

# GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## Public Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2013

### I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

### II. GUEST SPEAKERS

1. The GSG General Meeting started off with Chief Patrick Ogden from the University of Delaware's Campus Safety and Skip Homiak, who is the Executive Director of Public Safety, addressing the GSG body regarding campus safety concerns.
  - Chief Ogden started his remarks by stating that the University of Delaware's Campus Safety Office has 75 full time employees, 47 sworn officers, 20 security officers, several student aides, and over 600 emergency blue light phones across the entire campus.
    - The University of Delaware Campus Safety department has a policy in place with the Newark police and the City of Newark, regarding disseminating information
    - The information gets sent a Newark police officer and then the information gets sent along to the University Police, in which they will send an officer too
    - This is part of a crime reduction strategy to reduce and prevent crime
    - Likewise, the University and the City of Newark have strategic patrolling units, a mobile command unit up near Laird Campus, and several bicycle patrol units.
    - The Chief has a big believe in collaborating with the various departments across the state and has a daily collaboration with the office of highway safety
      - The Click It Or Ticket Program is an example
    - 3 years ago the University started with the video camera project along with collaboration with the SGA regarding where the camera should be positioned
      - Annual report and walk around campus to listen to student's concerns
      - The University is up to 200 cameras from the original 35 a few years ago
    - The result of the increase in security cameras around campus is a 33% reduction of crime over the last five years
    - The City of Newark crime has decreased by only 5.5%
    - The actions on campus and policies in place seem to be working
    - There are a lot of community outreach programs regarding safety programs and concerns
    - The areas adjacent to the immediate campus vicinity have a 11% crime rate

- What strategies can graduate students do in order to protect themselves around campus?
  - Graduate Students need to be aware of their surroundings
  - Sign up for the UD alert system
  - Crime is in fact going down but crime reports are becoming more apparent so more people are aware and know
  - Follow the UDaily release the University uses
  - Follow UD Campus Safety on Twitter and Facebook
  - Read UD Police reports and news posted to the UD Campus Safety's website (everything is posted on their webpage)
  - Read daily incident log posted to the UD Campus Safety's webpage
  - Stay informed
  - A lot of people feel the University is safe, but it isn't, and people need to help themselves out by being aware of their surroundings (make good decisions and don't leave valuables unattended)
- Will there be an increase in pedestrian lighting near 44 Kent Way and the New Technology Park?
  - The UD Police work yearly with Facilities and the SGA
  - Campus Safety is always re-evaluating their policies and influence around campus
  - There is an on-going effort to replace the lights around The Green in order to make them brighter along with upgrading the entire lighting system
- What times during the day/night is crime the most prevalent?
  - According to the statistical analysis completed by Campus Safety, the analysis shows that 24% of crime occurs between 3pm to 6pm
  - Between 12pm and 3am there is another 24% of crimes reported
  - Police on bicycles work 12 hour patrolling shifts from 3pm to 3am along with a community resource unit
  - There are always police officers monitoring and patrolling the campus and surrounding areas at all times
  - In order to increase patrolling numbers on the weekends, UD Campus Safety established an Administration Weekend Patrol where the administration personnel work the weekend shifts along with the normal police officers
- What are the existing initiatives on campus and how do walking escorts work?
  - There are over 40 Public Student Aides hired to be extra eyes and ears around campus and on the weekends
  - PSA Escorts will walk any student from Point A to Point B during the evening hours
  - There is also a walk-about map produced by the University to show where all the blue-lights are located on campus along with where the camera are
  - Very little crime happens where the camera and blue lights are, and both are strategically placed around campus so students can see where the next one is from their initial point
- What are the Federal Regulations and Guidelines regarding reporting incidents (UD Alert specifically)?
  - The University and city of Newark follow the Jean Cleary Act
  - Make sure the community is informed of what is going on throughout the community and around campus
  - UD tries to be more transparent than most other Universities and police agencies

- Incidents have to be reported to campus and to the public property surrounding the area where the crime occurred
- The purpose of the UD Alert is to inform people, not scare them (there is a false perception of crime increasing despite crime actually being reduced)
- UDaily is the way to follow up on information regarding crime rather than constantly sending out UD Alerts
- Sign up for UDaily to be up to date on the most recent crime stories and incidents
- Annual security reports are posted to the UD Campus Safety website (the statistics are from the last 5 years and are user-friendly)
- Be informed of the various ways information is disseminated
- The Campus Safety Department can over ride the projector screens across the entire campus at anytime and can override the bell tower too in order to disseminate verbal messages
- What is the percentage of unsolved crimes on campus?
  - Back in 2008, the amount of unsolved crime was 36.3%, and now it is down to 16.6%, and is still decreasing
- Are there any PR campaigns to communicate the reduction in crime over the years?
  - UD Campus Safety is actively involved in social media and community outreach efforts
  - Collaborations with the Newark Police
  - There aren't any specific guidelines since policies and education programs are always evolving
  - Just be transparent as possible
  - There is a huge attempt to get students more involved and be additional eyes and ears in regards to reporting crimes and to inform the community whenever possible
  - Don't be afraid to call 9-1-1 (when in doubt call 9-1-1)

