

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

Presidential Remarks

President Bonistall began by announcing election results: Alex Razzook was elected President, and forty-three senators were elected for the 2013-2014 academic year. She also extended warm thanks to the Elections Committee for their hard work and dedication on this year's elections process.

A new university committee was formed to discuss parental leave and child care, and President Bonistall has been charged with identifying information that will be relevant to graduate students. Anyone interested in participating in conversation should contact her.

The Third Annual Graduate Forum is tomorrow, May 10, and she extended congratulations to Vice President Ralston, Senator Ames, and the Events Committee for their hard work planning the event.

President Bonistall informed the Senate that an invitation was sent to the Payroll Department, but no one was able to attend. She recommended to the incoming Executive Council to invite other administrators from around campus to address the Senate.

She also provided a clarification about insurance coverage, following up on a conversation from the April meeting: The coverage is global so it can be used in any country, although it is recommended that students traveling out of the country purchase extra travel insurance. The current insurance plan does not cover the co-pay in a different country, so while students will be reimbursed they must wait until they are back in the US and submit appropriate paperwork. If students use additional travel insurance, that company will cover co-pay expenses so the students will have no out-of-pocket expenses. There is information about extra insurance on the Graduate Student Government website: sites.udel.edu/gsg.

Finally, President Bonistall reminded Senators to remind their constituents that there will be a new \$50 athletics fee on student accounts in August.

II. OPEN FLOOR

Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve consent agenda; the motion passed.

Senator Lazo remarked that it would be useful to have printed copies of the consent agenda available at the meeting.

Public Comments & Concerns

It was recommend to the incoming Executive Council to discuss whether the consent agenda should be printed or not.

Senator Brodie questioned why there is a bus stop but no crosswalk at South College Avenue in front of the Library, and recommended that an appropriate committee discuss placing a crosswalk there.

Senator Reid announced that the Communication Committee needs more individuals to assist with its operations.

President Bonistall remarked that in the past, Senate business resolves in May and incoming Executive Council picks up in the fall. Last year, the Executive Council tried to keep up social activities and committee meetings over the summer. Committee chairs should coordinate summer activities with President Razzook.

IV. SENATE FLOOR

Old Business

Senate Floor was opened at 5:48 pm.

Senator Lazo moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes from April 11, 2013, with two minor corrections from Parliamentarian Thomson. The motion passed.

Bill: Suspension of the Bylaws

Parliamentarian Thomson noted that this bill had been referred back to the Governance Committee from the April Meeting, and that a discussion of what was changed was included in the Consent Agenda.

Senator Portnoi asked what quorum is. Parliamentarian Thomson replied that it is 50% plus one vote.

Senator Pearson moved and it was seconded to introduce SB-1213-02, which reads as follows:

Whereas circumstances may arise that require expediency or flexibility of the governing body, and,

Whereas standard procedure may inhibit or delay necessary action, and,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article VII of the University of Delaware Graduate Student Government Bylaws be amended as follows:

Article VII: Bylaw Suspension

Section 1: Voting requirements

- (a) Any clause of the above Bylaws not in Articles I (Membership) or V (Removal) may be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the Senators present, as long as quorum is met.

Section 2: Procedure

- (a) The motion for suspension shall designate a limited time of suspension and specify the reason for the suspension.
- (b) All suspensions lapse at the end of each academic year.

There was no discussion, and the bill passed.

Resolution: Reimbursement of Prescription Medication

Senator Reid motioned and it was seconded to introduce SR-1213-04, which reads as follows:

Whereas student health is essential to academic and professional success, and,

Whereas some prescriptions can involve significant out-of-pocket expenses, and,

Whereas prescriptions are currently reimbursed through the mail with an extended time delay;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Graduate Student Government encourages the University of Delaware and the Office of Risk Management to pursue future revisions to the student prescription plan that eliminates or minimizes out-of-pocket expenses.

Vice Provost Richards raised a point of information: the discussion involves more than the Office of Risk Management; the Student Health Center is involved also. Student Health Services' management of prescription products is complicated, and it is currently looking into this issue. He suggested that the scope of the resolution be extended.

Senator Pearson moved and it was seconded to amend the resolution to include "Student Health Services".

Senator Rice asked whether this reimbursement covers out-of-pocket expenses or the amount that insurance does not cover. Reimbursement covers out-of-pocket expenses. She also asked whether it covers any prescriptions filled at Student Health Center. Senator Lazo replied that the problem is solved for students filling prescriptions at the Student Health Center, but it is not solved for students filling prescriptions at outside pharmacies. Vice Provost Richards clarified that Student Health Services is still intimately involved because it is paying out-of-pocket expenses first. Senator Rice suggested that "out-of-pocket expenses" be made clearer.

