

GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Public Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

II. GUEST SPEAKERS

TA Resources – Kevin Guidry (krguidry@udel.edu)

Kevin Guidry came to the GSG May meeting from the Center for Teaching and the Assessment of Learning. He briefly described some of the available resources for graduate TAs and explained that the Center for Teaching and the Assessment of Learning will be hosting two courses for teaching and learning in higher education. Likewise, some of the other resources available included faculty development consultations and resources. Some of the things that the Center has under consideration include a 3-day course workshop for graduate students and faculty members, monthly TA workshops for graduate students only, and weekly “Teaching Talks.” If you have any questions the Center is located in 212 Gore Hall.

Health Insurance Update – Dr. Mary Martin (marym@udel.edu)

Dr. Martin, the Associate Vice Provost, gave the GSG a brief update regarding health insurance. She said that the University has a new provider for insurance along with the ability to provide prescription cards. Likewise, premiums will go down and the coverage will go up to 2 million dollars. The fee is mandatory for all full-time students but can be waived if needed. The sooner you enroll the better off you will be.

III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on Internal Affairs committee reports.

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

- a. Style guide under development and available for viewing by senators soon
- b. More detailed report on committee’s work under preparation
- c. Committee is creating a graphic to be used in Speakeasy publicity and will assist in process of displaying more historic images

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

- a. Online evaluation distributed to Forum presenters and attendees this week
- b. Over 300 people registered for the event, including a larger number of faculty and administrators than past years
- c. While overall, it was highly successful, experience gained will be used for planning and improving of next year's Forum
- d. Remaining supplies (namebadges, lanyards) will be re-used next year
- e. Thanks to all who helped make the Forum a success, especially committee members and event volunteers
- f. Planning for Graduate Student Forum 2015 begins this summer! Please consider joining the Events Committee to help us make the next one an even bigger success!

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

- a. Graduate Student Night at University Museums
 - i. Success—attended by 13 graduate students
 - ii. Hour-long tour of “Faces of the Collection” exhibit with curator/Director of UD Museums Janis Tomlinson followed by viewing of show and drinks at Speakeasy
 - iii. UD Museums looks forward to collaboration on Gala; Committee will meet with Museum staff soon
- b. Graduate Student Night at the Wilmington Blue Rocks
 - i. Friday, August 15, 2014, 7:05 PM
 - ii. 20 tickets on reserve; can increase number as date approaches
 - iii. Tickets will cost \$10 per person, available to graduate students and their guests
- c. Yuletide at Winterthur
 - i. Negotiations still underway with Winterthur staff re: date and nature of event (probably Wednesday, December 4 or Thursday, December 5)
 - ii. Once date is determined, committee will work with OG&PE and Alumni Relations on marketing and publicity plan

III.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)

Rep Your Culture event was successful, but less turnout than hoped for. Currently thinking ahead to fall, beginning the planning for next year. Coming up with ideas for advocacy-related activities considering our new role in light of the programming resource that is the Diversity Working Group.

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

Safety Walk. Thank you to all who attended the Safety Walk. During the safety walk we were able to identify areas in the Pearson Lot and other areas around campus where safety or lighting was a concern. Graduate student presence was welcomed and encouraged in the future. Graduate students are encouraged to follow UD Police efforts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofDelawarePolice>, on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/udelpolice>, or on their website <http://www.udel.edu/police/>.

Student Health Services Parking. Two parking spaces were designated for students in the Student Health Services parking lot allowing students to park for free for 45 minutes.

Recreation Services Representative. Still looking for representative to work with Recreation Services. Hope to use this representative to support offerings and initiatives for graduate students.

The next Student Life meeting will be Tuesday, May 13 at 5:00 pm at The Speakeasy.

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

Several people have contacted the committee about the TDC project on-campus. We welcome additional information on the subject to be presented to us.

Third Annual Dumpster Detour will be taking place the weekend of May 20th. Need volunteers to help move items into trucks for 2-3 hour shifts. Please sign-up to help volunteer!

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on the Elections or Governance Committee reports.

