

UD Graduate Student Government  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
November 13, 2014 | 123 Townsend Hall | 5:30 pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

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

**II. GUEST SPEAKERS: HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF DELAWARE**

The speakers provided a summary of benefits (links below):

[http://www.universityhealthplans.com/brochures\\_pdf/UDel\\_Brochure-1415.pdf?20140702](http://www.universityhealthplans.com/brochures_pdf/UDel_Brochure-1415.pdf?20140702)

[http://www.universityhealthplans.com/brochures\\_pdf/UDel\\_BenefitsAndCoverage-1415.pdf](http://www.universityhealthplans.com/brochures_pdf/UDel_BenefitsAndCoverage-1415.pdf)

They provided information about preventative services that are offered at no charge. Wellness discounts are available and described online. Online, you can view and track your claims, find a provider, view benefits, take a wellness profile.

Contact Information:  
University Health Plans  
Plan administrator 18004376448  
[info@univhealthplans.com](mailto:info@univhealthplans.com)

Jessica Reed, Office of Risk Management  
UD contact  
(302) 831-8468  
[studentinsurance@udel.edu](mailto:studentinsurance@udel.edu)

**III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Social Committee – Katie Bonanno ([kbonanno@udel.edu](mailto:kbonanno@udel.edu)) and Vishnu Vardhan Chittamuru ([vishnuv@udel.edu](mailto:vishnuv@udel.edu))

- Social Committee events for the rest of the fall semester:
  - The next Meet & Greet at the Speakeasy will be **Friday, November 14, 7-9 p.m.**
    - Attendees will be encouraged to bring nonperishable donations for the Food Bank of Delaware. The Food Drive will run from Monday, November 10 to Wednesday, November 19 at the Graduate Student Welcome Center.
  - UD Night at Yuletide at Winterthur will be **Wednesday, December 3, 4:30-8:30 p.m.** Tickets will be \$12/person. Tickets include live jazz, admission to the galleries and Downton Abbey exhibit, and a house tour. There will be a cash bar with light fare that is not included with the ticket price. Tours will run between 4:30 and 7, and

attendees must reserve a time for their guided house tour when they reserve their tickets. 150 tickets are available for UD affiliates, and can be reserved by calling 800-448-3883 and reference "UD Night" on December 3.

- In January, the Social Committee will host a trial series of weekly game nights at the Speakeasy. Stay tuned!
- The next Social Committee meeting is tentatively **Thursday, November 20 at 5 p.m.** at the Speakeasy.

Events Committee – Andrea Drewes ([adrewes@udel.edu](mailto:adrewes@udel.edu))

- Graduate Student Gala: Recap of Event – Overall very successful (Joe Brodie has attendance reports with final numbers). Discussion of Successes and Ways to Improve for Next Year – TicketLeap was a very effective platform for organizing ticket sales. It may be a possible program to use again for the Research Forum in the spring.
- Graduate Research Forum
  - Tuesday, April 21, 2015
  - Save-the-Dates to be distributed to all GSG Senators and throughout UD campuses to deans and faculty.
  - Call for Proposals – initial discussion of the revised Call for Papers was had by those in attendance. The goal is to have the finalized version to be out to students by early December, so draft versions of the 2015 Call will be distributed among Events Committee members by the next committee meeting.
  - Ticket for Forum – There hopefully was discussion and a general consensus that it would be a good idea to charge a minimal price (\$5.00) for dinner at this year's Research Forum. This would help to eliminate no-shows and the food waste that has been problematic in the past
  - Forum Timeline – There was some discussion of the order of events for the Research Forum, but further decisions were held off until more committee members were in attendance.

Communications Committee – Stephanie Luff ([sluff@udel.edu](mailto:sluff@udel.edu))

- A Google Drive folder has been made for easy sharing of GSG logo and other relevant graphics. Please contact Stephanie if you need access to the folder.
- A final design has been drafted for the GSG t-shirt. Cost will likely be \$6.50, but Joe will provide the final amount shortly. Options for payment will be check or credit card.

