

Graduate Student Government

Public Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 10th, 2013
Memorial Hall Room 127

I. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

The GSG General Meeting started with two guest speakers:

- 1) The first speaker was representing the University of Delaware's Horn Program in Entrepreneurship.
 - a. The program is open to all graduate students.
 - b. Generous donors started the program on October 12th with a \$3million gift.
 - c. A degree program is offered along with a wide variety of courses.
 - d. This is an effort to build educational programming while trying to raise innovation of entrepreneurship.
 - e. There are plenty of grants available within the program funded by both the University and the National Science Foundation.
 - f. This program will provide resources to ignite innovation for students and foster active engagement with the community and fellow alumni.
 - g. The courses in the program can be taken without any pre-requisites, along with the opportunity of obtaining a graduate certificate.
 - h. A few of the co-curricular opportunities provided include: the Hen Hatch, the Venture Development Center, Pitch Competitions & Free Lunch Fridays, and the President's Forum on innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - i. For more information on the HORN Program on Entrepreneurship, please use the email hornprogram@udel.edu or go to the website at www.udel.edu/horn or call them at 302-831-4393.
- 2) The second speaker was from the Office of Equity and Inclusion to talk about harassment and discrimination.
 - a. Bindu Kolli Jayne, Esq. the Title IX coordinator and her email is bkolli@udel.edu for any questions, comments, or concerns.
 - b. The UD policy for nondiscrimination is described very broadly and needs to be linked to a specific protected class (race, color, national origin, sex, disability religion, age, veteran status etc.).
 - c. Likewise there needs to be a link to one of the classes relating to an action that significantly disrupts students or faculty members.
 - d. The website for the OEI office provides a very good frame of reference for these types of issues along with specific definitions.

- e. Regarding Title IX, UD has put more of a focus on sexual harassment over the last few years.
- f. Title IX doesn't just apply to athletics and having the same amount of male and female teams at a school or university.
- g. Sexual harassment and discrimination both fall under Title IX but are more generally defined
- h. Sexual harassment includes the unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made.
- i. Regarding consensual relationships, the University of Delaware falls more in the middle of the spectrum of consequences. It is also a good idea to let the University know in order to make necessary buffers and to protect individuals. This is not mandatory but it is the individual's responsibility.
- j. For more information contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at www.udel.edu/OEI or 302-831-8063.

II. Introduction and Presidential Remarks

President Razzook started the general meeting announcing that there are a few external committee positions that need to be filled. Dr. Richards also added that it is important to get the graduate students involved and that it isn't a very big time commitment at all. He also added that it is a great way to see how issues are brought up and how the legislation progresses through the Faculty Senate. He stressed again the significant importance of getting a representative from the GSG to the next meeting and to fill all open spots available. The Faculty Senate is expected to pass legislation to allow the GSG to elect members to serve on the respected committees. All the committees consist of solely faculty professors.

President Razzook also reminded the GSG that the graduate students are at the top and are the ones responsible for electing the senators, which in turn elect the committee chairs and the administration. The graduate students are Blue Hens, which is a community of people that work together, innovate, and succeed. The GSG organization is a convening body almost like Noah's Arc where there are two representing members from each graduate program on campus. The graduate student body needs to work together and respect other's opinions while making the best decision through debate, collaboration, and perseverance.

III. Membership Officer Announcements

A reminder of the responsibilities of the senators was given to start this section of the meeting.

- The senators are expected to take notes at the meeting, especially regarding the critical information while disseminating meeting highlights in a formal way.

- Always “cc” the graduate student government when issues arise.
- Some programs still need proxy’s to sign up for future meetings.

IV. Internal Affairs Committee Reports

The President recommended taking the committee reports off the consent agenda in order to let the VP’s describe the information, which would allow the senators to be able to recognize the different VP’s and which committees they are responsible for. Senator Wallace moved and Senator Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed without debate.

The VP of Internal Affairs gave a report of the three committees he is responsible for.

Social:

- Gabrielle is the chair of the social committee (gvicari@udel.edu).
- Spread the word via Facebook, emails, and word of mouth advertising the Third Annual Graduate Student Gala.
- See the separate flyer that was handed out for all the information about the event.

Events:

- Joseph Brodie is the events committee chair (jbrodie@udel.edu).
- This committee is in charge of the Graduate Student Forum.
- This is a huge event in April, which provides a chance to see what fellow graduate students are researching, and to expose research to the community along with personal research endeavors.
- Try to get as many graduate students to attend this event as possible.
- There is a Keynote speaker officially booked with a background in hiring consultation for both industry and academia.
- The keynote speaker will be able to tell people what they can do for a job when they graduate with a specific degree or major.
- An official Facebook page is now available for more public outreach and recognition of the event.
- Like the Facebook page ASAP.

