

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Public Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

II.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on Internal Affairs committee reports.

Communications Committee – Stephanie Luff (sluff@udel.edu)

- a. Registration flyer developed and released via Grad Ambassadors e-mail and GSG website
- b. Design of Forum program underway
- c. VIP Forum invitations under second revision; will be released soon
- d. Committee is developing graphic materials for use in Speakeasy décor/publicity
- e. Style guide compilation is underway
- f. Substantial progress has been made on the website; contact Stephanie Luff to offer feedback or contribute to the “Resources” page
- g. Centralized calendar logistics are still under development; we hope to roll something out by end of semester

Events Committee – Joe Brodie (jbrodie@udel.edu)

- a. Registration link now open: <http://tinyurl.com/GradForum2014-StudentReg>
- b. Committee divided papers into the following sessions:
 - i. Being First in Research on Delaware
 - ii. Infrastructure Studies—Keeping Society Moving
 - iii. Language and Multicultural Research
 - iv. Life Science and Technology
 - v. Macroscopic Health Research
 - vi. Museums, Material Culture, and the Interdisciplinary Study of Everyday Life
 - vii. Molecular-Scale Health and Nanomedicine
 - viii. Discovering Our Oceans
 - ix. Engineering and the Mathematical and Physical Sciences
 - x. Plant Research and Applications Across Disciplines
 - xi. Multidisciplinary Research About Vulnerable Populations
 - xii. Renewable Energy Policy and Technology
- c. Committee has developed presentation order for each session

- d. Plenary Session student speakers selected in dialogue with OGPE; more information available soon
- e. Student Session Chairs tentatively identified for all sessions; Chairs responsible for approaching potential Faculty Moderators
- f. Committee will work with OGPE to identify and invite special guests

Social Committee – Gabrielle Vicari (gvicari@udel.edu)

- a. Last Social Event of Year- Graduate Student Night at University Museums
 - i. Thursday, May 1, at 6:30 PM (immediately following Provost meeting)
 - ii. Tour of “Faces” exhibition led by Dr. Janis Tomlinson, Director of UD University Museums. More info: <http://www.udel.edu/museums/oldcollege.html>
 - iii. Event is free and will NOT include food; group will retire to The Speakeasy after event
 - iv. Limited attendance (RSVP only); expect promotional digital flyer soon
 - v. Seen as “pilot project” to test feasibility of museum Gala next year (see below)
- b. Speakeasy Decoration
 - i. 42 historic images purchased from Hagley and Winterthur Museums
 - 1. All relate directly to Prohibition/Speakeasy theme
 - 2. 20 selected by committee for immediate framing/display
 - 3. Rest will be alternated in/used for other publicity
 - 4. Detailed captions for all images written
 - 5. In process of printing/framing
 - ii. Following their display, committee will start searching for 3D objects
- c. Working with students in Center for Historic Architecture & Design to create appealing backings for didactics and image captions
- d. Proposed Programming for 2014/2015 Academic Year
 - i. Saturday, July 19, 2014: GSG Day at the Beach (rain date Saturday, July 26)
 - ii. Friday, August 15, 2014: Graduate Student Night at the Ballpark: Baseball Game and Fireworks with the Wilmington Blue Rocks (rain date Friday, August 29)
 - iii. Thursday, September 12, 2014, 5:00 – 9:00 PM: Graduate Student Meet & Greet at The Speakeasy, 44 Kent Way
 - iv. Friday, October 10 OR 17, 2014: Graduate Student Gala with UD Museums
 - 1. PROGRESS: UD Museums Curator of Education Ivan Henderson discussed the possible collaboration between GSG and UD Museums in Museum staff meeting on Monday, April 7. Outcomes of that discussion TBD.
 - v. Friday, November 14, 2014: Graduate Student Meet & Greet at The Speakeasy, 44 Kent Way
 - vi. Thursday, December 5, 2014, 4:30 – 9:00 PM: UD Night @ Yuletide at Winterthur
 - 1. PROGRESS: Senate meeting may be held at Winterthur prior to the evening event, in first effort to move Senate meetings to other UD “campuses”; Social Committee will confirm feasibility
 - vii. Friday, January 9, 2015, 5:00 – 9:00 PM Graduate Student Meet & Greet at The Speakeasy, 44 Kent Way
 - viii. February ___, 2015: Some type of professional development event related to the Graduate Student Forum (crafting a conference abstract submission, writing a conference paper, networking skills, etc.)