2. Zach Fox from the University of Delaware's Outing Club explained what the UD Outing Club entails.

- Anything you can think of that is outside and off campus
- Always looking for suggestions
- Activities all occur in the Mid-Atlantic Region
- New trip being planned for the winter semester (An extended multi-sport trip to Georgia)
- The group is now able to allow graduate students to go on trips
- There is a liability form drafted specifically for graduate students
- Graduate Students just have to pay 10% more than the undergraduate students have too
- The Facebook page is how you get access to all the information for the various trips and activities throughout the semester
- During the month of August, the outing club plans a week long orientation for the undergraduate students
  - Since the trip is getting heavily publicized and participation is increasing, the Outing Club is looking to find someone to start organizing the logistics (essentially a part-time job)
- Freshman orientation is only open to undergraduates to participate in but the job opening is available for graduate students

- Facebook is also the location to sign-up for the events
- Post on Facebook is available for every event regarding sign-ups and trip costs for each student along with any other details necessary
- The UD Outing Club office is in the basement of Perkins

### III. SPECIAL ELECTION: GSG PRESIDENT

Every Senator that has signed in and is in compliance with being an “Active” member is eligible to receive a ballot.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stage – Senator Castillo will address the GSG Body
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage – 10 minutes of question and answers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage – Last minute questions without Senator Castillo being present
- 4<sup>th</sup> Stage – Voting
- Later in the GSG General Meeting the election results will be announced

**Question** (Senator Jones): Do you plan on running again next year?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): It depends on my dissertation progress but if I stay around, I am definitely interested in running again.

**Question** (VP Caro): In your opinion, what are the greatest opportunities for outreach?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): Besides from the Graduate Student Organizations and committees, one thing the GSG can do is to be more interactive with other organizational presidents and to get more representatives to come and speak at our meetings in order for Graduate Students to see what other organizations do around campus.

**Question** (Parliamentarian Harris): What is one thing you would change about the GSG and one thing you wouldn’t change regarding the GSG?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): One thing the GSG needs to keep doing is the work done within the committees. This is where the real work of the GSG happens. Regarding one thing I would change for the GSG would be making the General meetings more efficient. The consent agenda is to collect all committee reports a week before the meetings into a single document needs to be disseminated a few days before the General Meetings. A second document needs to be created for legislation with the exact wording and description of what is being amended. The General Meetings should be as short as possible, but have all the information disseminated as needed. Senators will have all the documents ahead of the meeting and can ask any and all questions throughout the meeting.

**Question** (Senator Luff): What are your thoughts about keeping the pizza social prior to the meetings?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): I want to keep the pizza ahead of the meetings because it seems to increase the attendance every month.

**Question** (Senator Jones): The President's role seems to be very time-consuming and over time, less and less people will be likely to run for President. What are your thoughts of restructuring the Executive Members roles to get more people involved?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): The President's role is to help the executive members perform their roles, which takes away a lot of work for the President. I have talked to Dr. Martin and Dr. Richards in hopes that over time they will continue to provide an assistantship for the President as an incentive to run for the position.

**Question** (VP Caro): What do you see as the biggest obstacle and what are your plans for moving past them?

**Response** (Senator Castillo): Coming into something already in motion is very challenging especially regarding not interrupting with what is already happening or planned. Addressing that, work may be done through organizational structure along with talks with the VP's and committee chairs to see what is going on and what needs to be fixed.

#### **IV. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice President Ames:

- Thank you to everyone you helped and supported the success of the Graduate Student Gala.
- YuleTide tickets need to be purchased in the next four days
- Spread the word and attach the flyers in an emails sent out to fellow Graduate Students
- There are currently 72 reservations and the GSG would like to have more within the upcoming days

*Social Committee – Gabrielle Vicari*

- YuleTide is next Wednesday and the GSG needs volunteers for the welcoming committee (about 5 people needed) and let Senator Vicari know if you can help out
- The dress code is whatever you want

*Events Committee – Joe Brodie*

- “Call for Papers” information and deadline went out and some people didn't get the email
- Please let Senator Brodie know if you haven't received the email yet
- If you need more “Save the Date” business cards, please see Senator Brodie for more and there are still plenty available

*Communications Committee – Stephanie Luff*

- The second logo design will be voted on during the open floor so everyone has a say

**V. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Diversity Committee – Holly Johnson & Katie Minker*

- New definition and mission statement has been put in place
- Operates on feedback provided from students

*Student Life Committee – Akisha Jones & Nick Levy*

- Safety related issues were all addressed by Chief Ogden earlier in the meeting
- Talked to Recreational Services about creating programs specifically for graduate students
- Conversation with the Director of Health Services