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

The following students were elected as Senators for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Xiaobing Wang, Accounting
Tianhang Gao, Agricultural & Resource Economics
Emily Rebmann, American Material Culture
Pat Spaninger, Animal and Food Sciences
Tyler Sossong, Applied Physiology
Spencer Wigmore, Art History
Stephanie Luff, Biological Sciences
Federico Pozzi, Biomechanics & Movement Sciences
Hetty Nie, Biomedical Engineering
Gursatya Singh Algh, Biotechnology
Shuangyi Lin, Business Administration
Megan Smithmyer, Chemical Engineering
Joseph Smith, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Hadi Al-khateeb, Civil Engineering
Kristen Maggio, Communication

Vishnu Vardhan Chittamuru, Computer Science
Laura Whittaker, Economics Education
Andrea Drewes, Education
Anagha Kulkarni, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kelsea Schumacher, Energy & Environmental Policy
Matthew Rinkevich, English
Holly Johnson (Walker), Entomology & Wildlife Ecology
Rokeshia Ashley, Fashion and Apparel Studies
Jim Dessicino, Fine Arts
Anna Ogunnaike, Foreign Languages
Janice Hudson, Geography
Katherine Deinert, Health Promotion
Meg Hutchins, Historic Preservation
Anastasia Day, History
Anna Brousell, Human Development & Family Studies
Karen Solecki, Human Nutrition
Ankit Kamath, Information Systems & Technology Management
Hao Fu, International Business
Justin Rill, Linguistics & Cognitive Science
Veronique Oldham, Marine Studies
Nick Kaufman, Mathematics
Patricia Lewis, Nursing
Andrew Fortner, Physical Therapy
Ramesh Koirala, Physics
Mark Anthony Rucci, Public Administration
Sara Helm Wallace, Public Horticulture
Brandie Pugh, Sociology
Mandy Thomas, Teaching English as a Second Language
Adria Buchanan, Urban Affairs & Public Policy
Frances Bothfeld, Water Science and Policy

There were ties in the races for Art History and Physics that are currently being resolved.

Governance Committee – Isaac Harris (iharris@udel.edu)

The governance committee has drafted legislation to handle the issue of our elections committee. The system we have in place now is to establish the elections committee about half way through the academic year to run the officer and senator elections. Since the work of putting together the elections has proved to be quite time consuming it was proposed to make the elections committee a standing committee. By making this change we need an officer that manages the committee as we do for our other standing committees. We have put the elections committee under the Membership officer, but with this expansion of duties we believed that the title of the position should be changed to “Vice President of Membership”. While looking through our governing documents we also noticed that the governance committee was not technically a standing committee. We have also proposed making the governance committee a official standing committee. The legislation for this meeting addresses these issues. Making these changes would mean amending our Constitution and By-laws, which needs a 3/4 majority to do 3(for constitutional amendments).

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on external committee reports.

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

While not directly impacting graduate students now, anyone going into academia should follow this fascinating story: there is current discussion between administrators and faculty about renaming titles for continuing non-tenure track (CNTT) faculty. Most of the faculty in the CAS senate was opposed, with justifications provided by the CNTT caucus:

I. We dare to be first by allowing teaching, training, research, and service faculty to have titles, pay, and sabbaticals equivalent to TT faculty. Such equity shows that UD values both its research and its teaching and training mission.

II. Hyphenated titles for professors are euphemisms for “not real professors” and implies that teaching or service is less important. The tags will add confusion for students and parents, who want classes taught by real professors. The morale of current CNTT faculty has already declined with repeated efforts to implement inequitable policies.

III. In the past, we recruited and retained excellent scholars into all faculty roles because the titles are respectful and appropriate. By creating a second class of faculty, the titles limit the professional development of new faculty, who will be judged on and bound by only one of three roles.

IV. According to colleagues in BISC and the College of Engineering, when a funding agency sees that an investigator has the title of “Research Assistant Professor” the review panel concludes that the investigator must be a) a postdoc or b) not significantly supported by their institution. Review panels use such minor points as reasons to score proposals lower.

