

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Public Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Graduate Program Spotlights

President Bonistall announced that the beginnings of the meetings will feature brief presentations by Senators about their programs. She explained that there are a lot of programs represented, and many students probably do not know what others do.

Senator Migdal presented on behalf of the Winterthur program. Winterthur offers a Masters program that prepares students for jobs in museums and historical societies. Students examine history through objects; the objects they study come primarily from the Winterthur Museum and Library in Wilmington, and graduate students have complete access to the entire collection. Guided tours are available at the Museum.

Senator Nelan presented on behalf of Sociology/Criminology. The department offers Masters and PhD programs in both sociology and criminology. Research in the department focuses on criminology, deviance, gender, race, collective behavior, law and society, methods, and theory. The department is associated with two nationally known research centers: the Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies and the Disaster Research Center.

Senator Markland presented on behalf of Animal & Food Science. The department offers Masters and PhD programs in both animal science and food science. The food science program focuses on food safety, interaction between food borne pathogens and food products, rather than nutrition or culinary arts. In particular, she has played with a deadly strain of E coli that hit Germany last summer, and studies the immune response of plants to human pathogens.

Senator Berg presented on behalf of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology. The department Masters and PhD programs in both entomology and wildlife ecology. Entomology is the study of insects, and current research includes biological control, outreach, and honeybee populations. Research in wildlife ecology includes the study of game animals, native birds, reptiles, otters, policy and management of these populations, and human impacts.

President Bonistall encouraged students to send her their ideas since these presentations were the recommendation of a student after the last meeting. She also encouraged Senators to contact her if they are interested in spotlighting their academic programs.

General Announcements

President Bonistall thanked the Social Committee for their hard work in making the Graduate Student Tailgate very successful.

She also reminded Senators of their responsibilities. In particular, Senators must follow up with their constituents after the email with the Meeting Minutes has gone out to all graduate students, they must attend the meetings of the committee on which they serve, and they must not misrepresent the Graduate Student Government by using their Senator title to advance a personal agenda. If Senators have concerns about graduate student issues, they are encouraged to bring them to Student Life Committee for discussion.

President Bonistall announced that there will be a graduate student panel at the McNair Scholars and solicited volunteers to sit on the panel to talk about graduate student life.

On November 2, the Graduate Student Government and the Office of Graduate and Professional Education will be hosting “Building Bridges: A Musical Journey” which is an event where graduate students will be able to socialize, network, and share wine and cheese with each other and then enjoy a concert program presented by their fellow graduate students. Registration information will be available next week. Part of the ticket price will be donated to United Way!

II. GUEST SPEAKER: ROBIN MARKS, UD CAREER CENTER

President Bonistall introduced Robin Marks, assistant director for graduate advisement at Career Center. Ms. Marks began by describing services that are available for graduate students at the Career Center. The Career Center holds 45-minute workshops throughout the semester on various topics such as LinkedIn, resume cover letter writing, and interview skills. Staff members are also available for individual appointments to provide individualized career advice and interview tips for graduate students who are seeking to get into industry or non-academic jobs. She noted that they are available to help with curriculum vitae preparation for students seeking academic jobs, but prior experience has shown that academic job searches have been most successful when a student works with his or her dissertation advisor and committee.

The Career Center also hosts Career Fairs, and Ms. Marks noted that there has been a recent rise in on-campus recruitment of employees. There was already one fair this fall and there will be another in the spring. They are also putting together a structured networking opportunity in March for students interested in non-profit and government jobs.

There is a UD alumni network on LinkedIn called “Blue Hen Career Network”, and the Career Center can be found on Facebook and Twitter by searching “udcareers”.

The Career Center also has an online job posting website called “Blue Hen Careers” (www.udel.edu/csc) with listings from employers who contact the Career Center asking for UD students. There are also links to Career Shift, Going Global, and eventually Passport Careers on Blue Hen Careers.

Ms. Marks announced that applications for the Presidential Management Fellows Program, an opportunity specifically for graduate students, will be available on November 5, and she encouraged all interested students to apply.

Senator Ardini asked how far in advance one should schedule an appointment. Ms. Marks replied that personal appointments are popular and that interested students should allow at least 2-3 weeks to get an appointment.

