

Graduate Student Government

Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 20th, 2014
Memorial Hall Room 127

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

II. Committee Reports

There were no questions on committee reports.

III. Open Floor: Public Comments and Concerns

Senator Nie started the open floor discussion briefly discussing how votes would be counted for the upcoming officer election. In races with two candidates, the Parliamentarian will cast a vote to be used only as a tiebreaker. In races with three or more candidates, Senators will have the option to rank each candidate. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, then the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes will be eliminated, and the Senators who voted for the eliminated candidate will have their votes redistributed to their second-choice candidates. This process of elimination and vote redistribution will continue until one candidate has a majority.

Vice President Ames followed Senator Nie's presentation by discussing the future name of the Graduate Student Lounge located at 44 Kent Way. There were a few suggestions regarding a name, but the most prominent name for the lounge was "The Speakeasy Lounge." Vice President Ames also informed the GSG that he was actively in discussion about a marketing logo that will hopefully be used during the next academic school year.

Since 44 Kent Way was originally built during the Prohibition Era, it was suggested that the Graduate Student lounge be decorated to reflect the 1920s and 1930s. VP Ames suggested having some legislation created in support of the decorating process of the lounge. He is open to any ideas or suggestions regarding decorating 44 Kent Way.

One of the Senators suggested a brief description of the Prohibition Era and what it entailed within US History since some International students might not understand the symbology behind the name of the Graduate Student Lounge. VP Ames explained that in 1919, a Constitutional Amendment was ratified that prohibited the sale and distribution of alcohol in the United States. From 1920, when the law went into effect, until 1933, when the Amendment was repealed, there was a proliferation of illegal establishments that served alcohol. Such establishments were called speakeasies, and were usually hidden in basements, much as the Graduate Student Lounge is in the basement of 44 Kent Way and accessible only by a back stairway.

Another Senator asked what the decorating budget would be regarding the new lounge. At this time, VP Ames did not know how expensive things would be, but he is currently along with a few other graduate students to explore various options for decorating the lounge.

Regarding the opening date of the lounge, Dr. Richards informed the GSG that the lounge is waiting on a few decorations and a few other things that should be ready to go within the next few weeks. The opening date will be announced on the UD website a few days ahead of the actual opening of the lounge.

On a final note regarding the Graduate Student lounge, VP Ames asked for any help that any graduate could give regarding the decoration process would be greatly appreciated. There is also a discussion currently in progress about using photographs of the University of Delaware from the Prohibition Era. The hours of the lounge are from 4 to 10pm Monday through Friday.

President Castillo followed VP Ames regarding a discussion about questions to ask the graduate student body as a whole. Some suggestions included feedback about the tobacco policy on campus, marketing efforts to graduate students regarding GSG events, along with any other issues graduate students might have. This would be the most efficient way of reaching out to all the graduate students in a short time frame. If anyone has any suggestions, please let President Castillo know by the beginning to middle of March.

President Castillo also briefly informed the GSG of the status of the Provost's visit to address the GSG members and any other graduate student who is interested. The Provost asked to reschedule with the following dates, Thursday April 24th at 5pm, Thursday May 1st at 5pm, Monday May 5th at 5pm. It is important to note that none of the dates are GSG general meetings. There is also the possibility of putting it off until next semester if it would be easier. It was determined that on Thursday May 1st, the GSG will have the Provost come and address the GSG body along with any other graduate student who wants to attend. This meeting will be mandatory for Senators. Please send your questions to President Castillo in the meantime to compile for the Provost ahead of time.

A Senator raised a concern that a travel award posted on the Graduate Office website was still advertised, even though it was no longer available. Dr. Richards explained that all awards are reviewed after submission and not automatically approved, and that funding for the travel award had been exhausted some time ago. He apologized that it was still posted online and said that he has been trying to locate some money to award to some of those who have already submitted an application.

Finally the last discussion on the Open Floor dealt with graduate students receiving alerts about campus closing due to inclement weather. Apparently the UD Alert system would be overwhelmed with too much communication amongst the campus community. President Castillo will try to see if Chief Ogden can shed some light on the situation and possibly explain the feasibility.

IV. Senate Floor: Senators Floor

The Senate floor opened at 6:24pm. Parliamentarian Harris opened the Senate floor and announced that the quorum was met.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from January 9th, 2014. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

The first piece of new business was the adoption of the GSG logo. The motion was moved and seconded and the logo approved.

The second piece of new business was the approval of the election procedures.

Be it moved that the Graduate Student Government suspend Article IV, section 2(d) of the Bylaws for the Spring 2014 elections cycle to allow the timeline proposed by the Elections Committee to supersede it; suspend Article IV, section 2(c) of the Bylaws insofar as allowing the Parliamentarian to cast a tie-breaking vote for officer elections during the Spring 2014 elections cycle; and adopt the rules proposed by the Elections Committee to govern elections during the Spring 2014 elections cycle.

The motion was moved and seconded and the motion was passed.

The last piece of new business was the naming of the Graduate Student Lounge.

Whereas the Graduate Student Lounge at 44 Kent Way will be a gathering place where graduate students can network socially and professionally, and Whereas themed décor for the Lounge will provide ambience and encourage patronage from graduate students across campus, and

Whereas the location of the Lounge, through a back door and down a flight of steps in the basement of a house built in 1926, evokes the feel of a Prohibition-era speakeasy, and
Whereas the GSG Social Committee recommends choosing a speakeasy theme for the Lounge,
Be it hereby resolved that the Graduate Student Government endorse the naming of the Lounge at 44 Kent Way “The Speakeasy Lounge” and that the space be decorated and furnished accordingly.

There was a motion to remove the word “Lounge,” so that the Graduate Student Lounge at 44 Kent Way would be known as “The Speakeasy.” The amendment passed. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed.

The motion to close the Senate floor was moved and seconded.

The Senate Floor closed at 6:34pm.

IV. Announcements

GSG Meetings: second Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in 127 Memorial Hall

- March 13
- April 10
- May 8

Elections events:

- Campaigning Kick-Off: March 6 at 5:30 pm at 44 Kent Way
- Special Elections Meeting: March 20 at 5:30 pm in 127 Memorial Hall

Fourth Annual Graduate Student Forum: Wednesday, April 23 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

- Call for Proposals due February 28
- Registration opens March 24

Registration closes April 18

- President’s Luncheon (for Senators): Monday, May 5 at noon at the President’s House
- Program planning meeting: Wednesday, March 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at 44 Kent Way

Presidents from several Graduate Student Organizations, including the GSG, have been working together this year to promote and enhance diversity among graduate students at UD, and the Office of Graduate and Professional Education has generously offered some funding to support joint programming that addresses diversity. At the meeting, members from

various GSOs will be brainstorming programming ideas and beginning to execute the programs that everyone feels will be most beneficial to diversity among the graduate student population. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice is hosting its 8th Annual Graduate Student Conference on April 11, 2014. The conference provides an opportunity for graduate students in departments across the University to present their work to other students and faculty in a professional and supportive environment and receive feedback. We hope that through inviting other departments to participate students will be able to broaden their networks and create a synergistic research atmosphere. The conference will conclude with a presentation from Keynote Speaker, Jill McCorkel. The Call for Proposals has been extended to February 27, and students may submit abstracts at https://delaware.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_55w3rLb8f84YSSp.

Nominations for Executive Board positions for next year officially opened and will stay open for one week.

VI. Adjournment at 6:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gildemeyer
GSG Secretary