

**GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**  
Public Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2014

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

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

*Presidential Remarks*

President Castillo briefly introduced himself as the new president and explained how he wanted to streamline the meetings every month. The format will be the same, with the exception of having the committee reports distributed to Senators prior to the meeting. The goal is to have the meeting move faster and more efficiently than in the past. All committee reports are short this month but in the future they will be longer. Ideally they will go out the Monday morning before the general meeting so there is plenty of time for Senators to make notes of any questions they have. On the open floor there will be a few presentations and discussions, and there is still time at the end of open floor for general concerns and comments. President Castillo urged anyone with questions or comments to contact him at castillo@udel.edu at any time.

*Membership Officer Announcements*

President Castillo also introduced Officer Law to give several membership announcements. She began by introducing herself since it was the first official meeting she was able to attend due to a class conflict in the fall. She also passed around a form for Senators to designate their proxies.

**II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Internal Affairs Committee Reports*

Vice President Ames presented the Internal Affairs Committee Reports and asked for any questions or concerns.

Vice President Caro asked about when the Interdisciplinary Speed Dating Event will be held. The goal is to have the event in the early evening or late afternoon during the week of February 10 to catch students before they leave campus, but the Social Committee is open for discussion or suggestions.

*Student Affairs Committee Reports*

Vice President Cesar Caro presented the Student Affairs Committee Reports and asked for any questions or concerns.

There were no questions on the Student Affairs Committee reports.

### *Senate Committee Reports*

There were no questions on Senate Committee reports.

### *External Committee Reports*

There were no questions on External Committee reports.

### *Organizational Delegate Reports*

There were no Organizational Delegate reports.

## **III. OPEN FLOOR**

### *Presentation: GSG Logo*

Senator Luff started the open floor discussion with a progress report regarding the GSG logo design.

The logo used seven circles to represent the seven different colleges, with each circle corresponding to each of the college's color combinations. Several suggestions were offered regarding color selection and visibility. Anyone with comments is encouraged to attend the Communications Committee meeting or contact Stephanie Luff at [sluff@udel.edu](mailto:sluff@udel.edu).

### *Discussion: Future Event Planning*

Vice President Ames followed Senator Luff's presentation by soliciting input on how far in advance the Events and Social Committees should plan events.

There are several staple events, such as the Graduate Student Gala and Yuletide at Winterthur, that have occurred for several years that would be easy to begin planning before the current academic year is finished. Several Senators concurred that it would be beneficial to have important parameters, such as date and theme, planned well in advance, while leaving next year's committee to finalize details. Such advance planning would help secure a venue and best utilize lessons learned from those who planned the event this year. There was some concern about a lack of flexibility for next year's committee to not have control over logistical and other details, but it was agreed that the benefits of long term planning outweigh the flexibility of making decisions on short term.

### *Discussion: Membership Policies and Quorum*

President Castillo then addressed the GSG with regards to membership policies and quorum.

A year ago, the Executive Council noticed a problem that membership policy requirements have put a strain on meetings, with specific emphasis on meeting quorum. There has been a lot of talk on the best way of addressing this issue and how to progress forward. Currently members are responsible for attending the monthly GSG meetings, attending the committee meetings, voting

when needed, and disseminating the meeting minutes to their constituents. Taking attendance at every meeting is important in order to make sure enough people are present. In order to conduct any sort of GSG business, there needs to be a critical mass of senators in order to conduct business such as approving meeting minutes and passing amendments.

Robert's Rule defines quorum as 50% + 1. What this means is that when the GSG passes something such as meeting minutes, the minutes can be passed with 26% approval of the present senators. Likewise, the Bylaws can be passed with 34% of the present Senators approving it. President Castillo wants the Senators to be present but wants the Senators to balance the meetings with their other academic commitments. A few issues were raised regarding having a policy in the Constitution regarding excused absences along with members not being able to make the meetings due to outside circumstances they can't control.

Some thoughts and opinions were given to President Castillo but the discussion was tabled for another time. Please feel free to Contact President Castillo at castillo@udel.edu.

#### *Discussion: Senator Emails on the Website*

The final issue President Castillo brought to the GSG's attention was with regards to the GSG website.

He is looking at putting more content up on the website. One possibility was to update the Senator list and the programs currently represented in the GSG general meetings. One issue raised and discussed by the GSG members was about posting the Senators' email addresses to the website. There were mixed opinions on this matter with some concerns of spam emails being sent to Senators. Another concern was that someone would have to be updating the GSG website all the time, along with the question of what the purpose of posting the email addresses publically would be.

The discussion had valid arguments on both sides of the issue, but was tabled for further discussion. As of now, Officer Law is the point person of public contact for the GSG, rather than having everyone being emailed. Nothing has been decided but feel free to email President Castillo with any questions, comments, or concerns.

#### *Presentation: Elections Committee Update*

Senator Nie followed President Castillo, with a discussion regarding future election tiebreakers.

At the last Elections Committee meeting, the committee decided it would be a good idea to show the possible tiebreaker ideas to the Senate. The Elections Committee broke down the tiebreakers into three categories including: re-voting by the entire Senate, re-voting by a smaller group, and a vote by re-sorting. With regards to the entire Senate re-voting, the election committee would hold a second gathering post election to re-vote. Some of the ways of doing this method include a question-answer format, a debate format, or having a roll call vote. The second method of re-voting could be done by a small group of executive members, internal committee leaders, or external committee leaders re-voting. The last method includes a group voting by category, and the winner of each category would be declared the winner. These are all possible ideas and if you are interested in providing feedback, please attend the next Election Committee meeting held at 44 Kent Way.

### *Public Comments and Concerns*

The last piece of business of the Open Floor portion of the meeting pertained to answering a few questions regarding the Graduate Student Forum and lowering the application fees for International Students applying to the University of Delaware.

## **IV. SENATE FLOOR**

Parliamentarian Harris opened the Senate Floor at 6:29 pm and announced that the quorum of 20 Senators was met with 20 Senators present.

### *Old Business*

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from November 14, 2013 and December 5, 2013 with minor corrections. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

### *New Business*

The Executive Council nominated Senator Bonistall to fill the vacant Deputy Parliamentarian position. It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination. There was no discussion and Senator Bonistall was confirmed as Deputy Parliamentarian.

There was no legislation from the floor.

Senate Floor closed at 6:32 pm.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next GSG meeting will be held February 13 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in 127 Memorial Hall.

Everyone should have received in an email a flyer for the Graduate Student Forum calling for proposals/abstracts to be submitted by the specified deadline.

In the same email, there was also a second call for proposals/abstracts for papers regarding the Sociology and Criminal Justice department.

There are numerous copies of Graduate Student Forum flyers to be hung up in the various departments around campus, so don't print more.

The Meet and Greet Event will be hosted tomorrow evening from 5-8pm at 44 Kent Way. A few volunteers will be needed for tomorrow evening, so please let Alex Ames know if you are available.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gildemeyer  
Graduate Student Government Secretary