The amendment passed.

Senator Rice suggested wording to say “the University of Delaware and the Office of Risk Management and Student Health Services and any other affiliated entities,” and that the Senate specify that it is concerned about the initial out-of-pocket expenses of prescriptions being reimbursed through the mail and not the co-pay.

Senator Brodie moved to amend the second whereas clause to read, “Whereas some prescriptions cannot be filled at the university dispensary and therefore can involve significant out-of-pocket expenses”.

Vice Provost Richards stated that that cannot be done. He suggested the wording, “so that the out of pocket expense is limited to the co-pay”. He clarified that Student Health Services bills insurance directly so that the student only pays the co-pay. At an outside pharmacy, the student must pay the whole price upfront and then be reimbursed.

Senator Brodie withdrew his amendment, and moved to insert “limit initial out-of-pocket expense to the amount of the co-pay” after “prescription plan” and strike the rest of that sentence. The amendment passed.

The final wording of SR-1213-04 is as follows:

Whereas student health is essential to academic and professional success, and,

Whereas some prescriptions can involve significant out-of-pocket expenses, and,

Whereas prescriptions are currently reimbursed through the mail with an extended time delay;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Graduate Student Government encourages the University of Delaware, the Office of Risk Management, and Student Health Services to pursue future revisions to the student prescription plan so that the out-of-pocket expense is limited to the co-pay.

The resolution passed as amended.

Vice Provost Richards recommended that the Graduate Student Government consider inviting Dr. Tim Dowling, Director of Student Health Services, to attend a meeting and address this issue.

It was moved and seconded to close Senate Floor. Senate Floor was closed at 6:08 pm.

V. TRANSITIONING OF OFFICERS

The Executive Council recognized three members for service:

Sarah Markland, Chair of the Social Committee and previous Membership Officer, for her many years of dedicated service.

Marcos Portnoi, Senator for Linguistics, for his many years of dedicated service.

Alex Ames, for stepping up as Chair of the Events Committee.

The incoming officers who were present were sworn in:

Alex Razzook, President

Alex Ames, Vice President of Internal Affairs

Cesar Caro, Vice President of Student Affairs

Sharelle Law, Membership Officer

Isaac Harris, Parliamentarian

VI. PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

President Bonistall gave her final presidential remarks:

“It’s hard to believe that two years has come and gone and its now my turn to transition the new officers. I think it finally hit home when I was preparing the PowerPoint for tonight and realized that Chris had written “Emily Bonistall, Outgoing President.”

“When I gave my incoming Presidential Address in the September meeting of 2011, I set out my Presidential Agenda which had 6 major items on there: Constitutional changes, elections, counseling center, student fee, fitness/athletics, and grad student space. These were the things I had stewed over in the months before my term began and I’d highlighted them as the six major issues I wanted to make sure I addressed before I passed the gavel. At the end of my first year, I reevaluated and realized I hadn’t yet been able to complete all of them. So I ran for a second term, and I appreciate that y’all gave me another chance to finish my to do list.

“Here’s what I set out to do: Constitutional Changes. I wanted to add a requirement to have the minutes approved and published online, to amend the constitution to make us a Government instead of a Senate, to change the membership section so that all students were considered members, to enact a speaker of the senate/parliamentarian, to separate the constitution from the bylaws, to add verbiage for elections and an elections committee. All of these things, we have accomplished together.

“Regarding elections, I wanted to make sure we established online voting, and constituency elections of senators. This certainly wasn’t an easy implementation, but we have accomplished this together.

“The Counseling Center was something I thought was a major problem for us. Grad students have a 12 session maximum, they are often referred, and we are forced to pay into the center even if we aren’t or cant use the services. This is still a work in progress, but by serving on the search committee for the new Director of Student Health Services, I was able to bring these issues forward. Now we hope that, together with the new director, we can accomplish this.

“The Student Fee topic ended up being something that laid dormant during my presidency. The months leading up to my term, there was a lot of talk about the possibility of a student fee, which is why I put it on my presidential agenda. My goal was to make sure we had a voice at the table and that some of the money from the fee would be earmarked for the GSG budget. This hasn’t

happened, because a student fee hasn't come forth. But I strongly encourage next year's exec to keep this on their radar.

“Fitness and Student Health. This agenda point was purely motivated by selfish reasons. I was so sick and tired of waiting for one of five treadmills for the 20,000+ students on this campus. The athletics center fee presented the perfect opportunity for us to work together with Jake to discuss grad student needs in the athletics center. This is something I know Alex will be continuing as we move into next year. So regarding fitness, and treadmill frustrations, we have worked together to accomplish this.

“The final point on my agenda was grad student space. And, well, need I say more than BLUE AND GOLD CLUB? Thanks to Charlie, and Jim, and Dr. Martin, this is certainly a point on the agenda that we accomplished together.