- ix. March 6, 13, or 20, 2015:
 - 1. Graduate Student Meet & Greet at The Speakeasy, 44 Kent Way
 - 2. Followed by Graduate Student Evening at the Theatre (collaboration with the UD Resident Ensemble Players), performance of *Juno and the Paycock* by Irish playwright Sean O'Casey
- x. April __, 2015: Graduate Student Forum
- xi. May __, 2015: Graduate Student Meet & Greet at The Speakeasy, 44 Kent Way

II.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on Student Affairs committee reports.

Diversity Committee – Holly Johnson (hollylyn@udel.edu) & Katie Minker (kminker@udel.edu)

- a. Continue to work on getting the G.O.O.D. report ready for release
 - i. Looking into methods for valuable feedback after the report is released
- b. Event planning for the Rep Your Culture event
 - i. Create forms for participation
 - ii. Design flyer – will be going out shortly to promote event
- c. Wikipedia Edit-a-thon: Colored Conventions Project
 Meetup/University of Delaware/April 2014 Colored Conventions
 Saturday, April 26th, in the ISE Lab, Room 410.
 Workshop 11-12. LUNCH Edit-a-thon 12-4 pm

Student Life Committee – Akisha Jones (jakisha@udel.edu) & Nick Levy (nicklevy@udel.edu)

Public Safety: A team of 4 GSG members will participate in the Safety Walk the evening of Monday, April 7th to provide graduate student insight on safety concerns.

Public Safety Liaison: Brian Gildemeyer will be our Public Safety Liaison, providing us relevant information from the Public Safety office and a graduate voice in Public Safety affairs.

Housing: Rachel Zimmerman thankfully updated a growing housing list we borrowed from the EGA. We are still working on getting this information sent out to incoming students and on our website as a resource for all graduate students.

Sustainability Committee – Anthony Cario (acarrio@udel.edu) & George Honchar (honchar@udel.edu)

Moving ahead with Dumpster Detour planning; settled on date ranges and came up with a flyer to distribute to parents and dorms

Earth week is coming up!! Be sure to attend the various events, including the expo.

Rediscussed the TDC project after several concerns were brought forward to the committee, but would like to know feelings of the GSG before making any kind of statement. Not clear what

paths are open to us for altering current plans

There is a cross-campus working group still pursuing an Office of Sustainability that is reaching out to RSO's and more broadly for support. Key challenge is securing funding

Faculty Senate Student Life Committee

Reviewed and passed the lower and upper division plans for Residence Life -- these describe the policies and programming for the dorms in the next academic year.

It was pointed out by Res Life that there will be more of an effort to connect with diversity related topics by keeping close ties to admissions and making sure there are discussions of cultural relativism included in the programming, particularly including the diverse and international subpopulations of the incoming class.

An undergrad member of the committee suggested adding in the future peer mediators/counselors to the resources as a means of retention. Res Life said they liked the idea and would look into it and talk to Counseling Services about what that system would look like.

II.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on the Elections committee report.

Elections Committee – Hetty Nie (htnie@udel.edu)

Officer Elections

- Held Special elections meeting
- Conducted voting
- Reported results
 - President: Chris Castillo
 - Vice President of Internal Affairs: Joseph Brodie
 - Vice President of Student Affairs: Akisha Jones
 - Secretary : Jane Wessel
 - Membership Officer : Amanda Hughey
 - Parliamentarian : Isaac Harris

Senator Elections

- Met with Dr. Martin's office to arrange for distribution
- Received shared inbox (gsg-nominations@udel.edu) for receiving nominations
- Developed Qualtrics survey template
- Currently on time according to the predefined timeline
 - Nominations : April 7th - April 14th
 - Campaigning : April 14th - April 18th
 - Voting : April 18th - April 25th

II.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on external committee reports.

