From your perspective, what is the greatest strength of the undergraduate student learning experience at UGA?

- The caliber of the students accepted.
- Ok, on the prior pages it only allows one input. I am on Staff and an Alumnus; Campus life.
- Energy and tolerance
- Undergraduate students today have unlimited resources which have been put in place to assure that they are totally accommodated and supported during their endeavors. The increased emphasis on global studies and awareness is also an incredible asset to their experience.
- Aside from the academic side of learning, and while some students may not realize it, I believe being away from home and on a large, diverse campus is a great learning experience at UGA.
- The resources that are provided at the state flagship institution (ie. research opportunities, study-abroad, out-of-class/experiential learning, etc...)
- The learning classroom outside of the academic classroom is incredibly strong. There is a large amount of learning occurring in students traveling abroad, working in positions on campus, organizing and holding programs, developing and administering clubs, etc.
- Learning takes place in the "outside classroom" throughout campus, not solely in the academic classroom.
- number and diversity of available programs (majors), excellent facilities and programming and top-notch faculty
- new ideas, fresh
- There seems to be an unlimited amount of resources, programs and services available to our students.
- The diversity of the student body and the limitless amounts of energy they are willing to use in pursuit of a cause
- Academics and leadership positions in student organizations
- UGA students love being at UGA. The resources the University provides, both in and out of the classroom also helps
- excellent faculty, facilities and diversity of the student body
- Not sure.
- Student unified through pride in their university. The cooperation and networking opportunities that come from that. Pride in academic reputation is highly valued and supported.
- The resources available to students.
- Students have so many options from which to choose a major.
- The breadth of special opportunities available...for service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad, writing-intensive courses, etc.
- Smart creative students.
- The student learning center is a great facility in addition to a wealth of other useful resources on campus that enhance the learning experience.
From your perspective, what is the greatest weakness of the undergraduate student learning experience at UGA?

- I have been shocked by the lack of sophistication in students' writing. Students seem unable to synthesize information they've learned and write about it. I've seen this while working with undergraduates, but more alarmingly, I've seen it working with UGA alumni.
- Large classes, limited interest of professors in students.
- This campus lacks a true understanding of and appreciation for the diverse groups that make up our campus, our country and the world. There are fragmented offices and initiatives on this campus to address these issues but there is no cohesiveness amongst their units so the efforts often fall short of their goals, and fail to reach the student body at large.
- Lack of maturity to use the best judgment on decisions concerning study habits, peers, etc.
- At times, through certain accommodations, this generation seems to be babied more than those in the past - they have unreal expectations which are facilitated by the faculty, staff, and parents.
- From my work experience with students, I believe a great weakness is that there is not an overall class attendance policy, or at least that individual instructors do not all have attendance policies.
- Lack of diversity in student body
- The utter capitulation of many of the rules on campus on football game day Saturdays (alcohol allowed, academic buildings closed for football, etc.).
- Ill defined or untimely processes outside of the classroom that frustrate students in a myriad of ways. Some examples, the fact that HOPE apparently doesn't cover every fee and leaves a balance of a dollar or two, the current athletic football ticketing process, etc.
- seemingly 'entitled' student body, shortage of faculty in high-demand majors
- lack of experience, wisdom
- Professional staff members do not do our best in collaborating between departments and sharing ideas, thoughts, research and expertise. I feel our level of cultural competencies is not at an optimum level to be as inclusive as necessary for ALL our students.
- A lack of understanding of why things are so slow to change at the University level
- Taking advantage of various resources they have/challenging themselves fully/advocacy
- Downtown and football atmosphere. Lack of significant relationships with faculty. Takes away from learning.
- not enough "real world" experience is provided to students working in settings outside of academia
- The perception that learning only takes place in a classroom setting. There are ample learning opportunities in non-classroom settings...even just chatting with your friends at Tate or on your residence hall.
- Student body is still fairly homogeneous and traditional values strongly represented among students. Need for tolerance for other viewpoints.
- The fact that a lot of students are unaware of all the resources available to them.
Large classes with very little to no discussion.

The emphasis on study abroad, while I'm sure a wonderful experience for those able to take advantage of it, leaves some students unable to attend for financial reason. If the emphasis on this experience continues, more monies should be allocated to reduce the cost for those needing financial assistance.

Classes that do not engage students.

Lack of innovative vision from UGA leadership. Unwillingness to be forward thinking, and a propensity to play politics instead of make decisions on behalf of student interests. Administrators are out of touch with students.

In my experience as an undergrad, I found my adviser wasn't very helpful...in fact, I was advised to take classes that I didn't even have the pre-reqs for.

If you could make one campus-wide change to enhance undergraduate student learning at UGA, what would it be?

I think more classes need to put an emphasis on writing. English isn't the only place for students to learn how to write. Students should be writing in their history, science, psychology and business classes as well.

Make a strong push for more study abroad. Since some students are not amenable to strange surrounding I don't think it should be mandated*. However, if anyone thinks they might be interested they should be subsidized by making the whole semester the same price as attending UGA in Athens. UGA is uniquely positioned with campuses in Cortona, Oxford, and Costa Rica... and maybe more. A whole regular semester abroad would be life changing but most students don't get around to it since it requires extra money, effort, and mental momentum. By funding this it would really push UGA over-the-top as #1 World Class University. This transformational experience is something that the majority of students might not pursue unless incentivized. *If they get homesick and want to go home make them pay extra (old full amount). Paul Montello, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources; 706-542-6515

Our mission mentions preparing our students for a global society, but we miss the mark in many ways. I suggest an initiative that truly prepares our students by including several components: require diversity/sensitivity training for all students; encourage our student to study abroad in third world countries instead of the popular tourist attraction countries like Spain and France; give incentives for students who participate in service learning projects and for volunteering in programs designed to benefit underrepresented groups; promote alternative spring break activities that service communities in need.