### III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee – Holly Walker ([hollylyn@udel.edu](mailto:hollylyn@udel.edu))

- Brown Bag Lunch Series
  - November 10<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag lunch series: "LGBTQ Issues and Awareness". – Co-sponsored by new LGBTQ Graduate Student Committee.
  - Next Brown Bag lunch series will be on December 8<sup>th</sup>, from 12 – 1pm in the Speakeasy Lounge. Topic: "How to Make Most of Your Winter Break". Speaker: TBA
- Begin planning for 'Rep Your Culture' Diversity event
  - Will be held February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, from 6 – 8 pm. Location: TBA

Student Life – Meg Hutchins ([mhutch@udel.edu](mailto:mhutch@udel.edu)) and Xunyi Xie ([xunyix@udel.edu](mailto:xunyix@udel.edu))

- Housing: we still think that the UD classifieds still are our best choice. Graduate students may prefer to have graduate students as roommates. There are different sources for housing information outside of the official sources provided by the graduate student office. We discussed the possibility that we can centralize all information to a webpage or a link to the GSG homepage. We understand that University does not allow us to promote one apartment over another, but just a simple map with basic information would make incoming new graduate students' life easier. We will connect to the IT department to see what we can do from here.
- Bike path: we discussed that we may need more bike path connecting north and south campus. One area was specially mentioned around Academy St.—the street is wide enough to add one or two bike paths. We also talked to the Newark Bike Project to see if we can encourage more students to ride. Safety was also a problem; we are considering holding a workshop or information session to address public's attention on this issue.
- We discussed whether graduate students should have a general class about the life around Newark and teaching. We all agree that a class is not what new graduate students need, however, a teaching workshop or an information session are probably good ideas.
- Healthy eating on campus: we will look into the pricing issue, but we want to focus more on creating a session about healthy eating on campus on a budget for the graduate student orientation. This would give us the opportunity to work with different organizations on campus instead of against them and would give incoming graduate students the chance to learn healthy eating habits.

Sustainability – Nick Kaufman ([nkaufman@udel.edu](mailto:nkaufman@udel.edu)) and Kelsea Schumacher ([kschum@udel.edu](mailto:kschum@udel.edu))

- The first topic of discussion was in relation to an issue that Akisha Jones brought up at the most recent general meeting: the high cost of healthy food. It was decided that this was not expressly an issue of sustainability, but that if the Student Life Committee was interested in tackling this, then the Sustainability Committee would be happy to help with such endeavors. A proposed starting point would be to poll grad students to gauge a baseline for interest in seeing the price of healthy food at UD dining locations to decrease.
- We also discussed issues pertaining to biking in and around Newark. It is desirable to see the construction of a bike path that connects South Campus, specifically the area south of the Amtrak train station, to North Campus. Additionally, the need for more bike racks around campus was discussed, as well as the possibility of starting a pilot bike share program at UD. To this end, we will be looking at peer institutions of the University of Delaware in order to draw inspiration for the creation of such a program. A Google form will be drawn up, and sent out to students in order to better determine the most effective placement of bike racks, as well as to solicit input about bike needs in general.
- Lastly, the committee addressed recycling on campus. It was agreed that increasing the number of recycling bins on campus would be beneficial. In addition, the creation of a flyer/infographic on what materials can be recycled in the single stream bins would increase the efficacy of the recycling program. Also there are limited (to non-existent) places on campus for the recycling of specialty items such as batteries, electronics, etc.

### III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee – Isaac Harris ([iharris@udel.edu](mailto:iharris@udel.edu))

- The committee briefly discussed writing a piece of 'Thank You' Legislation in response to the new grad-student health insurance. No proposed legislation yet but it is in the works.
  - Discussed an amendment to the By-Laws for off cycle elections of Senators. The proposed amendment will be voted on at the Nov meeting so everyone should be familiar with the legislation. The following proposed legislation would go into the bylaws, specifically, Article IV (elections and appointments) Section 3 (Senator Elections):
- (d) Unrepresented Programs: In the event that a program is unrepresented after an election, the senator vacancy shall be filled in one of the following ways:
- (i) Single Candidate: When an individual expresses interest in serving as senator for an unrepresented program, the Vice President of Membership will send an email informing the program that constituents have two weeks to submit additional nominations, including self-nominations, for the vacant position. If no other nominations are received during that time, the sole candidate will be appointed by the Vice President of Membership as senator until the next regular senator election. If other nominations are received, the Multiple Candidates procedure applies.
  - (ii) Multiple Candidates: When multiple candidates express interest in serving as senator for an unrepresented program, a special election will be scheduled and administered by the Elections Committee under the most recently approved elections rules.