“Nothing that the GSG has done over the last two years has happened alone, and so I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped to make the GSG such a success. Without the support of the Senators, the Officers, and the OGPE, none of this would have been possible. I want to first thank all of the senators for serving in the role you do. The feedback loop from your constituents to the GSG to the administration is so important, and I appreciate that you take time out of your busy lives to help make students lives better. Thank you to all of the members at large and the committee chairs who help to put on all of the amazing events and advocate for students issues. Heather, you've stepped into unknown territory by being our first ever parliamentarian. Thank you for helping to guide us through the ridiculously confusing path of Robert's Rules. To my executive council – thank you for everything. I thought I might cry if I tried to talk about each of you up here, so I wrote you personal notes. Just know that I owe any success of the GSG to you, I love each of you and am so grateful for your hard work, dedication, and friendship. Even though he isn't here, I want to thank Charlie for his continued support and advocacy for graduate students. And thank you to Jim for continuing the support and mentorship this semester. The GSG is lucky to have you in the grad office. I also wanted to thank my adorable boyfriend who has probably attended more GSG meetings than many of senators (even though he isn't a student). He's the one who knows most about what the GSG has meant to me (and taken of me) over the last two years, so thank you to Ryan for your love and support. To Dr. Martin—you are truly a treasure on this campus. You have been so supportive, such an amazing mentor, you've helped me to grow as an individual, a leader, a manager, and a scholar. One of the best ways the GSG has influenced my life is through your mentorship. Finally, one last general thank you to all of you for entrusting me with the honor of serving as President.

“Okay. With all of that mushy stuff out of the way, I'm ready to pass the reigns over to Alex and next year's Executive Council. I'm so excited to see how next year unfolds and to see the direction that you take the GSG. We urge you to continue building positive relationships, putting on awesome programs, and advocating for grad students. If you do those three things, the GSG will continue to be a success.”

President Razzook gave his first presidential remarks:

“I'd first like to thank President Bonistall, her executive team, and the Senators for their leadership and contributions these past two years. I'm honored and humbled to have been elected as the next President of the Graduate Student Body for the University of Delaware. We have an historic opportunity over the next year to shape the graduate student experience and help steer the University as we strive to create a new model for collaboration and partnership. We Blue-Hens, are people who work together, innovate and succeed.”

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Ames announced that more volunteers are needed for the Graduate Forum throughout the day, including a Moderator in the 1:15-2:05 pm time slot.

Vice President Caro announced that more volunteers are needed for the Dumpster Detour project on May 22-24. Anyone interested in volunteering can email Parliamentarian Thomson. Volunteer duties include sitting at a table to receive donations, and students over age 25 can drive the truck; there will be no heavy lifting.

External Committee Member Report: Newark City Council Representative

Jessica Graham submitted the following report to the Senate:

Community engagement means facilitating an ongoing, two-way dialogue.

Graduate Student Senate	← →	City of Newark Mayor & Council
Graduate Student Committees	← →	City of Newark Committees, Boards & Staff
Graduate Student Body & GSOs	← →	City of Newark Residents/Businesses/Orgs

Background Research: to be submitted to Student Life Committee for May meeting completed to date:

- environmental scan, SWOT analysis
- identification of key stakeholders, mapping graduate student body stakeholders
- mission/vision statements & goal-setting
- underway:
- mapping City stakeholders (City staff, elected & appointed officials, City residents)
- 2013-14 timeline / critical path

Outreach work completed to date: input on messaging collected from Student Life Committee.

Outreach work underway:

- General Messaging: Question for the Senate: what general image/perception do you want City staff, elected/appointed officials, and residents to have of the graduate student BODY and the graduate student senate?
- Specific Messaging: Question for the Senate: whom should the GSS task with providing messaging on specific topics such as
 - Environmental/conservation concerns
 - Charitable/community development issues and projects
 - Planning, zoning – what gets built where
 - Economic development – which businesses locate here, which jobs are available
 - Transportation, transit, and thoroughfares
 - Legal issues (alderman's court)
 - Landlord / tenancy / building code issues
- Message Vehicles: Question for the Senate: who should be involved in the conversation about graduate student off-campus outreach & communications? Communications Committee? Graduate Office? Others?

Upcoming, May – August 2013:

- Finish stakeholder mapping & messaging
- The Methods mix: choosing how to communicate – the viral grapevine, enlisting champions or partner organizations, using the peer influence pyramid, etc. etc.

- Troubleshooting
- Campaign structure, Events, and useful Technologies.
- September: Community Engagement Plan to be presented to Student Life Committee and Senate, then implemented.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
Graduate Student Government Secretary