Senator Razzook asked what the ratio is of graduate students going to work in industry versus academia. Ms. Marks responded that he might be able to find the answer through Institutional Research.

III. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communication Committee – Senator Francis and Senator Zhao

Senator Francis reported that the Communication Committee will continue creating promotional flyers for GSG events, as it has done in previous years. The committee will also maintain a calendar of Graduate Student Government events. The committee discussed ways to reach students and programs who are not involved, including becoming more involved in social media around UD and creating a monthly newsletter so students can stay informed. He encouraged students to email either of the co-chairs if they are interested in attending committee meetings.

Events Committee – Senator Barnard

Senator Barnard reiterated President Bonistall's announcement of the wine and cheese event on November 2, and encouraged students to register and bring their friends. It is a great opportunity for students to get to know others outside of their own programs.

The Third Annual Graduate Student Forum will be held in May 2013; the Events Committee is still deciding on a keynote speaker. If you have any recommendations, please contact the committee chair.

The committee also talked about other events they could plan to highlight different graduate programs, including the possibility of a visit to Winterthur.

Social Committee – Senator Markland and Senator Nelan

Senator Markland announced that the Social Committee planned the Graduate Student Tailgate that occurred on October 6 and that it was very successful! The committee is planning an ice skating event for December 14 from 8:00 to 10:00 pm during public skating hours. Historically this has been a very popular event and has been held in conjunction with a canned food drive. The committee also planned the Social Hour at Kildare's after the meeting, and will it will continue to plan the remainder of the Social Hours.

Vice President Ralston mentioned that anyone with ideas about social events or suggestions for a keynote speaker should email the respective committee chairs.

IV. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

Diversity Committee – Senator London & Senator Moinolmolki

The Diversity Committee has reached out to Graduate Student Organizations to invite them to sit in their meetings. A similar invitation was given last year but there was little response, and it is hoped that it will be better received this year.

The committee will be organizing a Diversity Luncheon two times a semester. Potential topics include: What does diversity mean to you? What would you like to see happen to make campus more diverse and more comfortable? Anyone with ideas is encouraged to contact the co-chairs.

The committee wants to publicize a recent report on diversity statistics on campus, and they want to become more action-oriented based on their mission statement.

Student Life Committee – Senator Razzook

Senator Razzook began by stating that ideally he wants the Student Life Committee to work proactively rather than reactively. The committee is currently addressing several topics.

It is exploring how to provide resources to graduate student who hold fellowships to help them fill out their taxes. It is also exploring an ombudsman process for the Graduate Student Government. In particular, whether the committee can post a list of student rights and make this publicly available and transparent.

The committee is discussing parking during home football games, since cars can no longer be parked overnight. STAR campus parking is currently an option, but no one knows much information about this.

There are very few vegetarian or gluten-free options offered by catering and UD Dining Services; the committee is interested in seeing how we can help make more of these options available.

The next committee meeting is Friday, October 26 at 10:00 am in Trabant.

Sustainability Committee – Senator Ardini and Senator Cario

Senator Ardini reported that the Sustainability Committee is still working on the Building Efficiency Study from last year. It is sending out a pilot survey on perceptual comfort level in order to look for data on correlation between comfort in offices and energy usage in those buildings.

It is interested in promoting Sustainable Energy Utility, capital-investment plan for green initiatives not yet accepted by UD. Outside investors provide capital for energy on campus with the goal to reduce energy use on campus from which investors earn a profit.

Senator Cario reported that the committee is also looking at how to reduce food waste on campus. The committee is interested in composting for dining halls and redistributing leftover food from catering events. Dining Services does not want the liability for donation, but we will try to obtain liability waiver for food donation.

The committee is concerned about visiting team busses idling parking lots during the entire length of athletic games and the impact of those emissions. It is trying to figure out alternatives for managing the exhaust.

Recycling bins on campus are not clearly labeled and they can get messy and contaminated. The committee is examining the possibility of using sorting bins to help mitigate this problem.

October 24 is Campus Sustainability Day.

V. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee discussed the fact that there is currently no procedure in place if the Parliamentarian cannot attend a meeting. The committee is interested in proposing the creation of a Deputy Parliamentarian position. The Deputy Parliamentarian be nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Senate for a one-year term, and would be the designated individual who would run the Senate portion of the Graduate Student Government meeting in the absence of the Parliamentarian. In particular, electing a Senator to serve as Deputy Parliamentarian would keep the legislative branch separate from the executive branch. Legislation will be introduced at the November meeting for voting in December.

No legislation was submitted to the committee for discussion.

VI. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Newark City Council – Member Graham

Member Graham reported that at the September 24 meeting of the Newark City Council, rental and residential ordinance issues were discussed. In particular, it was proposed to change the ordinance about inspection of rental apartments. There was a lot of discussion about privacy issues and discrimination against students in certain parts of town, and after heated discussion, the proposal was tabled.

She also reported that the city is doing a market analysis of its brand.

From the October 8 meeting, she reported that officials from the University advised the Council about Homecoming Weekend and that events are planned inside the dorms in order to reduce the impact on Main Street.

The city is reducing its pension and health benefits, starting with management. The reduction of benefits will save the city money but is expected to be unpopular with employees.

Faculty Senate – Senator Portnoi and Senator Jones

Senator Portnoi explained that graduate students have two seats and two votes on the Faculty Senate, and then reported on the October 1 meeting.

Karen Stein, chair of the General Education Committee, reported on the challenges of building a general education that is relevant, the hallmarks of UD general education, and issue regarding assessment of student progress.

Tom Webb, director of Disability Support Services, presented a description of services that Disability Support Services provides to students and faculty. Senator Portnoi noted that these resources do not exist in some other countries, and they are available to the whole UD community.

The Faculty Senate is moving to amend the Student Code of Conduct to include that students will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct if they post class lecture notes online when the syllabus states that doing so is prohibited.

Senator Razzook noted that this proposal is ripe for abuse, in that a student could upload notes under another person's name.

Senator Razzook asked whether students have a right to the material they receive since they pay for courses. Senator Portnoi noted that this was discussed in the Faculty Senate. Specifically, the Millennium Act protects the intellectual property of the faculty. He also noted that very few faculty members regard this topic as important.

A member commented that if a student is taking notes, then the notes taken should fall under creative copyright license. President Bonistall replied that she believes the central issue here is that students may be making a profit from notes they post more than the actual act of sharing the notes.

Senator Portnoi noted that the rule of thumb is that if it is written on the syllabus that students should not post class notes online, then students should not.

Diversity & Equity Commission – President Bonistall

President Bonistall announced that there is a public document reviewing the Diversity and Equity Commission's accomplishments in the 2011-2012 academic year, and that anyone interested in reading it can email her for a copy.

The commission heard updates from President's Diversity Initiative, Office of Equity & Inclusion, and various other caucuses, and there are preliminary discussions of opening caucus membership to all graduate students.

At its next meeting, the commission will discuss its goals for the 2012-2013 academic year and what issues it wants President Harker to address when he meets the commission in November. She encouraged students to email her if they have any questions they would like Emily to raise in the meeting or ask President Harker to address.

Organizational Delegates Updates

President Bonistall explained that under the revised Constitution, members of other Graduate Student Organizations have an opportunity to address the Graduate Student Government at each meeting. She encouraged anyone who knows of a non-academic Graduate Student Organization to let her know so she can invite them to the meetings.

Member Remy introduced himself as the general liaison for Black Graduate Student Association. He announced a community service event serving breakfast, and that they will be hosting study sessions in 126 Memorial Hall from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS: OPEN FLOOR

Discussion: Succession for the Office of Parliamentarian

President Bonistall explained that not planning for succession for the office of Parliamentarian was an oversight last year when the Constitution was revised. The recommendation is that an election be held at the beginning of the academic year to designate a Deputy.

Senator Berg asked whether the person elected would need to be not a Senator, and Senator Ardini noted that it would be difficult to find a Deputy who is not otherwise involved in some aspect of the Graduate Student Government. Secretary Castillo clarified that the intent was to nominate a current Senator who had previously been involved in the organization and would be comfortable leading the group.

