

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Public Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

Presidential Remarks

President Bonistall began by thanking everyone who attended the Second Annual Graduate Student Gala. The event was very successful: over 230 tickets were sold and there was a lot of positive feedback. She specifically thanked the Events Committee and Vice President Ralston. The Graduate Student Government will donate \$1000 to United Way from proceeds from this event, which is up from roughly \$900 last year.

Dr. Riordan has been promoted from Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education to Vice Provost for Research. This semester he has been straddling both roles. There is currently a search to fill his old position; Vice President Ralston sits on that committee.

The undergraduate Student Government Association is exploring turning the campus into a nonsmoking campus. President Bonistall is working with them, and encouraged anyone with feedback to let her know.

President Bonistall announced that there was a recent UDaily article on parking: there is now a weekend and weeknight parking permit. She emphasized that this idea came from the Graduate Student Senate last year.

Graduate Program Spotlights

Senator Eskandarikhoe presented on behalf of Economics. The Lerner College of Business and Economics offers Masters degree programs in Finance, MBA, Marketing, and Hospitality, and a PhD in Economics. As a discipline, Economics encompasses macroeconomics (including employment and inflation), microeconomics, industrial organizations, environmental economics, and law economy (particularly court data on patents and copyright). Senator Eskandarikhoe encouraged everyone to take a course in econometrics, as it is a great way for graduate students to learn to analyze data.

Next month's Senator Spotlights will be Marine Policy, Educational Leadership, and Human Development and Family Studies.

II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President Ralston reiterated President Bonistall's thanks to everyone who attended the Gala.

Communication Committee – Vice President Ralston

The Communications Committee is currently without a chair; anyone who is interested is encouraged to contact Vice President Ralston (kralston@udel.edu).

The committee has continued assisting with the promotion of Graduate Student Government events, including the Taste of Grad School in September and the recent Graduate Student Gala. It is currently working on creating a monthly newsletter, which will highlight graduate student life and what is happening in the Graduate Student Government.

Events Committee – Senator Barnard

Senator Barnard announced that the Second Annual Graduate Student Gala was a success, and she thanked those who attended, helped with the planning, and volunteered at the event. In particular, she thanked Dr. Martin for her continued support.

On December 19, the Events Committee will host Graduate Student Night at Winterthur, which will take place during Winterthur's scheduled "Yuletide at Winterthur" program. Graduate students will receive a discount on admission to Winterthur for the evening, and there will be family friendly programming including an arts and crafts station for kids following tours of the Winterthur mansion. More details should be available soon. Senator Barnard noted that this event is in the place of the previously planned ice skating event (which will happen over the Winter).

Senator Migdal explained that Winterthur is a museum of decorative art, previously owned by the DuPont family. Its 175 rooms were built to house a collection of antiques. The Yuletide activities show how people celebrate Christmas and Twelfth Night in the United States through 1865.

Vice President Ralston reiterated that the event will be family friendly with craft events for children, and the ticket price will be about \$10 per person. This event is in partial response to feedback that the Graduate Student Government should plan for family-oriented events and more events outside of Newark.

Social Committee – Senator Markland and Senator Nelan

Senator Markland announced that Eat and Greet at Caffè Gelato will follow the meeting. The Ice Skating Social and Canned Food Drive will occur in January, and this is also a family-friendly event. The Social Committee is also planning an Ice Cream Social, bowling, and a tour of the South Campus Botanic Gardens, Dairy Farm, and milking parlor for the Spring semester. Anyone with additional ideas is encouraged to contact the co-chairs.

III. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

Diversity Committee – Senator London & Senator Moinolmolki

Senator Moinolmolki reported that progress has been made in reaching out to Graduate Student Organizations through the assistance of Vice President Caro.

The Diversity Committee is also planning this year's Diversity Luncheon series. The series will consist of two or three roundtable discussions over the Fall and Winter semesters focusing on the graduate student population, and will culminate in a panel discussion in the Spring focusing on the larger University of Delaware community. The committee is currently forming a list of possible panel participants.

Student Life Committee – Senator Razzook

Senator Razzook reported on the progress of several ongoing initiatives in the Student Life Committee. The committee is looking to post examples online of how other students at other universities handle withholding on their taxes. With regard to the ombudsman process, the committee needs to distribute a survey to ask questions about what major issues are regarding grad students. From the survey, it will compile a list of concerns and match them with existing resources on campus. It is looking for demographic data on the number of graduate student married with children to know how great a need there is for daycare. With regard to vegetarian catering options, the committee has been successful in getting two new checkboxes on the webform when food is requested, which will help dining services accommodate vegetarian and gluten-free options. Students with parking passes for South Campus can get a waiver from Alicia Greco (agreco@udel.edu) for parking during home football games.

