

**UD Graduate Student Government**  
**March Public Meeting**  
**March 14, 2013 | 103 Gore Hall | 5:30 pm**

- I. Call to Order & Welcome ..... President Bonistall**
- A. Presidential Remarks**
- II. Internal Affairs Committee Reports ..... Vice President Ralston**
- A. Communications Committee ..... Alexandra Reid**
- Website updates:
    - The elections page is up and running.
    - The homepage and featured events pages have been updated to reflect campus events.
    - Important IRS and tax resources are listed under the Student Affairs heading.
    - There will be a redesign of the layout after spring break. Anyone interested in collaborating on this project should contact Alexandra Reid at [alexreid@udel.edu](mailto:alexreid@udel.edu).
- B. Events Committee ..... Amanda Barnard**
- Graduate Forum updates:
    - The event will be on May 10, 2013 from 11:45am to 6pm at the Center for the Arts.
    - A Call for Presentations was sent out with a deadline of March 31, 2013.
    - Registration will begin around April 8, 2013.
    - Program will include 8-minute talks, all of which are in one location.
    - There will be a reception from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.
- C. Social Committee ..... Sarah Markland & Maggie Nelan**
- The Eat and Great – Wine and Cheese Social was a success with over 50 people in attendance.
  - There will be an Impromptu Happy Hour on March 27 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Senators are encouraged to invite Senator nominees and others who are still in town during Spring Break.
  - There will be a South Campus Tour on April 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Events will include tours of dairy farm and botanical gardens and a visit to the UD Creamery. More information will be forthcoming.
- III. Student Affairs Committee Reports ..... Vice President Caro**
- A. Diversity Committee ..... Mosi London & Neda Moinolmolki**
- The committee has drafted a solicitation recruitment letter, which will be sent out to the student body.
  - The committee has selected the following final panel members: Margaret Anderson, Ismat Shah, James Jones, and Pamela Cook.
  - The committee has drafted a Panel Member Invitation Letter.
- B. Student Life Committee ..... Alex Razzook & Nick Levy**
- Resolution: graduate student taxes
    - Please continue promoting resources provided to your constituents
    - Stress getting refund in now before the sequester takes full effect to avoid delays in getting your refund
    - <http://sites.udel.edu/gsg/student-affairs/>
    - Contact Scott Berg ([shberg@udel.edu](mailto:shberg@udel.edu))
  - Issue: prescription reimbursements for the Graduate Student University Health Plan
    - Currently, students pay out of pocket for the maximum price of medications until reimbursed by the insurer
    - Example: Mary pays over a \$1000 monthly for insulin
    - This results in large fees, lack of cash flow and in a perpetual state of debt or loan (via credit card, loan, etc)
    - We met with Dr. Martin who is aware of this but there are no current plans to change this
    - Dr. Martin says the emergency graduate student loan mechanism (\$1000) is available for those facing imminent difficulties
    - Our team contacted University Health Plans and they do provide prescription cards, most commonly through express scripts so that students don't have to pay out of pocket first and then seek reimbursement (preserving cash flow for students)
    - The University's current plan expires in August 14. If we want to seek change to this program, we will need to build support for it (both from students and the administration) in time for a 2014 academic year implementation schedule.

