

December Public Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2015 | 127 Memorial Hall | 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Carol Henderson, Vice Provost for Diversity, came to speak about inclusive excellence: an action plan for diversity at UD. This is a plan for action. In order for diversity to occur, we have to change, to expect different results. It also cannot be something we do “on the side”; it must be connected to the core of what we do. The numbers tell us that the university does not reflect the real world. In order for historically underrepresented groups to feel comfortable, as well as for other groups to understand their experience, we must reach a critical mass, though, there is no set number. Diversity is important for the perspective of equality and justice, global citizenry, learning outcomes, critical thinking, societal impacts, innovation and creativity. Diversity must be meaningful, equal, inclusive. We cannot claim to be an excellent institution unless we engage in all aspects of meaningful diversity. We want to engage in these practices thoroughly, not just superficially. You can find progress and implementation updates on the website. There are six principled actions for moving forward, and which framed the university’s future plan. How does GSG demonstrate the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion? Collaborate with groups outside of our own, devote activities to the values or principles of diversity, equity and inclusion. Is diversity education and awareness encouraged as a part of one’s membership to your organization or one’s ability to serve in a leadership role in your organization? She then opened the floor for a conversation about how we see ourselves connected to the university goals.

Comments included: the fact that our campus should reflect the community demographics and we can talk about goals; asked if some diversity issues are more severe for graduate students, department climate is one of the major complaints as far as recruitment and retainment as well as inconsistencies in TA-ships, student’s own advocacy for themselves, and professional development and mentorship, both domestic and internationally; teaching is a significant part of what we do and many classes seem homogenous, and this has been a difficult semester to talk about things happen nationally and on campus, CTAL is a great resource to assist in having these discussions. This training may be important to share with graduate students. Faculty is also a good resource to being with; a point was brought up about stereotypes assigned in silence, which makes it difficult to work and have discussions and interaction with people from other backgrounds. Once we have diversity, how do we make that interaction happen? We have to be innovative. Sometimes it may be better to step outside your department for advocacy. Have we had other universities come share their best practices, or create collaborative zone; difficulties in getting grad students engaged because the incentives are different and we wear so many different hats. What motivates grad students on an individual level? What value does the graduate student body bring? What is our value statement? How do you put that into practice?; If there are things you’d like to see differently, you need to speak up; How engaged has the faculty been? We are engaging the faculty through the multicultural requirement and

encouraging continued conversation. It is going to be ongoing and take multiple approaches. We need to be responsible for each other, silence does not work. President Brodie suggested that he really believes the graduate student body should serve as ambassadors, especially because we are so diverse. Send suggestion to vpd@udel.edu

III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee – Erin Corcoran

No update. Doing a good job, everything is being advertised, people know what is going on.

Events Committee – Yiben Wang

Working on the forum, hoping to finalize the call for papers very soon, and invitations to faculty when we come back. Trivia had 20-25 people and shared that the next trivia night will be January 20th. PhD movie we are hoping to show next semester. Next meeting is 10am tomorrow at Grad Welcome Center. Please share your suggestions for the forum.

Social Committee – Ty Nie

Paint night event was successful and there will hopefully be another. Winterthur sold ~60 tickets and was well attended. Social committee has not more events this semester but will have ~4 more events next semester. Please share any thoughts on how to increase joint events. Next meeting tomorrow, 9am at the Speakeasy.

III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee – Vinnie Liu

Coat drive was very successful, 349 donations from UD and 699 from Newark. Thanks to everyone for participating and promoting. Committee is planning the white elephant for February 17th, perhaps a dialogue exchange. Diversity brown bag also saw a large increase in attendance due to promotion by diversity committee.

Student Life Committee – Sophie Guderian & Eddie Marks

Run club is on hiatus until next semester. February will include exercise and nutrition seminars. The intramural mixer had about an 85% turn-out and formed one team and bolstered another. The next mixer will be held in the spring. Meetings will be at 6pm at the Speakeasy next Thursday.

Sustainability Committee – Richard Bowers & Stijn Koshari

Bike safety still looking at this for spring semester. Dining hall is now doing meatless Mondays. Waiting to hear back from various campus administrators.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee – Matthew Rinkevich (mrink@udel.edu)

None at this time; see committee reports

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

- Currently unrepresented programs:
 - Art Conservation
 - Exercise Science
 - Human Development & Family Studies
 - Liberal Studies
 - Particle Technology
 - Preservation Studies
 - Public Administration Water Science & Policy

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

See committee reports. Certificate in cyber security approved.

III.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

- MBA Student Association was approved on Nov 17th. Objectives are to enhance networking, faculty dialog, create a speaker series. Would like to get more involved in the graduate student-university relations. They reached their goal of helping 125 families have a Thanksgiving. Collaborating with Tianhang and Yiben to bring more students to the Forum. Please feel free to reach out to Natika Shelton or Adam Bell with questions, collaborations, etc.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

A. Elections rules

- Officer elections rules
 - In the past, multiple candidates would be ranked. If no one got over 50% (absolute majority), the lowest rank candidate would be dropped.
 - New suggestion of no ranking and simple majority is more simple and democratic, but more risky.
 - These rules must be approved in January or we will not have an election.
 - Senator Varela suggested a third option where a second round is introduced in case a candidate with low approval received less than a given threshold (~%30).
 - It is very important that we solidify these results for future senates. Any addition of second rounds complicates the election.

- Informal poll reflects that the senate prefers (27) the elections rules having a simple majority and no ranking and (2) votes for last year's elections rules.
- B. Bylaw amendment
 - Explanation by President Brodie. No discussion.
- C. Open Discussion: Public Comments & Concerns
 - Senator Varela brought up smoking prohibition policy, what is the enforcement of this? It is a violation of university policy and should be reported, it is tricky who this should be reported to. If it is staff, report to HR. Best thing may be to remind that person that it is a no smoking campus. It can be reported but it cannot really be enforced.
 - Member Caro suggested that we make a conscious effort to be agents of change, following Dr. Henderson's discussion. It may be a good idea to broaden our discussion here.

V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 7:15 p.m.

- A. Old Business
 - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from November 12th. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
 - There was a motion to approve the bylaw amendment to Article IV, Section 2, Subsection D and it was seconded.
 - Discussion to adjust the nominations date to fit with the timing of the Special Elections meeting. A specific date would less ambiguous. There was an ancillary motion to revise the bylaw amendment to say that "nominations are due to the elections committee one week following the February meeting" and it was seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carries.
 - Motion to amend the bylaws carries.
 - There was no legislation from the floor. Motion to close senate floor carries.

Senate Floor closed at 7:39 pm.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. SVP for GPE public forums are available online to view. A survey response can be found at the website and will need to be completed by December 11, 2015.
- B. Please ask your constituents to provide any interest in Hispanic GSA to VP Kim.
- C. January GSG meeting will be January 21st for elections. Please make sure that you inform VP Luff if you cannot attend this meeting and return your votes via email.
- D. We will be sending out a poll to see what time is best for starting the GSG meetings.
- E. Grad ambassadors holiday party at the Speakeasy tomorrow at 7pm. Bring a donation!
- F. Announcements from the floor.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Hudson
Graduate Student Government Secretary