LGBTQ Ad Hoc Committee

- The committee met on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Speakeasy.
- Goal of committee is to be the hub for LGBTQ graduate student resources
- Coming up with ideas to get the word out about the committee and the events
  - Creating a Facebook and website
  - Making resources available to everyone
- Monthly Happy Hour Established for the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month, starting Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 5-7
- Brown Bag Lunch series
  - Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm: featuring Becki Fogerty
  - Issues facing the lgbtq community
- Movie Nights
  - Looking to partner with other organizations
- Logo and name design and ideas
  - Prism is leading contender
  - Stephanie Luff is helping with logo design
- Next Meeting
  - Monthly Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in the Speakeasy
  - November 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

### III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no questions on external committee reports.

Faculty Senate General Education Committee – Hadi Al-Khateeb ([khateeb@udel.edu](mailto:khateeb@udel.edu))

- A final resolution and explanatory paragraphs was prepared by the task force with input from task force, focus groups, general education committee, general faculty, faculty senate undergrad studies committee, department chairs, and other groups of faculty around campus.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee asked our committee to add three resolutions to our final document includes; submitting an implementation plan by April 1st 2015, develop an assessment plan whereby the University of Delaware can track student progress towards meeting the UD General Education Objectives, and hold an open hearing during the early part of the spring semester to receive the campus input regarding these plans.
- A crucial meeting was held to debate and vote on the task force’s final resolution; the resolution passed our committee with unanimous vote.
- The final resolution was sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the Nov. 3rd faculty senate meeting.

Faculty Senate Library Committee –Alex Ames ([alames@udel.edu](mailto:alames@udel.edu))

- First meeting of Academic Year 2014/2015 held at Morris Library on Tuesday, November 11, 2014
- Brief report on usage of Morris Library after 8:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, usage after midnight on other days of the week (Sandra Millard, Associate University Librarian for Services, Outreach and Assessment)
- Discussion of Open Access initiative and status report on UD Library efforts; presentation of Open Access Resolution to be presented to the full Faculty Senate (Cathy Wojewodzki, University of Delaware Library Scholarly Communication Officer)
- Tenets of Open Access:
  - Ultimate goal is to make research available quickly and efficiently to as many interested readers as possible
  - UD Faculty Senate Library Committee spearheading initiative to make UD faculty publications widely available through the implementation of a faculty open access policy, facilitating deposit of scholarly articles written by UD faculty in University open access institutional repository
  - There are ways for the graduate student community to participate in Open Access, if they so choose
- Invitation made to GSG Faculty Senate Library Committee representatives to serve on new UD Library Student Advisory Council; invitation accepted. First meeting to be held on December 1; pass on concerns about library services to Alex Ames ([alames@udel.edu](mailto:alames@udel.edu)) or Rachel Zimmerman ([rachelz@udel.edu](mailto:rachelz@udel.edu)) before then
  - a. Possible e-mail solicitation of thoughts and comments; be watching the GSG listserv

Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies – Chris Castillo ([Castillo@udel.edu](mailto:Castillo@udel.edu)) and Jane Wessel ([jwessel@udel.edu](mailto:jwessel@udel.edu))

- The Bioinformantics MA programs requested an extension for their self-assessment. The committee agreed that, given that most of their students have not had time yet to complete the program, more time was in order.

- We discussed the proposed calendar for 2016-17, focusing on where to fit in instructional days given the full week off for Thanksgiving.
- We discussed the minimum guidelines for graduate certificates and how these certificates might be reviewed (whether in APRs, through self-assessment, or by the graduate office).

Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee – Joseph Brodie ([jbrodie@udel.edu](mailto:jbrodie@udel.edu))

- Bus improvements
  - External consulting firm hired to evaluate and suggest improvements for campus buses
  - Final report due before end of semester
  - Many changes will be implemented for Spring, others not until Fall 2015
  - Simplification of routes, to allow for more buses on each route
  - Removal of specific timings on most routes, to allow flexibility and reducing pressure for drivers to be “on time”
  - Redistributing north-south routes to use both Academy St and South College Ave
  - Staging buses for class changes
  - Possible changes to evening services
  - Ensuring additional coverage for times when undergraduates are not in session, but graduate students / faculty / staff are around (i.e. spring break)
  - Texting-based feedback service will be implemented very soon – watch for advertisements on the buses
- Parking notes
  - Night/weekend permit IS valid starting at 4:45 PM
    - Too expensive to remake every single parking sign, so please spread the word!
  - Even if parking appears to be full in Perkins/Trabant garages, there is always parking available on the roof!
- General transportation issues
  - Intersection of Delaware Ave and South College will be re-timed to have dedicated pedestrian crossing at same time for all four crosswalks, to reduce difficulties for turning traffic during class changes and therefore improving traffic flow
  - Looking at increasing crossing guards at various crosswalks during class changes – Main Green (Delaware Ave); ISE Lab crossing; South College/Amstel crossing; Amstel/Orchard crossing
  - DelDOT will be installing new signals at pedestrian crossings (approximately 1 year timetable)
    - E Main St (between the Green and Bob Carpenter Center, by Grotto’s)
    - Main Green Crossing (Delaware Ave)
  - DelDOT also exploring installation of crosswalk at Library/Visitor Center (South College)
- Please email Joe Brodie ([jbrodie@udel.edu](mailto:jbrodie@udel.edu)) with any questions, comments, or concerns

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate – Stephanie Luff ([sluff@udel.edu](mailto:sluff@udel.edu))

- Degree requirements for Ph.D. in linguistics were approved.