- Issue: graduate student contracts and what they really mean
    - Funded RA's are expected to work 20 hours and we know that this can fluctuate between weeks
    - It's important for the graduate student to meet with the faculty member and discuss how these 20 hour week minimums are implemented and we recommend setting annual performance reviews per Dr. Martin's suggestion to clarify requirements
    - We met with Dr. Martin and found out that all graduate student contracts go through her office and thus she (and solely her) works as the Ombudsman on these contractual obligations interacting with the student and the faculty to reach resolution
    - We hope to include these suggestions and other tips and incorporate them as part of the new graduate student orientation program
  - Issue: Graduate Student Orientation
    - Orientation is an excellent opportunity to brief new graduate students to the student life options at the University
    - Also an excellent opportunity make connections and grow the GSG
    - Our committee is committed to working and directly supporting Dr. Martin's efforts in planning, coordinating and executing graduate student orientation
    - Our team is working to rethink how to ensure maximum department buy-in for these orientation efforts
  - Issue: increased collaboration with GSG Rep for Newark City Council (Jessica Graham)
    - Senator Graham documented a perception problem among city council leaders regarding graduate students as "transients"
    - The Student Life Committee is interested in collaborating very closely with the City Council to further our goal of creating a dynamic and vibrant community that highly educational/high income students don't want to leave
    - These concepts are important for supporting the Science Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) campus as well as for supporting a high tech business and labor infrastructure necessary to promote an innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem
    - As Chair, Senator Razzook will present at the next City Council meeting some of these concepts and possible ways our two groups could partner on some of the above concepts
  - Issue: athletic fee, \$100 annually to be implemented starting in the fall (\$240,000 in total fees)
    - We realize the time to influence implementation of this policy has passed
    - We are not striving to influence how those monies \$240k are used
    - Ideally, equipment, programs and facilities will be tailored to support graduate student needs
    - We would like to see a graduate student advisory committee that works to ensure graduate student health, fitness and leisure needs are best met with the fees
    - Thus, we know the fee is happening, the best we can do is try to steer the services (classes) and products (types of equipment) that the University will be providing with our fees
  - Issue: increased collaboration with RSOs/Club Sports/Health and Wellness
    - We are setting up meetings with key members and stake holders from the various entities to discuss further collaboration and integration when it makes sense to do so
    - Our team has also noted that no such programs exist for staff and faculty and thus we may see a unified solution so that everyone may benefit from the University's size and provide low cost/high opportunity programs and experiences for health, wellness and leisure activities here on campus (everybody wins)
  - Get Involved: Our next meeting will be Friday March 22 at 10:30 am. Contact Alex (arazzook@udel.edu, 202.330.9593) to get on the list.
- C. Sustainability Committee .....Anthony Cario
- Old Business
    - Dining Services: The committee hopes to write an editorial piece to inform the campus about what Dining Services is doing to reduce food waste and compost for the future. The committee also wants to create a resolution to send to the Governance Committee about these issues.
    - Building Survey: The committee is waiting to email the survey. It also anticipates writing an email and/or editorial piece to create buzz.
    - Dumpster Detour: The first operations meeting will take place soon. Anyone interested in attending should contact Cesar Caro at [ccaro@udel.edu](mailto:ccaro@udel.edu).
  - New Business
    - Earth Week: There will be a table set up the third week in April.

**IV. Governance Committee..... Parliamentarian Thomson**

- SR-1213-02: Commendation of Richard Rind

**V. External Committee Reports ..... President Bonistall**

**A. Newark City Council ..... Jessica Graham**

**B. Faculty Senate..... Marcos Portnoi & Akisha Jones**

- Remarks from Interim Provost Nancy Brickhouse:
  - 24,000 applications received; 3,800 new undergraduates expected to enter; Diversity continues to improve (underrepresented minorities and international students); Qualifications of honors students highest ever.
  - SGA: passed resolution for tobacco-free campus. Support from GSG and other student organizations. University is working on developing a tobacco-free policy; Rare student led effort on campuses; If GSG is completely in support of this, we should back up SGA with our own resolution, but there seemed to be large support among faculty.
  - Campus planning - collecting data on space utilization; Faculty survey on faculty collaborations across campus; Question about 10 or 15 minutes between classes. GSG should give their input on this.
- Coordinating Committee on Education
  - Hearing on Online education policy March 11 at 4pm in Gore 104.
  - Open hearing on "grade forgiveness". If student gets less than a C- on course, student can retake course. Previous grade remains on transcript, but if student gets a higher grade, that newer higher grade will be used to calculate GPA.
- Lots of discussion over a new Speech Pathology master's program; Expected 5 years of funding from Governors office, governor only agrees to 1.

**C. Diversity and Equity Commission..... Emily Bonistall**

- Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ> for a video summary of important discussions from the last meeting

**D. Parking and Transportation Committee..... Nick Levy**

- The bus to Pinebrook will be ending (I think the end of this semester). Richard Rind said he is fed up with them and they basically refuse to pay the school for having a bus stop.
- There will be more Pay-by-Phone meters installed as well as pay-by-credit card meters.
- Parking rates will go up for all passes next year, but only by a small amount.
- The nights and weekend pass will be available next year and will be slightly cheaper (~\$80).
- The current gold permit will be split into two zones. The lots near the little Bob and Cleveland Avenue will be turned into 'platinum pass' and will cost ~\$30 more/year than gold. These spots will potentially sell out and graduate students should be advised to purchase as soon as they are available if they want a platinum pass.
- There is money in the budget for more bike racks (including some covered bike racks). Richard Rind has asked for feedback from us as to where we would like to see more bike racks on campus.

