

UD Graduate Student Government
October Public Meeting
October 10, 2013 | 127 Memorial Hall | 5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order & Welcome President Razzook**
- A. Presidential Remarks
 - B. Call for Representatives (External Committees)
- II. Introductions and Presidential Address President Razzook**
- A. Vice Provost James Richards
 - B. Assistant Provost Mary Martin
 - C. Dr. Dan Freeman
 - D. Bindu Kolli, Esq
- III. Membership Officer AnnouncementsSharelle Law**
- IV. Internal Affairs Committee Reports Vice President Ames**
- A. Social Committee..... Gabrielle Vicari
 - Gabrielle Vicari has been elected Chair of the Communications Committee.
 - Third Annual Graduate Student Gala:
 - The date, venue, and activity planned are all set. Performance of UD’s Resident Ensemble Players (REP) performance of the play *The Servant of Two Master’s* by Carlos Goldoni, on Friday, November 15th at 7:30pm
 - The performance will be followed by a wine and hors d’oeuvres reception with the possibility at the new Blue and Gold House.
 - The ticket price is set to be \$12 per UD graduate student (price includes \$2 United Way donation).
 - Seating is limited with only 150 tickets available. The reception is open to all graduate students.
 - The publicity of the event is being developed by REP on our behalf and will be available for distribution very soon.
 - If the event is a success, a long-term collaboration with REP will be possibly established.
 - UD Night @Yuletide at Winterthur
 - The event is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, from 5:30pm until 9:30pm.
 - The social committee has been approached by Winterthur Museum’s Curatorial Department about hosting a free workshop for UD students interested in learning about research and professional opportunities available at Winterthur immediately proceeding UD Night event. The workshop is no extra work for the committee and showcases strategies for future collaborations.
 - GSG Collaborations/Promotions
 - In addition to implementing pre-scheduled events, the social committee will follow models set by the Graduate Student Gala and Yuletide at Winterthur to assess other social activities offered by other organizations at UD and determine if and how the GSG could take advantage of those events through special collaborations and promotions.
 - The committee will prepare recommendations on possible organizations with which to collaborate presenting to the Senate as it plans future activities.
 - B. Events Committee.....Joseph Brodie
 - Joseph Brodie has been elected Chair of the Events Committee.
 - Dr. Susan Basalla May, daughter of UD Professor of History Emeritus Dr. George Basalla, has been approached to serve as the keynote speaker at the Graduate Student Forum on Wednesday, April 23, 2014. She has in essence agreed with the final details still in the process of being finalized. More of her biographical information can be found here:
<http://storbeckpimentel.com/team/principals/susan-basalla-may/>.
 - A Facebook group has been established for the Forum: <http://www.facebook.com/UDGradForum>
 - This is a joint collaborative effort between the events and communication committee.
 - A Twitter account for the forum also has been established: @UDGradForum

- The events committee and the communication committee are collaborating on creating a draft call for paper, poster, and creative project proposals.
 - The goal is to have a draft of the document prepared to share with UD graduate program directors at the first meeting of the academic year on October 11th.
- C. Communications Committee** Stephanie Luff
- Stephanie Luff has been elected Chair of the Communications Committee.
 - GSG Website Revamp:
 - Complications with transition from Word Press to Edublogs.
 - IT needs to approve widgets.
 - Temporary website up and running, changes to come soon.
 - GSG Stylebook
 - Goal: more cohesive representation of GSG through external publicity.
 - Concerns: Assuring proper adherence to UD stylebook and ensuring involvement and support of entire Senate in the process.
 - Approach: Check with current UD style guide and engage all parties in development process.
- V. Student Affairs Committee Reports**..... **Vice President Caro**
- A. Diversity Committee**..... Holly Johnson and Katie Minker
- Holly Johnson and Katie Minker were elected as Co-Chairs.
 - G.O.O.D panel on Diversity:
 - Need to review report and disperse to interested parties for feedback.
 - Need to figure out how to distribute and to advertise: GSO's, website, direct email to panelists, graduate office announcement.
 - Should present findings to Grad Student Senate, to the DEC, and to the Faculty Senate, as well as to all the deans.
 - Should announce results in a press release (UDaily) along with newly planned events for the various committees. This gives old accomplishments credence and context to new endeavors while allowing us to further publicize and follow up previous year's events.
 - Reach out to GSO's for multicultural event.
 - This is being done by the Diversity Working Group in the Grad Office which will call for collaborations.
 - Plan re-vamped for flagship end-of-year event.
 - This can, but doesn't need to be a reincarnation of last year's panel discussion, but should be entertaining new ideas on what we can do. This also can incorporate a more social component for example.
 - Need to decide how to collaborate with grad office (the new administration).
 - Need to decide the balance between social/advocacy based events.
- B. Student Life Committee**..... Akisha Jones & Nick Levy
- Akisha Jones and Nick Levy have been nominated as Co-Chairs.
 - Need a representative to sit on Parking Appeals Board. Currently Cesar Caro is the representative, but he can't make the meeting times.
 - Put a plan together for advocating and populating an advisory group for recreation services that includes graduate students. Ideas are needed for what graduate students want.
 - E. Tellez has volunteered to be the lead on the task of organizing the advocacy group for proposing this plan to Athletics and Recreation Services.
 - She suggested a campus-wide survey of graduate students to make sure we are adequately advocating on their behalf.
 - It was mentioned that the survey might be done in collaboration with Recreation Services.
 - Payroll Issues:
 - A. Jones brought up that FICA tax withholdings has been a repeated problem, with payroll being seemingly unhelpful with dealing with the issue.
 - Graduate Students provide the largest volume of processing, and they also require more frequent processing than other HR groups due to renewals or changes at least once per year.
 - It isn't clear how to proceed, but clearly something needs to be done.
 - Maybe GSG can pass a resolution expressing concern and displeasure. It must be made clear to payroll that even \$80 short on a paycheck can be a very significant burden on graduate students, who may have a different budget structure than other University employees.