The issue was tabled to Governance Committee. President Bonistall encouraged anyone with an opinion to attend the committee meeting to discuss, share opinions, and develop legislation. Additionally, anyone interested in seeing and learning the legislative process is encouraged to attend.

Discussion: Social Hours

President Bonistall explained that the Graduate Student Government has hosted Happy Hours in the past. Two years ago they were on a night separate from meeting, and last year they were on the same night as the meeting. Last year, it was suggested that Social Hours not be held on meeting nights since students who cannot make it to the meeting probably would not be able to attend the Social either. On the other hand, Senators are already at the meeting and it would be a pleasant reward for their time to get fed after the meeting.

Senator Harris suggested that there be more communication about these events. Senator Jones concurred.

Senator Garcia noted that last year there was more participation when it was after the meeting. He suggested a regular pattern regardless of when it was. Senator Moinolmolki agreed. She also suggested more informal Happy Hours on different days throughout the semester.

The consensus was to leave the official Social Hours on Thursdays following the Graduate Student Government meetings, and that other events would be intentionally planned for other nights of the week.

President Bonistall asked what to call the Social Hours. Historically they have been called Happy Hours, but this name may not have the same meaning for some international students as they do for native English speakers. She also noted that the Happy Hours have typically been much less about drinking, so the name should not send the wrong message.

The consensus was to call the Social Hours “Eat and Greet”.

Dr. Martin suggested inviting specific programs in turn to join the Eat and Greet event. It was also suggested that programs be invited which are being spotlighted at the meeting.

Discussion: Graduate Student Events

President Bonistall asked what kind of events graduate students want to have.

The consensus was that free food was a significant draw.

Senator Moinolmolki suggested more family-based activities.

Senator Migdal noted that Winterthur students are often required to be at events on the weekends.

Since most events are on campus, it was suggested that an event be in Wilmington on the Riverfront to help draw students who live off-campus.

Senator Jones suggested more community service events.

President Bonistall stated that she would put together a survey that will be sent to all graduate students with the Minutes, and that Senators will need to follow up with their constituents on this topic.

Public Comments and Concerns

Senator Moinolmolki noted that graduate assistantships give students with children enough money that they do not qualify for programs like Head Start. The issue was referred to Student Life.

VIII. SENATE FLOOR

Secretary Castillo opened the Senate Floor.

Old Business

Senator Garcia moved and it was seconded to approve the Minutes from the September 13, 2012 Graduate Student Government meeting. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Senator Ardini moved and it was seconded to adjourn the Senate Floor. The motion passed and the Senate Floor closed.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toy Drive

New Directions Early Head Start is collecting toys for children from low-income families. They are seeking organizations to sponsor children in their program by providing a gift or donating money. New Directions Early Head Start will provide a tag the child's age, gender, ideas for toys, and clothing sizes. The gifts should cost about \$20. Students should contact Jessica Schulz at jschulz@udel.edu by November 8 if they are interested in donating or want more information.

Time Management Workshop

The Center for Teaching and Learning will be hosting an instructional session called "Juggling Multiple Demands of Your Graduate Student Life" on October 19 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in 110 Memorial Hall. They will discuss and explore strategies for graduate students wearing multiple hats (e.g. dissertation writing, class taking, TA-ing, home life) to use to be as effective, efficient, and un-stressed as possible. The workshop is open to all graduate students, although space is limited. Students must register at <http://cte.udel.edu/events/on-campus/ta-conference-follow-juggling-multiple-demands.html> if they plan to attend, and they can contact Kevin Currie-Knight at kevinck@udel.edu if they have any questions.

Announcement of new Certificate in Women's Studies

Any student enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Delaware is eligible to register for WOMS graduate courses and also to apply for admission to the Graduate Certificate program. WOMS graduate courses will enrich and extend the interdisciplinary experience, methodological training, theoretical understanding, research skills, and pedagogical practice of all students, regardless of their disciplinary background and concentration. The Certificate is a valuable credential for the future that attests to the breadth and depth of graduate students' preparation in interdisciplinary, multi-cultural feminist education. Interested students can contact Margaret Stetz at stetzm@udel.edu.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Portnoi motioned and it was seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
Graduate Student Government Secretary