Sustainability Committee – Senator Ardini and Senator Cario

Senator Cario recounted a conversation with Robin Moore from Aramark about reducing food waste in the dining halls. For the past couple of years, Aramark has composted food in the Rodney and Pencader Dining Halls, but composting has not spread to other due to space constraints. As other dining halls are renovated, composting is likely to be added. Next month, there will be an open tour of one of the dining halls. He noted that there is a food recovery network in place at other universities that brings extra food to local food banks.

The Class of 2008 provided funding to identify areas where energy usage could be decreased on campus. The Sustainability committee is looking at the list and may propose a resolution at a future meeting.

Senator Ardini recounted a meeting with Roger Bowman from Facilities about recycling on campus. Recycling bins are placed outside based on location of trashcans. New recycling bins have been placed outside the Rust Ice Arena and on the Laird campus. More are still needed toward the southern end of Central Campus near the Library. He noted that Facilities places outside recycling bins based on trash volume, and that they have added a number of bins recently.

The Building Efficiency Study was redistributed to this year's committee. A pilot survey on temperature comfort level being sent out.

Vice President Caro noted that the meeting with the dining director came up in two different committee reports, and several committees have asked for demographic data; having two Vice Presidents allows better coordination and synergy between committees.

A Member asked whether Aramark considered donating food rather than composting it, if there was not enough space at some dining halls. The reply from Aramark was that they do not have food waste that is not expired. Senator Razzook commented that food service practices might be preventing any leftover food from being created. President Bonistall is hesitant to say what Aramark is or is not doing; she can ask Dr. Martin to join the conversation if student initiative is unproductive.

The next committee meeting is on November 16 at 11:30 am.

IV. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Parliamentarian Thomson stated that as evinced at last month's meeting, there is no succession in case the Parliamentarian is not present at a meeting. The Governance Committee suggests creating the office of Deputy Parliamentarian, whose duty it will be chair the Senate in the Parliamentarian's absence. The person holding the office will be nominated by the Executive Council and approved by the Senate at the first meeting of the year; this will allow someone to be identified who has experience. The Deputy Parliamentarian would be an ex-officio member of Governance Committee so that he or she will understand what is going on in the background of the legislative process. The committee expects to propose legislation for a vote in December; text will be emailed to Senators in the coming weeks.

The next committee meeting is on November 26 at 2:00 pm in Bleeker Street Café.

V. EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

Newark City Council – Member Graham

Member Graham was not able to be present. She is currently familiarizing herself with operation of the Council and Municipal Code so that she can effectively represent the Graduate Student Government on the Newark City Council.

Faculty Senate – Senator Portnoi and Senator Jones

Senator Portnoi recapped remarks from Provost Brickhouse highlighting new buildings and renovations across campus: being constructed and others being renovated:

- Interdisciplinary science and engineering lab building, \$140 million budget, around \$52 million from gifts/donations, opening in May 2013, ready in Fall 2013.
- Life Sciences Research Facility, \$12.5 million, ready in December 2012.
- Alison Hall renovation, ready in May 2013.
- Health Sciences Complex, STAR campus (former Chrysler plant), ready in December 2013.
- Drake Organic Chemistry Lab renovation, ready in 2013.

- Carpenter Sports Building addition and renovation, ready in August 2013 (addition) and November 2013 (renovation). Graduate students will pay a fee to support this renovation starting next academic year.
- Bloom Energy STAR Campus, ready in April 2013.

The Student Code of Conduct has been amended as follows: If the syllabus for a course states that no student may post notes or other material from the class on the Internet, whether or not for a fee, then any student, whether enrolled in the class or not, who posts such material on the internet will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Professors will have to catch infractions and inform the Office of Student Conduct will handle them. It was debated at what point notes taken by a student belong to the student instead of the instructor who lectured. Senator Sheldon Pollack says the line is very blurry, and that it would relate to artistic modification or alteration (such as songs that have the lyrics modified). There is still debate as to how students can be tracked down who violate this policy.

Senator Jones noted that in light of current university administrative position searches, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution recommending that the searches be open to the public. This is a problem because many candidates are working and do want their current positions jeopardized by their candidacy being public.

She also reminded everyone that President Harker sent out a date change for end of the semester due to the hurricane.

Senator Razzook asked if the funding for STAR campus is not sufficient to furnish the buildings, would there be fees to cover the deficit? A Member said that the university often borrows money from professors who have grant money to pay for things like this; it has been done before, but it is not known whether it is being done in this case.

Diversity & Equity Commission – President Bonistall

President Bonistall reported that Marcia Nickle and the Women's Caucus are currently developing a proposal to have a University Ombudsperson for reporting bias, discrimination, harassment, and other issues.

In addition to the caucuses reporting, the committee will now hear official student reports the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Government in order to better understand issues impacting the student body.

President Harker will be at Diversity and Equity Commission meeting in November. Anyone with questions for him to answer should forward them to President Bonistall.