Communications:

- Stephanie Luff is the communication committee chair (sluff@udel.edu).
- Focus was on paving out specific roles within the committee.
- Worked on advertisement for the Graduate Student Forum.
- Worked on collaborating with the Graduate Student Office for advertisement purposes and how the GSG should visually look.
- The next step is to create a logo for the GSG organization.
- Also worked on brainstorming other creative ways of reaching out to fellow graduate students that don’t always read their emails.

V. Student Affairs Committee Reports

The VP of Student Affairs gave a report of the three committees he is responsible for.

Diversity:

- Holly Johnson is the chair of the diversity committee (hollylyn@udel.edu).
- The general focus was on ideas of defining what diversity means while eliminating the tendency to define it too narrowly.
- The definition is not just about race, color, or gender but encompasses significantly more.
- Ideas were brainstormed about bringing more publicity to diversity events while increasing overall participation.
- Ideas were also generated about using various channels of media to promote, support, and communicate with the various diversity organizations.

Student Life:

- Akisha Jones and Nick Levy are cochairs (jakisha@udel.edu; [nicklevy@udel.edu](mailto:nicklevey@udel.edu))
- Some of the issues brought up in the committee can be addressed in the governance committee meetings.
- Some of the issues are too large for just the GSG to address in a short time frame.
- The sole focus is on the issues that affect graduate students on an everyday basis.

Sustainability:

- Anthony Cario is the chair of the sustainability committee (acario@udel.edu).
- New leadership positions were filled along with the leadership positions some of the events require or entail.
- New leadership was elected for Dumpster Detour.
- Worked on building continuity among the various other green organizations around campus.

VI. External Committee Reports

There isn't a set committee yet and the external committees are in the process of figuring out what needs to be done for this academic year. Some of the different things being discussed include different things about downtown Newark and what the University can do to make the downtown community better. Likewise there is discussion about what the community wants to do for Newark in order to make it more viable and successful.

Faculty Senate:

- President Harker spent a large portion of the time talking about the undergraduate student body and the class size for this year.

- Another large portion of the meeting dealt with budgeting for the following academic year.
- The fall enrollment was the most diverse enrollment ever in school history.
- We need to build a key partnership with the faculty members on campus especially when we need good allies to fight for us on critical issues.

Parking:

- Any issues or suggestions, send an email to Nick Levy.

Organizational Delegates:

- There was a welcome back mixer at the beginning of the semester that welcomed current and new students to campus.
- There was also great participation in the UD day of service that occurred around campus.
- There is a social event at Deer Park planned for later in the semester.
- A lecture is being given tonight about successful tips for successful funding at 6pm.
- October 28th at 6pm, there is another lecture about sharing secrets to success in graduate school.
- Working on a panel discussion with the Black Graduate Student Association as a way to give back to the UD community along with providing survival advice to new undergraduates and to provide feedback about graduate school.

VII. Governance Committee

The Parliamentarian led a brief discussion of the governance committee and gave a report on what was discussed in the committee meeting.

- This is the government committee of the GSG.
- This is where the bills are written which pass through the Senate.
- Issues that all senators should vote on are generated in this committee.
- There was discussion on a safety resolution for graduate students regarding on-campus safety.
- Housing issues were briefly touched upon.
- Other issues such as payroll and what the term majority means were also brought up for discussion.

VIII. Open Floor: Public Comments and Concerns

Time: 6:34pm

Question (Senator Luff): What is the difference between the diversity committee and the DEC?

Response (President Razzook): The Faculty Senate has their own diversity committee. They are the ones who get together to define the term diversity and our GSG diversity committee can help provide input and feedback.

Response (Senator Bonistall): The Diversity and Equity Commission is a separate entity made up of representatives from various employee caucuses, in addition to representation from a handful of offices.

Question (Senator Karas): Has any progress been made in having a payroll representative come to the committee meeting?

Response (Senator Jones): Federal income taxes are not supposed to be taken out of payroll checks. I don't know how big the issue actually is or how many people have been affected.

Response (Senator Karas): I was just wondering because I know of a few students that had money taken out and it was never replaced. I called payroll the other day and they seemed to be very confrontational about the issue and didn't really provide any advice. I was very disappointed in their response and how they handled the issue. They shouldn't under any circumstances be treating students poorly.

Response (Senator Matija): I just want to start by saying the student life committee has done a great job dealing with a lot of these issues. I just want to add a side note about a PhD student I knew quitting because of the tax issue and how ridiculous it has become.

Response (Dr. Martin): Please let me know if you have been affected because apparently this issue is larger than what I had anticipated. I only have received a few emails so I can't make as big of a deal about it if I don't have a true number of the individuals affected. A lot can go wrong in transition since I am not entirely sure how big this issue is. Please email me ASAP if you have been affected so I can contact payroll immediately.

Response (Senator Luff): Payroll doesn't seem to be very concerned with graduate student problems.

Question (Senator Kasas): Is there any way to send out an email to all graduate students to see who was affected?

Response (Dr. Martin): Payroll should have the number of accounts that are incorrect and have been affected.

IX. Senate Floor: Senators Only

At 6:48pm Old Business was presented

1) The first order of business presented was to accept the motion to approve the September 12th, 2013 meeting minutes.