*Sustainability Committee – George Honchar & Anthony Cario*

- Met with the Provost and Executive Vice-President about the creation of the Office of Sustainability
- Green Roof initiative on top of McKinley Hall

**VI. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Parliamentarian Harris:

- How to fill senator vacancies

Proposed Legislation:

Motion to amend the By-Laws, Article IV, Section 3 by inserting a new subsection, which shall read:

(d) Vacancies: If a senator position becomes vacant, the senator's proxy shall be allowed to serve as acting Senator for up to two meetings of the Senate until a new senator is elected from the Academic Plan. The Elections Committee, or the Executive Council in the case that the Elections Committee is not yet formed, shall organize an election among the students of the senator's Academic Plan, in consultation with that Plan's graduate program director, to fill the senator position. The proxy may be nominated to fill the vacant position. If no new senator is elected after two meetings of the Senate, the Academic Plan shall lose active standing until such time that a senator is elected.

## VII. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Government Affairs Committee – Jessica Graham*

- Not available at this time

### *Faculty Senate – Akisha Jones & Louis Awad*

- VP of IT addressed the security breach a few months ago
- Sign up for the free credit monitoring service if you haven' already
- The JPMorgan degree was approved
- A resolution was passed allowing for faculty input regarding senior administration positions

### *Graduate Studies Committee – Akisha Jones & Matija Madovic*

- Master's of music program was approved
- Modifications to the PhD in mathematics was approved
- Foreign Language Education degree was approved along with some changes
- Organizational of development and change was removed
- Master's of energy and environmental policy was moved from engineering to the college of Arts and Sciences

### *College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate – Stephanie Luff*

- Not available at this time

### *Diversity and Equity Commission – Alex Razzook*

- Not available at this time

### *Parking & Transportation Committee – Nick Levy*

- Not available at this time

### *Organizational Delegates*

#### Roddel Remy:

- BSGA had their annual Thanksgiving Potluck dinner and it went pretty well
- Had a lower than expected showing but still was a lot of fun
- BSGA dinner is on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6pm on Papermill Road

## VIII. OPEN FLOOR: PUBLIC COMMENTS & CONCERNS

- Questions, comments and concerns regarding the legislation started the open floor portion of the meeting
- Why would the proxy not be the new Senator?
  - The person's name was not on a ballot, and the power shouldn't be given to the Senate to vote on someone that wasn't formerly nominated and on a ballot
- Stephanie Luff followed President Razzook and addressed the GSG regarding the second edition of the GSG logo
  - Bold red was added to the initial logo colors
  - Opinion poll was taken (simple yes/no poll)
  - The majority of the GSG members voted in favor of the addition of the red to the color scheme
  - A suggestion to the graphic was made by Senator Bonistall
    - Make the different circles the different colors being used for the design and then use the flower to symbolize the GSG connection and unity
    - 7 circles represent the 7 different colleges

## IX. SENATE FLOOR

### *Old Business*

- Motion to postpone the November meeting minutes until January

### *New Business*

- Motion: Amend the By-Laws, Article IV, Section 3 by inserting a new subsection, which shall read:

(d) Vacancies: If a senator position becomes vacant, the senator's proxy shall be allowed to serve as acting Senator for up to two meetings of the Senate until a new senator is elected from the Academic Plan. The Elections Committee, or the Executive Council in the case that the Elections Committee is not yet formed, shall organize an election among the students of the senator's Academic Plan, in consultation with that Plan's graduate program director, to fill the senator position. The proxy may be nominated to fill the vacant position. If no new senator is elected after two meetings of the Senate, the Academic Plan shall lose active standing until such time that a senator is elected.

- No further discussion
- 26 Senators voted yes and zero opposed
- The Amendment passed



## **IX. ELECTION RESULTS AND REMARKS**

- Senator Castillo is the new President
  - He looks forward to the next few months as the Chief Advocate for the GSG
  - He wants to start smoothing out GSG General meeting Format ASAP
  - He wants to get committee reports to the corresponding VP's ASAP and to keep lines of communication open
  - Wants to start communication amongst and within GSG for all members
  - Wants to communicate simultaneously regarding senators and proxies
- Outgoing Presidential Remarks from President Razzook
  - Thank you to the GSG sponsors Dr. Martin and Dr. Richards for all their patience and support along with budget help
  - Thank you to past President Bonistall for all her advice and guidance
  - Thank you to the committee chairs for all the excitement and energy serving in their respected positions
  - For the newer members, keep giving more time to invest in the GSG future and to strive to become the elite few that are highly trained and educated in their respected fields of study
  - Always keep looking forward rather than getting caught up on the daily operations of the GSG

## **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (Second Thursday of the month) at 5pm
- Graduate Student Programming outside GSG meeting is Sunday from 5pm to 7pm with the other Organizational Presidents at Klondike Kates

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gildemeyer  
Graduate Student Government Secretary