More programs on how decisions and actions can affect them in the future.

Increase diversity; increase community involvement among the student body

The impossible: do away with communication devices (cell phones, etc.) so students would learn how to communicate and fend for themselves.

How to better balance in and out of class activities. Development of "life" skills (ie. making a budget, time management, communication with others, etc...)
• Every student on campus would be required to take 9 credits, 3 classes in philosophy. One class in logic, one class in ethics, and one philosophy elective.
• I'd recommend an initiative titled, UGA, The World Is Our Classroom. Possible execution of the plan would include: 1) Pump up study abroad locations. 2) Pump up internships off campus. 3) Increase funding of Student Affairs programs that enhance activities based on interacting with 4) Where dollars allow, fund "legitimate" student travel to conferences and club events, competitions. 5) Pull off the moratorium on purchasing new vehicles so that departments can support student travel for events. 6) Enable all UGA sites abroad to have 2 way televising so those students can stay in touch with prominent lectures on campus (and vice versa for students here). 7) Connect with the United Nations for possible placement of UGA grads in internships throughout the world. 8) Give one to one year of financial support to students who volunteer for the military, join the peace core, vista, teach for America and other designated organizations (Red Cross). *** I sourced this idea from Obama. 9) make it easier for students to take classes out of state with a reciprocal agreement for easy credit transfer (e.g. attend UCLA for a semester and then come back to UGA). Must spend the last semester here on campus. 10) Offer “travel scholarships" for students for spring break or summer break to foreign countries. 11) Offer staff the opportunity to take a sabbatical in another country (works much like a Fulbright scholarship except on a UGA level. 12) Connect with universities in Dubai for study abroad. 13) Sponsor talks throughout the world to be broadcast here at UGA (e.g. Harmid Karzai speaking directly to UGA students). 14) Once a year offer a program around this theme--allow students to do judge presentations and the best ones get special compensation (e.g. free books for a semester). 15) Have engineering students create a completion called engineering your world where they would provide real life models of solutions for existing challenges (how to replace oil dependency; how would YOU stop global warming, etc.) It could work for almost any/all disciplines too!
• Attempt to make student to faculty ratio smaller in core classes
• team up with older workers in their field/expertise
• Making UGA more accessible. Peer to peer education is such an important part of the collegiate learning experience. If the student population continues to be homogenous, there are lost opportunities to learn.
• I would make it mandatory that students take some core courses in sustainable practices as they relate to both their majors and their community.
• Required courses built into the curriculum such as student leadership or multiculturalism
• First Year Experience (FYE) and a Sophomore experience program
• I would develop common general education learning outcomes and develop a way to integrate them into all student interactions while at UGA. This would include both in and out of classroom experiences (academic and student affairs.) It would require innovative approaches to finding ways for students' out of class experience to reinforce those general education learning outcomes.
• somehow integrate more alumni, community leaders, and business leaders into the first year experience of students
• Try to find ways to engage the average student. It's typically the same students who are involved or the "leaders" on campus. I think apathy is another issue...if it doesn't impact me, then it's not my concern."
• initiatives for increased service learning
• Make it easier for students to obtain information by centralizing services. Use the Miller Learning Center as a "real" learning center, not just classroom space. Undergraduates really use the space, they just need services. Permanent advising staff, tutorial assistance, financial aid staff, registrar, student affairs, etc. are just among some of the service units that should be there all the time.
• A stronger focus on teaching rather than on research. While the University model (rather than the small liberal arts model) provides students with more opportunities, especially for research, University classes are far too large. Large class size inhibits discussion. Students are thus lectured to rather than challenged to discuss and question the material. Discussion, interaction with the professors, and deep exploration of the materials is what makes the liberal arts education so special and is what UGA should try to bring to the table in the University setting. Smaller classes would be a start.
• I think all students should have to participate in the "Blue Card" program throughout their time at UGA. Students should be exposed to the cultural and academic activities the university and the community have to offer. Taking this program to the entire campus community will lead to greater appreciation for cultural activities.
• Increase the interdisciplinary collaboration across campus.
• Engage all first-year students (or perhaps even all students) in a campus wide project that connects them to a real-world problem/issue and allows them to grapple with possible solutions.
• A change in leadership attitude and philosophy. UGA leaders should encourage, inspire, support, and reward....innovation. Currently, it seems that UGA leaders encourage playing by the rules, being conservative, and waiting until other colleges such as UF or UNC do something innovative that works....and then copying what they do. UGA's copy-cat philosophy is not innovative or forward-thinking, it's stodgy and stifling.
• More well informed and helpful advisers with less students to advise so that more careful, individual attention can be given to each students college career.
• I would allocate a portion of the student fees to academic enhancement to fund services provided by the Division of Academic Enhancement.

**Academic Affiliation**

College of Public Health
This field makes no sense. I'm now in Forestry, was in Franklin College for undergraduate.
Student Affairs Griffin Campus
Housing
OVPSA staff; MPA student
Student Support Services
Recreational Sports
Student Affairs
Campus Life
Physical Plant, Services Department
BBA/Alumni Relations/External Affairs
Disability Resource Center staff (also graduate student)
Div. of Academic Enhancement
Student Affairs
Assistant Director, Institute for Women's Studies
Office of the Provost
Tate Print & Copy/Campus Life
Division of Academic Enhancement