Senator Jones moved and Senator Brodie seconded the motion after the changes were to be made.

Amendments to meeting minutes:

- On page 6 and 8, Alex Ames needs to be changed to Alex Reid.
- On page 7 there was no discussion about electing Senator Castillo as the Deputy Parliamentarian.
- Change Winter Tour to WinterThur.

No further discussion about the meeting minutes and the meeting minutes passed.

2) The second order of business regarded the Government Affairs committee as an ad hoc committee.

Senator Castillo moved and Senator Brodie seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

3) The third order of business was about a safety resolution.

Senator Jones sent out an email with all the background information and details surrounding this issue prior to the meeting. There is a rising concern on campus and the GSG needs to let the community know of graduate students concerns.

There was no motion to open a debate. Senator Jones moved and Senator Matija seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed.

At 6:36pm Other Business was presented

The first piece of other business that was presented was the legislation that was created in the governance committee regarding appointments to external committees.

Response (Senator Matija): I would like to motion a discussion on the wording of this piece of legislation put forth in front of us. Senator Brodie seconded the motion.

Response: The bill was sponsored by Senator Castillo but didn't come directly from him; rather, it came from the governance committee in response to the discussion that arose from last weeks meeting.

Response (Senator Bonistall): During my presidency, there were many ad hoc committees that arose throughout the year which enabled the president the ability to appoint representatives when needed.

Question (Senator Matjia): How does the resolution apply to the Faculty Senate since it is past the first meeting?

Response: The resolution will be applied to next year since some committees weren't mentioned at the first meeting.

Response (Senator Matija): I personally don't like yielding Senate power to the Executive Council. The power should remain in a Senate vote and not be given to the president for an executive order. It is very important to keep the power in the Senate where it should be and where it belongs.

Response: There is nothing in the resolution that says the power of the Senate will be yielded to the President or other Executive Council members.

Response (Senator Castillo): The appointments are an executive function and when the by-laws were re-written last time, there was very careful and specific emphasis on separating the executive powers from the legislative powers.

Response: Ideally, the process of electing representatives should be identical to the US Government where the President appoints some official and the Senate votes on the approval. An amendment should be made to point B since it wouldn't go into effect until the next year.

Response (Senator Brodie): I would like to offer an amendment to change the wording of point A regarding the faculty senate committees being external. Senator Jones seconded the motion.

Amendment Change: ".....Must declare their interest at the end of the first meeting they are notified about the position that has a vacancy....."

Response (Senator Bonistall): I motion to amend the amendment regarding the wording of point A. Senator Jones seconded the motion.

2nd Amendment Change: ".....At the meeting after which the vacancy has been announced, interest must be given....."

Response (The floor was yielded to Dr. Martin): Just think of how many other external committees Emily sat on. They formed at various times of the academic year and the GSG members wouldn't always know that they formed. There are several different types of standing committees.

Question: When should the President inform the Senate of any vacancy when he knows of the opening? Does the President have a certain time frame?

Response (Senator Jones): There must be a time frame regarding the allotted time for the President to disclose this information.

Response (The floor was yielded to Dr. Richards): The way the legislation is written now regarding the language, and the wording of how the President can place themselves on every committee will never pass in the Faculty Senate.

Response (Senator Bonistall): The legislation needs to break up the Faculty Senate standing committees from the other pop-up committees and should have two separate pieces of legislation written regarding this issue. Due to time, I would like to motion to table this discussion for the next meeting. Senator Jones seconded the motion.

The vote passed to send the amendments to the by-laws back to the governance committee. An email will be sent out regarding the meeting time and location of the next governance committee and will be updated on the GSG official website.

A second piece of other business that arose from the Senate floor was in regards to sending out emails to all Senators.

Response: Senator Jones moved the motion for discussion about “bcc” emails so not every Senator has to receive several emails. Senator Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Response (Senator Bonistall): I recommend sending emails to the President and then the President sends out the emails like a List-Serv.

Response (Senator Matija): We don't have a current list of Senators on the website, and all the Senators should have a list of all current active Senators.

The motion was made to table this discussion for the time being and to bring this issue up in the governance committee meeting. This will allow the governance committee to write a rule about sending out emails to the entire Senate. The interim solution until the legislation is written is to send everything to the President and he will disseminate the information. Do not send out emails to the entire Senate.

Senator Brodie moved the motion to close the Senate floor and Senator Bonistall seconded the motion.

The Senate Floor closed at 7:27pm

X. Announcements

Once the meeting is over, don't forget to come forward and sign up for the open external committee positions that are vacant.

Also in the next governance committee meeting, look into ways of allowing newly represented members to become Senators of those programs that aren't represented.

The next general meeting is November 14th, 2013 in Memorial Hall Room 127

Starting at 5pm before the general meeting, refreshments and a social gathering will be provided until 5:30pm when the meeting starts.

XI. Adjournment at 7:32pm