vice President, Governmental Relations, and University Communications
      2. Ohio Board of Regents pushing the commercialization of education—more funding given to degree programs that have better job placement following graduation (e.g., engineering, medical sciences, etc.)
i. Potential problem for soft skill programs—A&S, humanities, arts, etc.

II. President Mazman meeting with President Ono on Friday

9) ElectHer
   I. GSGA body more progressive in terms of electing female Executive Board members
      1. Undergraduate Student Government has not elected a female President in 20 years
   II. ElectHer Fall 2013 will take place November 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the African American Cultural and Resource Center (AACRC)
      1. ElectHer – Campus Women Win is a day-long conference designed to give college women the concrete skills they need to be confident to run for student government. The event is co-hosted by the University of Cincinnati Undergraduate Student Government, the UC Women’s Center, and the AAUW (American Association of University Women)

3. Vice President’s address
   1) GSA Registration
      I. Deadline to complete SALD process: November 7, 2013
         1. 41 Graduate Student Organizations
         2. Group pages are now updated
         3. Check the monthly group attendance list online
   
2) Group Grant
   I. 4 grant proposals received for November Deadline
      1. $3,628 requested
      2. Group Grant Committee partially approved 2 grant proposals totaling $1,150
   II. Next deadline: Friday, December 20 by 5:00 p.m.—$5,625 available
      1. Please take time to write your proposal
      2. Check GSGA website for guidelines
      3. Grant writing workshops are now available
      4. Email Vice President (vicepres.ucgsga@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns

3) Diversity Council
   I. Diversity Conference—April 2, 2014
   II. Veterans Day Celebration—November 8, 2013
      1. Breaking the silence—making the university more inclusive
      2. Guest speaker: Dr. Bleuzette Marshall

4) Safe Housing Committee
   I. 1st Annual Student Safe Housing Fair—January 15, 2014 in TUC
1. The goal is to help UC students search for safe and affordable housing for the 2014-2015 academic year

5) Strategic Planning
   I. Goals for GSGA as determined by constituent body
      1. Allied Health/HSGA—bridge the gap between East and West campus; there are underlying communication issues
      2. Leadership development
      3. Prioritization of short-term goals over long-term goals (e.g., safety vs. on-campus housing for graduate students)
      4. Safety—street lights around campus; particularly Bishop Street and Jefferson Avenue
      5. Increasing security presence on weekends
      6. Campus and around campus security
      7. Addressing the issue that activity funding must come out of students’ pockets
      8. Proposed increase to Conference Travel Awards
      9. Transparency of fees—where does the money go?
      10. Raising health insurance costs always a concern; how do students take advantage of off-campus health resources
      11. Proposed that summer gym memberships should be free for students who are GAs—although students are not enrolled, they are working all summer and required to remain in Cincinnati
      12. Securing a microphone in Annie Laws for ease of comprehension during General Assembly meetings

4. Treasurer’s report
   1) 2013-2014 budget FYTD presented

5. Campus Ambassador’s report
   1) GSGA Thanksgiving Dinner
      I. When: Tuesday, November 26 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
      II. Where: TUC Great Hall
      III. All students are invited to attend, but must RSVP
         1. The first 200 people to RSVP will be able to attend
         2. If interested in attending, please register at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/gsga_thanksgiving_dinner

2) Call for assistance from PGSA
   I. “With the demands of school and life, as graduate students we often forget to take care of ourselves. With this in mind, the Psychology Graduate Student Association (PGSA) is interested in sponsoring wellness event for our graduate students that focuses on self-care and health. This event may include things like express yoga classes, nutrition education, mindfulness education, etc. The members of PGSA are interested to hear from other GSA leaders who may have experience facilitating a similar event. If you haven’t
sponsored a similar event, maybe you have ideas or suggestions regarding the type of activities graduate students may (or may not) enjoy at a wellness event.”

II. Please send all suggestions to the PGSA Secretary, Heather Strong, at strongh@mail.uc.edu