Diversity and Equity Commission – Chris Castillo (castillo@udel.edu)

The Diversity and Equity Commission had its final meeting of the academic year on April 28. I presented a summary of the Diversity Committee’s GOOD report and made the report available on the DEC Sakai site for all members. The meeting primarily consisted of reports from the various “caucuses” that have representation on the commission.

LGBT. There seems to be some interest in forming a graduate student organization equivalent of Haven, the LGBT organization for undergraduates. Points of interest for graduate students are as follows.

African Heritage. The caucus expressed concern about support on campus for graduate students of color.

Religious Life. Kosher dining will be included as part of the new dining hall currently under construction. The caucus is looking to identify space on campus for students to fulfill their spiritual needs (space for daily prayer, especially by groups); the nursing mother’s room in Hullahen Hall can be for this purpose.

Disability. A new director of the Office of Disability Support Services will start on June 1. The caucus is currently looking at a program to train disability allies (similar to LGBT allies).

Faculty Senate – Akisha Jones (jakisha@udel.edu)

A resolution was passed opposing the Data Center and accompanying Power Plant on South campus with the main reasons being environmental concerns and lack of support from the Newark community. This resolution passed with more than 40 supporting senate representatives. No senators opposed and approximately 8 officially abstained. More information can be found in the UDaily article: www.udel.edu/udaily/2014/may/faculty-senate-050714.html.

III.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 hosted since the last meeting, which included a student body meeting with four professors discussing how to have a successful summer without taking classes while making the most of summer hosted on May 1. Likewise, the BGSA's end of the semester dinner will be held soon with more details to follow.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

Discussion: Membership and Elections Amendments – Isaac Harris (iharris@udel.edu)

Parliamentarian Harris briefly explained the significance of the legislation that was going to be passed during the Senate floor. The legislation entailed making the elections committee a standing committee, changing the name of the Membership Officer to the Vice President of membership, and to suspend the By-Laws clause that restricts membership on more than one faculty Senate committee.

Presentation: Sustainability Office Proposal – Cesar Caro (ccaro@udel.edu)

Vice President Caro explained a little bit about the Sustainability Office Proposal and the progress that has been made since last spring. This Sustainability office would be a central location for faculty and students, which would bridge together all the environmental efforts amongst the various environmental groups across campus. Currently the University only has a Sustainability Task Force that is comprised of all volunteers. This proposal will be a pilot project for a few years with a coordinator in charge, and if the project is successful, will expand into an office on campus.

Public Comments and Concerns

Mosi London, the outgoing BGSA President thanked all the GSG members, proxies, senators, and executive members for all the hard work this year. He suggested more efforts to create more connections with outside Graduate Student Organizations on campus and explained a reason for membership in the GSG being low, which included the possibility of people shying away from

the structure and bureaucracy of the organization. He also suggested being more active in reaching out to the programs that don't have any senators and to do research on why they don't have senators.

V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Harris opened the Senate Floor at 7:00 pm and announced that the quorum of 23 Senators was met with 38 Senators present.

Old Business

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from April 10. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.

New Business

It was moved and seconded to approve the Slate of External Committee Representative Nominees:

Faculty Senate: Chris Castillo, Cesar Caro
Academic Appeals: Cesar Caro, Amanda Hughey
Coordinating Committee on Education: Keira Zhang
Cultural Activities & Public Events: Xinlei Wang
Diversity & Affirmative Action: Roddel Remy
General Education: Hadi Al-khateeb
Graduate Studies: Chris Castillo, Jane Wessel
International Studies: Sherry Yao
Library: Alex Ames
Student Life: Akisha Jones
College of Aerts & Sciences Faculty Senate: Stephanie Luff
Parking Appeals Board: Joseph Brodie
Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee: Joseph Brodie

There was no discussion and the Slate was approved.

The second piece of new business was the approval of the Membership and Elections Amendments:

Whereas the University of Delaware's Graduate Student Government is continually striving to update its governing documents in order to best serve its constituents, and,

Recognizing that the efficiency of the Elections Committee will be improved by designating it an official standing committee, and

Recognizing that members of the Elections Committee may later decide to run for elected office,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following sections of the University of Delaware Graduate Student Senate Constitution and By-Laws be changed as follows:

Constitution, Article III, section 1 (a), clause 2: include a new item h. Elections.