**E. Organizational Delegates Updates**

**VI. Elections Update ..... Officer Dahl**

**A. Officer Elections**

- There will be a Special Elections Meeting on March 21, 2013 at 5:30 pm in Gore 103.
- Special Elections Meeting Rules for candidate speeches:
  - Speech time: Presidential & VP candidates will have up to 5 minutes to address the GSG with a speech. *\*Elections committee will hold up a 2 and 1 minute(s) 'warning' card to keep you within the 5 minutes\** Membership & Parliamentarian candidates will have up to 3 minutes to address the GSG. *\*Elections committee will be notified when there is 1 minute left\**
  - Q&A: Immediately following your speech, the floor will open for Q&A. Presidential & VP candidates will be allotted a maximum of 15 minutes for Q&A time, and all other candidates a maximum of 10 minutes, which of course, will depend on audience response (ie- If there aren't many questions from the crowd, you may not use a full 10/15 minutes). *\*Elections committee will have a 'last call' question if we near the segment minute limit\** As for the audience, individuals will be permitted 1 question during the Q&A per candidate until everyone has had an opportunity to have their questions addressed. If there is still time and questions have dwindled down, a second round of questions can occur, where say a senator who has already asked candidate A a question, can ask candidate A a second question.
  - Candidate segments: While your opponent is delivering their speech and responding to Q&A, you will be removed from the room and will sit in the hallway patiently.

- Polls will open 9:00 PM on Thursday evening following speeches. Only senators will have the right to submit a ballot, not proxies. Polls will remain open for one week.
- Secretary
  - Nominations were due by 5:00 pm on March 14, 2013.
  - Speeches will be given on April 11, 2013.
  - Senators will receive a special ballot to vote for the Secretary.
- B. Senator Elections**
  - Nominations were due by 5:00 pm on March 14, 2013.
- VII. Open Floor: Public Comments & Concerns ..... President Bonistall**
  - A.** Discussion: library book recall policy
  - B.** Discussion: Senators’ email addresses
  - C.** Anything else?
- VIII. Senate Floor ..... Parliamentarian Thomson**
  - A. Old Business**
    - Approval of the Minutes from December 6, 2012, January 10, 2013, and February 14, 2013
  - B. New Business**
    - SR-1213-02: Commendation of Richard Rind

Understanding that advocacy by the Graduate Student Government on behalf of graduate students often relies upon professional working relationships with offices on campus; and,

Given that many graduate students brought forth concerns regarding the cessation of shuttle bus service to Apartments at Pinebrook; and,

Recognizing that it was not within the scope of Director Richard Rind’s responsibility to resolve this problem favorably for University of Delaware--affiliated residents at Apartments at Pinebrook; and,

Appreciating that he chose to collaborate with the concerned students, the Graduate Student Government, and the Office of Graduate and Professional Education to find a solution; and,

Given that this is just one of many examples of the Director's willingness to collaborate with us on graduate student concerns regarding parking and transportation,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Graduate Student Government commends Director Richard Rind of Parking and Transportation Services for his unrelenting advocacy for graduate students and their safety.

**IX. Announcements ..... President Bonistall**

**A. Seminar: Creating and Using Screencasts for Student Learning**

- Description: Screencasts are easy-to-create digital recordings that capture video from a computer screen accompanied by optional audio. In this two-session seminar, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will explore various ways screencasts can be used in classes they are teaching or assisting. Session 1 (3/20/2013) will include hands-on instruction in using basic screencasting technology, culminating in participants’ creation of their own short screencast video. In session 2 (4/03/2013), participants will share brief screencast videos they’ve created and discuss various strategies for incorporating screencasts into their own teaching.
- Dates: March 20, 2013 and April 3, 2013
- Registration is required:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dG9hcDVORHpwekRxRG5rZ3I3Tlc4c1E6MQ>

**X. Adjournment**