- Safety:
 - A. Jones mentioned that the recent increase in safety alerts sent to students by the University is alarming and creates a feeling of being unsafe.
 - D. Karas pointed out that the University must send out these notices in compliance with federal regulation/guidelines.
 - C. Caro mentioned that the feeling of unsafe is perceptual, and might be due to people receiving individual messages rather than having a more obscure means of dissemination of some unvisited webpages.
 - The various committee members expressed that they did not necessarily see an increased police presence in the evening hours, despite being told of an increased police effort. However, it was mentioned that the boundaries of jurisdiction might play a role in this decreased perceived visibility of University police in problem areas. C. Caro mentioned both the University Police and Newark police have been pairing up in patrolling these problem areas.
- Some changes that committee members would like to see happen:
 - Stipend increase was the main concern. Some questions remain on how stipends are determined and how to receive more money. Similarly, the difference between departmental rates as well as the minimum stipend rates was discussed along with being set with the colleges' annual budgets.
 - There were questions regarding the history of the stipend amount in comparison to the cost of living in the area. An increase in total fee cost in comparison to stipend increase may reduce overall buying power, especially regarding living expenses.
 - The committee also brought up that there needs to be better communications with landlords and providers of housing in the area, along with better assistance and guidance for new graduate students seeking housing. The committee can put together a set of recommendations for the types of things to look for, possibly creating a site for students to share experiences specifically relating to housing.
 - Landlords and larger complexes also make uninformed decisions about pricing when aiming at graduate students, leading to undergraduates taking those spaces intended for different clientele. Other GSO's have been more involved in advising its students on housing. Maybe a collaboration is in order to establish guidelines or to establish a collective bargaining with landlords.
- C. Sustainability Committee.....George Honchar & Anthony Cario
 - Anthony Cario and George Honchar have been elected as Co-Chairs.
 - Grace Relf (an undergrad) has put together a study/proposal for a sustainability coordinator and a sustainability office on campus that is going to the Sustainability Task Force for review, which will be distributed to committee members soon for input.
 - C. Caro met with Becky Bronstein about planning the development and distribution of the plan from this point forward, but will be seeking GSG and SGA support after enough feedback is available from the various parties interested.
 - Need to review Dumpster Detour:
 - Need to review report and disperse amongst various interested parties. One suggestion was through a sustainability newsletter.
 - Need to figure out how we want to advertise and distribute the marketing of event.
 - Need to start planning for next year, set up budget and coordinate campaign for volunteers.
 - Need new lead for the Dumpster Detour Project – Nick Kaufman and Heather Thomson will be co-leaders.
 - Building efficiency survey- was devised last year but the target window for distribution was missed at the end of spring. Committee decided it would be best to wait until spring this year to send out so all the new people can experience the various building climates.
 - Heather Thomson clarified that that the lead for the Earth Week Expo is not a huge time commitment and there is already a committee in place, just a representative is essentially needed.
 - A. Cario will be in charge of logistics of staffing the table during the event.
 - Heather Thomson will be in charge of logistics for Sustainability Day volunteering.
 - Want to have some liaisons between various sustainability committees around campus. A. Goodman has some connections with undergraduate organizations; Ben Wallace will also liaise.

VI. Governance Committee.....Parliamentarian Harris

- Approval on September meeting minutes.
- Add Government Affairs Committee as an ad-hoc committee for the year.
- Appointments to External Committees Amendment.
- Safety and UD reputation solution.
- Other topics discussed:
 - Officer voting in elections
 - Payroll issues
 - What does it mean to say “majority?”

VII. External Committee Reports

- A. Government Affairs Committee (Pending) Jessica Graham
- B. Faculty Senate..... Senators Jones & Awad
- C. Diversity and Equity Commission..... President Razzook
- D. Parking Committee Nick Levy
- E. Organizational Delegates.....

VIII. Open Floor: Public Comments & Concerns..... President Razzook

- A. Open

IX. Senate Floor.....Parliamentarian Harris

- A. **Old Business**
 - Approval of the Minutes from September, 2013
- B. **New Business**
 - Government Affairs as an ad hoc committee
 - Safety Resolution
 - Bylaws amendment

X. Announcements..... President Razzook

- A. Finalize Faculty Senate Committee Representatives
 - Graduate Studies (Justin Rill and one more needed)
 - Library Committee (one opening)
 - Diversity and Affirmative Action Committee (one opening)
 - International Studies (one opening)
 - Student and Faculty Honors (one opening)
 - Instructional Computing and Research Support (one opening)
 - College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate Rep (one opening, must be from A&S)
- B. Third meeting Thursday, November 14th in 127 Memorial Hall. Social at 5:00pm, Meeting begins promptly at 5:30pm.
- C. Graduate Student Gala (November 15th) – reserve tickets here (limited supply):
<http://gradoffice.ticketleap.com/graduatestudent-gala/>

XI. Adjournment