Organizational Delegates Updates

Several undergraduates presented on the Green the Green initiative, which is concerned with pesticide use on campus. Their interest began in a class they took together where they investigated what goes into wastewater discharge from the university. They have since questioned the university about what is in the pesticides that are used on campus, but the university has not been forthcoming with information. They believe that the university would be healthier and safer (and possibly even more economically viable) if it switched to using organic/green/sustainable techniques instead of chemical pesticides. They reported that the university will post signs on the Green in the spring when they spray.

Anyone interested in getting involved in Green the Green can contact Meagan Mauger (mmauger@udel.edu) or sign the petition online at <http://www.change.org/petitions/stop-spraying-toxic-chemicals-at-the-university-of-delaware>.

President Bonistall recommended that the Governance and Sustainability Committees look into proposing a resolution on this topic.

Black Graduate Student Association

The Black Graduate Student Association volunteered on October 27 at the Sunday Breakfast Mission in Wilmington, where they prepared meals for the homeless. Its weekly study sessions were delayed due to Hurricane Sandy, but they are continuing through the rest of the semester. It also held a viewing party on Election Day. There will be a Thanksgiving potluck dinner on November 16, where nonperishable food will be collected to donate to the food bank.

Education Graduate Student Association

The Education Graduate Student Association is currently running a clothing drive. Donations go to Friendship House in Wilmington. Anyone interested in donating can contact Akisha Jones (jakisha@udel.edu).

VI. OPEN FLOOR: PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Office of International Students and Services

Vice President Caro announced that 200 tickets are available on a first come-first served basis for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 18 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm sponsored by the Office of International Students and Scholars. All international students are welcome, but they must pick up a ticket ahead of time at the OISS office. This event was suggested by a focus group of which he is a member when asked how OISS should utilize some of the revenue from the international student fee to give back to the international student community. Vice President Caro noted that this event will be a good “first taste” of American culture for many students.

Senator Razzook noted that it is ironic that the international student fee funds events domestic holidays. President Bonistall replied that the event is cultural education.

Nonsmoking Initiative

Senator Harris asked about the nonsmoking initiative. President Bonistall replied that it is still in the discussion stage. The idea started in the undergraduate Student Government Association last year, and presently there is a committee headed by Vice President for Student Life Michael Gilbert. The committee is trying to determine whether a nonsmoking campus is feasible and worthwhile for the campus, in particular since some groups will be disproportionately affected. Many college campuses have done this. She emphasized that the Graduate Student Government needs to reflect what graduate students want; if graduate students do not want a smoking ban then the organization should not endorse one.

Senator Ardini noted that at his undergraduate institution, there were smoking gazebos that helped to draw smokers physically away buildings.

Senator Zimmerman noted that she cannot open her windows because there is always someone smoking outside.

Green the Green

A Member enthusiastically praised the Green the Green initiative and strongly recommended that the Graduate Student Government work proactively with them.

Senator Jones asked what the organization could do. Vice President Caro replied that interested individuals could join the Sustainability Committee at its next meeting on November 16 at 11:30 am.

Undergraduate Clubs

Senator Harris asked about joining undergraduate clubs. In particular, certain ones do not allow graduate students to join them because graduate students do not pay a fee that undergraduates do that financially supports those organizations.

President Bonistall noted that Senator Razzook brought this up in the Student Life Committee. She will report back in December about the possibility of an opt-in fee for graduate students who want to join undergraduate clubs.

Off-Campus Events

Senator Pearson recommended to the Student Life Committee to organize a list of off-campus organizations that students can participate in. Currently, finding them is by trial and error; they are not always easy to find if students do not have the free time to hunt them down.

President Bonistall replied that three years ago Tim Miller put together the What's Happening email, which included literally everything that happened in Newark by week. She used this as a strong example of why the Graduate Student Government needs a strong Communications Committee.

Senator Harris asked if a page on the website can be designated to post events. Yes, this is the responsibility of the Communications Committee.

Senator Markland announced a dodge ball tournament fundraiser on November 9 in Wilmington to raise money for hurricane victims. She also encouraged interested students to check out delawaresportsleague.com for local intramural sports leagues.

Senator Moinolmolki asked if there can be a form on the website so members can post about events. President Bonistall asked if that could be one of the functions of the Facebook page, and referred the question to the Student Life and Communications Committees.

Deputy Parliamentarian

Senator Ardini suggested that the Governance Committee consider offering the Deputy Parliamentarian position to the candidate who lost the election for Parliamentarian.

VII. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Thomson opened the Senate Floor.

Old Business

Senator Portnoi moved to approve the Minutes from the October 11, 2012 Graduate Student Government meeting. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Senator Portnoi moved to adjourn the Senate Floor. The motion passed and the Senate Floor closed.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
Graduate Student Government Secretary