Tobacco-Free Advisory Committee – Chris Castillo (castillo@udel.edu)

Based on feedback from Senators (on behalf of their constituents), the GSG administered a survey of the graduate student body to formally gauge opinion on the proposed Tobacco-Free

Campus Policy. The response rate is a bit more than 10%, comparable to the response rate for the corresponding undergraduate survey administered last year. The opinion seems to be generally in favor of a tobacco-free campus, but somewhat less supportive of the policy as it is written. There were multiple concerns raised about enforcement/enforceability of the policy, the inclusion of electronic cigarettes in the ban, and the university restricting individual freedoms. I forwarded the summary of results to Tom LaPenta, Chief Human Resources Officer and head of the advisory committee, and Deni Galileo, President of the Faculty Senate.

The Tobacco-Free Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, April 2. I shared the results of the survey with the committee members, and they seemed appreciative for the data and the feedback.

The committee acknowledged a need for ample signage to inform the campus community of the policy and of the campus boundaries. It was clarified that the policy will be a Facilities policy, which does not require Faculty Senate approval. Facilities policies typically do not include provisions for their own enforcement; rather, the policy is enforced among various campus populations (students, faculty, staff) through the usual procedures for enforcing policies.

The policy has been forwarded to the President's Executive Committee for final approval at its April 21 meeting.

Faculty Senate – Akisha Jones (jakisha@udel.edu) & Louis Awad (louawad@udel.edu)

March 24. Tobacco-Free Campus Policy: Much discussion took place with some concerns presented. From this discussion, GSG surveyed students with their thoughts about the policy and its implications. Survey results were sent out to GSG members and shared with the policy advisory board.

April 7. The following graduate programs were approved: PhD in Climatology; MA in Childhood Foreign Language Education and several accompanying 4+1 programs; 4+1 BS/MA and BS/MS in Economics. It was also moved to establish a Faculty Senate committee to scientifically investigate the impact of the proposed power plant on the STAR campus, and for the university to postpone any final decisions until the report has been presented and the Faculty Senate has made an official statement on the issue.

Faculty of Arts & Sciences Senate – Stephanie Luff (sluff@udel.edu)

In March, The College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate had its first meeting since December. The main focus of the meeting was program changes. The following graduate programs were altered:

- Biology MS/PhD, both concentrations (Cell & Organ Systems, Molecular Biology & Genetics)
- Biotechnology Certificate & PSM (through Biology Department)

- Request for permanent status of MS in Fashion & Apparel (Fashion & Apparel Studies Department)

For more information on the details of these changes, please check

http://www.cas.udel.edu/faculty-senate/Pages/20140317_cas_faculty-senate-agenda.aspx

Library Committee – Rachel Zimmerman (rachelz@udel.edu)

The main topic of discussion was plans for trying to raise interest in Open Access. Faculty (and I would assume graduate students as well) who have published articles will be encouraged to add those publications to an Open Access platform. This will allow people from all over the world to have free access to our publications without needing costly subscriptions to journals. The publications will be directly available to download from any search engine (Google, Bing) rather than needing access to databases. The library will, of course, make sure that we are allowed to make our publications available according to the original publishers' regulations.

At this point, the faculty senate and library staff just want grad students and faculty to start thinking about this and talking amongst ourselves. They have a hard time communicating with the faculty at large, so they need grad students to talk to our advisors and professors about how such a platform would allow our publications to be viewed by a broader scholarly community.

We also discussed how successful the new Friday and Saturday evening hours have been. The members were interested in extending the hours even later than 10pm on those nights. I would love to hear from grad students whether they would benefit from the library staying open past 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

I would also like to know whether grad students use the Library Commons (the space with the vending machines and cafe).

II.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no questions on Organizational Delegate reports.

Black Graduate Student Association – Roddel Remy (roddel@udel.edu)

Roddel Remy gave a recap of the events the BGSA has had over the last few months. He talked a little bit about the community service event that cleaned up a men's dormitory at the Sunday Breakfast Mission in Wilmington and the BGSA social event located at the Speakeasy. Some of the upcoming events include a Student Body meeting in Pearson Hall directly after the GSG general meeting, along with another community service event on Saturday, April 12 in Pennsylvania. Please contact mjohn@udel.edu if you are interested in attending.

Sociology Graduate Council – Emily Bonistall (ejb@udel.edu)

Senator Bonistall briefly informed the GSG body of an event on Friday, April 18 regarding minority students in higher education. If you are interested please contact her for more information.