By-Laws, Article IV, section 2 (d): strike “An elections committee shall be formed by the January meeting.”

By-Laws, Article IV, section 1: strike current clause (c) and replace with: “The Elections Committee shall consist of four members. One member shall be the Vice President of Membership, who shall serve as Chair and a nonvoting member of the committee, and three voting members, who may be senators or members at large.”

By-Laws, Article IV, section 1: include a new clause (d): “A member of the Elections Committee must recuse himself/herself from committee activities pertaining to a particular office so that he/she may stand for election for that office.”

Whereas the University of Delaware’s Graduate Student Government is continually striving to update its governing documents in order to best serve its constituents, and,

Recognizing that the duties of the Membership Officer will now include all aspects of GSG membership, including elections, recruitment, and the members’ fulfillment of their duties,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The name “Membership Officer” be officially changed to “Vice President of Membership” with all references in the Constitution and By-Laws changed accordingly.

By-Laws, Article II, section 2 (a), clause 4: include a new item e. Chair the Elections Committee.

By-Laws, Article IV, section 1: strike clause (b).

Whereas the University of Delaware’s Graduate Student Government is continually striving to update its governing documents in order to best serve its constituents, and,

Recognizing that service on the Governance or Elections Committees requires effort equal to any other committee, and thus should count towards committee requirements,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The following section of the University of Delaware Graduate Student Senate By-Laws be changed as follows:

Amend By-Laws, Article II, section 3 (c), clause 7 by striking “one internal or student affairs committee” and replacing with “one standing committee”.

The motion to vote on all three amendments was moved and seconded. There was no discussion and the amendments passed.

There was no legislation from the floor, and the Senate Floor closed at 7:06 pm.

VI. TRANSITIONING

All the GSG Senators and Committee Chairs were recognized and thanked for their tremendous work this year.

The following citation was read to recognize Senator Stephanie Luff for outstanding service:

Be it known that the Graduate Student Government hereby recognizes Stephanie Luff for the following outstanding service rendered to the graduate students of the University of Delaware:

Her technical abilities in graphic design, creative vision for the brand identity of the GSG, and steadfast commitment to developing publicity materials on behalf of other GSG committees led to the successful planning and promotion of well-publicized events throughout the 2013-2014 academic year; and

She provided leadership well exceeding her responsibilities as Communications Committee Chair to have active roles in the implementation of virtually every other Internal Affairs-sponsored program; and

Her service extended far beyond the creation of promotional materials, with her facilitation of the GSG logo design demonstrating her thoughtfulness and leadership skills as she embraced the ideas and perspectives of a diverse array of GSG stakeholders in the development of the final product.

The following citation was read to recognize Senator Joseph Brodie for outstanding service:

Be it known that the Graduate Student Government hereby recognizes Joseph Brodie for the following outstanding service rendered to the graduate students of the University of Delaware:

His tireless work planning and implementing the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Forum proved absolutely essential to the phenomenal success of that event, unparalleled in its intellectual sophistication, high level of organization, and ubiquitous publicity, which, without his leadership, the GSG would have been unable to implement at the impressive scale of student participation and campus community notoriety that it achieved this year; and

His seasoned leadership skills and infectious enthusiasm ensured that the Events Committee became a model of well-functioning GSG committee work, resulting in the committee's laser-like focus on laying the groundwork for a successful Graduate Student Forum over the course of the entire academic year; and

He became active in many other GSG events, programs, and discussions, despite his tremendous responsibility as Events Committee Chair, contributing his valuable thoughts and perspectives at all levels of the organization.

The new executive officers were sworn in and the outgoing officers were thanked and recognized.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are a new executive member, please send Senator Luff your biography information.
Please sign up for Dumpster Detour, which starts May 21 and goes until Saturday, May 24.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gildemeyer
Graduate Student Government Secretary