- Ann Ardis is on sabbatical and Doug Doran is now Acting Deputy Dean until she returns. Joann Browning is now Senior Associate Dean for the Arts, David C. Wilson is Interim Associate Dean for the Social Sciences, and Robin Schulze is Interim Associate Dean for the Humanities.

Newark City Council – Stephanie Luff ([sluff@udel.edu](mailto:sluff@udel.edu))

- A workshop on the 2015 Newark budget was given on November 3rd. The slides can be found at <http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/DocumentCenter/View/5321>
- There was serious concern about reappointing David Levandoski (Assoc. Director of 1743 Holdings LLC, UD subsidiary) to Board of Adjustments due to a potential conflict of interest. His reappointment was pulled from the consent agenda, and later approved by the council. More information on the opposition: <http://newarkrap.org/2014/10/15/nrapp-petition-levandoski/>
- The Newark Police Department purchased two license plate recognition systems for \$44,070 (through grants) without first obtaining the required approval for purchases >\$25,000. They could not be returned at this point. Therefore, they were retroactively approved.
- There was serious concern about the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative (CCI, <http://chesapeakecrescent.org>) as some believe it would allow the city, state, and UD to enter into project contracts outside of public eye.

### III.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

Graduate Student Advisory Committee – Sara Markland ([sarmark@udel.edu](mailto:sarmark@udel.edu))

- a. The goal of the GSAC is to organize professional and social activities for students of South Campus
- b. Dean Mark Rieger and Sara Markland have launched a fundraiser campaign for travel awards for graduate students, TA awards, and best publication awards. They are selling restaurant discount cards for \$10; the GSAC would be interested in partnering with other GSOs. GSOs could purchase the cards at a low price and could use them to fundraise.
- c. Social Event, 11/20, Painting with a Twist, \$25, can sign up at the GSAC website; email Sara if you would like to purchase a card

Black Graduate Student Association – Asia Downtin ([adowntin@udel.edu](mailto:adowntin@udel.edu))

- a. Monthly community service, DE Center for Horticulture, Saturday, November 15, 9am – 12:00; Sign up on the DE Center for Horticulture website

### IV. OPEN FLOOR

- a. Isaac gave overview of the bylaws amendment. No one asked questions.
- b. Resolution that came out of the discussion with Deputy Provost Brickhouse on Tuesday evening (November 11, 2014); discussion about having a graduate student commons lead to the resolution; Deputy Provost Brickhouse suggested that the GSG submit a white paper to the Strategic Planning Executive Committee. Agreement that this was a good idea, and that it could help with professional development services; interest in having career services hire someone to support graduate students

- c. Chris Castillo suggested holding January meeting in Lewes, would provide a bus to transport senators; we can set up an iTV connection for senators/members who cannot leave campus; suggestion that we go later in the year, perhaps April; support for it, but concern that there would need to be two simultaneous meetings; consider having meetings in Robinson every month, but space concerns may prohibit that; Chris asked for a show of hands about interest; seems to be some interest for April over January
- d. Chris Castillo asked if there was interest in having the Provost come to a GSG Meeting

## V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Harris opened the Senate Floor at 6:30 pm.

- a. Old Business
  - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from October 9. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- b. New Business
  - Proposed Legislation to appoint and elect senators for unrepresented programs was moved and seconded. There was no discussion and the legislation was approved.
  - Resolution moved and seconded to discuss the resolution discussed in open floor. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved.

There was no legislation from the floor, and Senate Floor closed at 6:37 pm.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Resident Ensemble Players are putting on *Macbeth*. Student price is \$12 per ticket, and the performance runs through December 7. [www.rep.udel.edu](http://www.rep.udel.edu)
- b. UD PT is doing a fundraiser at Klondike Kate's until 9, November 13, 2014 to raise money for the Marquette Challenge
- c. Oyster Preferences Research Project – at speakeasy from 4 – 8 on Tuesday November 18

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:48

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Wessel  
Graduate Student Government Secretary