III. OPEN FLOOR

Discussion: GSG Diversity Committee Report

Senator London, a member of the GSG Diversity Committee, explained that the Diversity committee report was going to come before the Senate on the Senate floor in order for the report to be passed and finalized. Once it gets the final approval, it will be disseminated to the necessary groups in order to spread awareness. There were no additional questions or comments about the report.

Discussion: Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

President Castillo briefly described the survey results that were collected from the graduate student opinion poll with about 65% of respondents supporting, in principle, a tobacco-free campus.

Parliamentarian Harris asked about the actual punishment and enforcement associated with the policy. President Castillo said they are not listed explicitly in the policy but the appropriate governing body on campus will handle disciplinary action. The bottom line is to educate the campus about campus lines and to self-enforce the policy during the initial phase of implementation.

Two additional questions were asked. The first question was about the ashtrays outside of the buildings sending mixed messages while the second asked if hookah was banned on campus as well as tobacco. President Castillo was not entirely sure about the answer to the first question but mentioned that there is definitely awareness about the question asked. He responded to the second question by saying that it is banned since it is a tobacco-related product.

Presentation: Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon

Jim Casey, a co-organizer of the event, gave a few words describing the event to the GSG. He explained that he was trying to spread the word and recruit new members for the Saturday, April 26 event. Attendees of the event include members from the History and English departments along with various faculty/staff from the library. He purpose of this event is to make articles less bias towards white, European males. The only way to fix Wikipedia is by the general public and this event is an opportunity to make Wikipedia more diverse.

Public Comments and Concerns

April 21 is when the tobacco-free campus policy will be voted on but the policy will not be enacted until July 1, which allows for time to figure things out logistically. The overall goal is to have this policy implemented by the fall semester.

Senator Bonistall suggested the need for heavy communication to inform people so they are not surprised about changes when they return back to campus after the summer. This will allow students the time to make any necessary adjustments over the summer.

A fellow graduate student asked President Castillo if it would be possible for the Office of Graduate and Professional Education to provide travel support for professional conferences,

rather than just academic ones, where students are not presenting but want to network. Dr. Martin was able to provide a little more information regarding this question. She said it would ideally be a good idea but OGPE might become overwhelmed with so many applications. She said there would also need to be a separate pool of money, which would have to be separate from the Professional Development Fund. However, this option has never really been discussed before.

Senator Bonistall also thanked everyone for taking the survey and suggested posting on the GSG website telling other graduate students to contact the GSG if they are interested in seeing the results. This would make it so that the results would not have to be approved by the Senate since they already happened. It would be a good idea to post the results somewhere where people can see them. The GSG did not have any objections to posting the tobacco policy survey results on the GSG website.

IV. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Harris opened the Senate Floor at 6:05 pm and announced that the quorum of 21 Senators was met with 26 Senators present.

Old Business

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from March 13. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

New Business

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Diversity Report. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Senator Bonistall thanked the Diversity Committee for all their hard work and time in drafting this document.

There was no legislation from the floor, and the Senate Floor closed at 6:09 pm

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. GSG Meetings: regularly the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in 127 Memorial Hall
 - i. May 1 – Provost visit; no business (mandatory); will be held at 5:00 pm
 - ii. May 8
- b. Fourth Annual Graduate Student Forum: Wednesday, April 23 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm
 - i. Registration online at <http://tinyurl.com/GradForum2014-StudentReg>
 - ii. Registration closes April 18
 - iii. The Keynote Address is at 1:00 pm
 - iv. The goal is to have 300 people attend the event

- c. President's Luncheon (for Senators, Proxies, Committee Chairs/Co-chairs, and Officers): Monday, May 5 at noon at the President's House
 - i. Look for a formal email to RSVP the event
 - ii. Ideally the GSG wants to send both incoming and outgoing Senators
- d. Ag Day festivities are Saturday, April 26 on South Campus
- e. Rep Your Culture Event is also April 26 (look for an email from the Diversity Committee)
- f. May 1 at 6:30 pm there will be a Gallery Tour at the University Museums after the meeting with the Provost
- g. Senator nominations are now open, so please encourage people to nominate themselves or their colleagues. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday April 16 at 11:59 pm.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gildemeyer
Graduate Student Government Secretary