

UD Graduate Student Government
January Public Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2016 | 118 Purnell Hall | 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm. President Brodie reminded everyone that the rest of the meetings for the semester will be held in Gore.

II.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee – Erin Corcoran

- Communications Committee worked on the call for papers, save the date, and faculty postcards for the Forum. Everyone should see a call for papers email blast and the event should be coming up on social media soon.

Events Committee – Yiben Wang

- Events Committee also worked on the call for papers, and also held discussion regarding panel speakers for the Forum. Preferred speakers would come from either the university or from an external business but speak on a topic with academic focus such as proposal writing or project applications. If you have suggestions for potential guest speakers, please contact Tianhang or Yiben.
- Trivia Night last night was very successful.
- Events committee is also working on PhD movie screening and Intramural Sports Mixer.

Social Committee – Ty Nie

- Karaoke Night, Re-gifting White Elephant, and Singles Night all went well and were very fun. Jazz-themed Meet and Greet will be postponed until February due to inclement weather.

II.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee – Vinnie Liu

- Everyone is welcome to join for brainstorming session next Thursday.

Student Life Committee – Sophie Guderian & Eddie Marks

- Run club will be starting again on 16 February at 6:00 pm. An interest meeting will be held the week before, on 9 February. The same week on Monday (15 Feb) and Thursday (18 Feb), exercise/nutrition seminars, flyers will be coming out for this soon. The committee is meeting next week to finish up plans for these activities. Mixer is next Tuesday.

Sustainability Committee – Richard Bowers & Stijn Koshari

- Sustainability Committee spoke to UD Dining about compost, and they are willing to compost as long as we can find someone to take the waste. Meeting tomorrow to discuss.
- Bike safety seminar is also a possibility in the future.

II.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- No updates at this time.

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

- No updates at this time.

II.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

See committee reports.

II.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

No update at this time.

III. OPEN FLOOR

A. Brief discussion on resolutions

- In the fall, most resolutions were modifications of existing rules and bylaws. This is important but, it is also important to deal with concerns as they come up. President Brodie wants to encourage senators to bring issues forward, write resolutions and get assistance from the Governance Committee if necessary, so that we can really make changes. These resolutions will have the backing of the entire GSG.
- Parl. Rinkevich would like to second this and add that Governance committee is happy to assist but this is not necessary. Resolutions can come straight from the Senate Floor. Consensus on resolutions is not necessary before they are brought to Senate Floor either.
- Bringing resolutions forward and making real change will also make senate floor, and all our jobs, more interesting.
- Current important things GSG is working on that we encourage senators to get involved with:
 - Graduate student vacation time: there are some at the university who take advantage of the fact that there is no vacation in the contract. Grad office would like to include mandatory vacation in the contract for grad students. Please let President Brodie know if you are interested in working on this. Additionally,

please let us know if you know someone who has struggled to obtain or been denied vacation time due contractual omission.

- Training for teaching assistants: Training given at UD is mediocre at best. We'd like look in to putting forth a resolution to request better training for TA's.
 - In regards to the grad office, there has been no update on the Vice Provost.
- B. Faculty Student Life Committee Review of Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Faculty senate was not given the chance to review the SMP before it was approved and has concerns. Particularly, as a TA, you are required to report even events discussed that have long since passed. The committee will be working with Dr. Groff in March to address some of these issues. The Title IX oversight committee is also meeting next week so you can take concerns to Pres. Brodie as well.
 - Member Caro brought up the possibility of clarifying a situation in which a friend who is an undergraduate speaks to a TA, is that person required to report. President Brodie clarifies that his understanding is that you are only required to report when you are serving in your capacity as a TA directly. New tutorial modules in the future may address some of the murkiness existing in the current training. Parl. Rinkevich states that the policy does not specifically address the relationship of a TA to a student but rather "employee" and the line is somewhat blurry.
 - Member Liu asks whether or not domestic violence includes between non-romantic roommates. This will need to be looked into but, it is the overall opinion that if it is non-romantic, it is not addressed by this policy.
 - VP Luff commented on the general lack of clarity in the policy.
 - Chair Gudieran hopes to report back at the March meeting
- C. Officer Elections Rules
- VP Luff asks if there is any discussion on the policy before senate floor is opened. No comments from the senate.
 - President Brodie reminds everyone that nominations will open in February.

IV. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 6:07 p.m.

- A. Old Business
- It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from December 10th. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
- There was a motion to approve the Officer Elections Rules and it was seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed.
 - There was no legislation from the floor. Motion to close senate floor carries.

Senate Floor closed at 6:08 pm.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. For all upcoming committee meeting times and locations, please see <http://sites.udel.edu/gsg/>
- B. Jazz Meet and Greet, 22 January 2016 at the Speakeasy – Has been rescheduled due to inclement weather.
- C. Spring Intramural Sports Mixer Tuesday, 26 January 2016, 7-9pm, the Speakeasy.
- D. Diversity Committee White Elephant will be 17 February 2016, 6:00 pm in the Speakeasy.
RSVP via TicketLeap
- E. Poker Night will be held 23 February 2016
- F. Announcements from the floor.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Hudson
Graduate Student Government Secretary