

May Public Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2016 | 103 Gore Hall | 5:30 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 President Brodie gave some background on the respect committee and introduced the guest speakers, Jessica Rickmond and Patricia Fogg.

II. GUEST SPEAKERS

In the summer of 2015, a group started talking about how they could better interact with and be kinder to one another, in a way that might be a bit more meaningful. They have embraced representatives from diverse groups on campus for assistance: graduate students and undergraduates, UDPD, residence life, staff comm and public affairs, LGBTQ, facilities, DSS, Title IX, and so on. They believe we need a culture change on campus, which led to the development of the value statement, in an attempt to combine all facets of education to create a better way of life perhaps by holding a door, returning an email in a timely fashion, or asking, “how can I help you with something.” In the future they’d like to develop a website that is recognizable, an action plan, social media, employee education and formal training. It is important to think about the human being element, manners, etiquette, and so on. As you leave here, they hope that you will extend a hand to others. The committee compiled this statement, which includes five concepts they hope they will be able to implement in the future and have become part of the fabric of our campus: respect, culture, growth, integrity, engagement. They would want the statement to support various constituents, enhance learning, and be feasible to implement. They thanked GSG for its support and recognized President Brodie for opening their eyes to the situation/voicelessness of graduate students. President Brodie has worked diligently on behalf of the graduate student body. They are really hoping to get feedback from grad students, Cesar Caro, in the future to assist.

VP Kim ask if one repeatedly being treated poorly be an administrator, what is my next step, aside from “brushing it off” all the time?

Rickmond – Hoping that this will provide training for this, really help you know what resources you have available to address these issues.

Senator Bowers – Commending this committee, really did look at best practices.

Senator Kuniholm – What are the priorities for action plan?

Rickmond – actions are currently in categories, first need support of the statement across campus

Member Wessel – how to balance positivity with advocacy?

Fogg – really an attempt to highlight human kindness.

Rickmond – more of an attempt to address the conflict in a positive way.

Member Caro – Engagement aspect, what was the origin and scope of the engagement?

Fogg – We want this to carry out into the city, the county, your job, your internship.

Rickman - We want the campus climate to be respectful because this impacts all aspects of your life. We need to know that when you wear the UD logo, it stands for something.

President Brodie – Thank you for coming to share this with us!

VP Luff – we are only two votes above quorum so if you need to leave please go give her your votes before you leave.

President Brodie – We are the first group to see and discuss this publicly, for once we get to be first so he'd really like to vote on it tonight.

III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Final Committee Update from Vice President Gao

Forum a success, two workshops for the first time for presentation preparation. Tianhang acknowledged all forum volunteers individually. He also highlighted past events held this year, the Gala and trivia nights. Social committee held poker night, game night, paint and sip, Grad Student night at the REP to improve grad student life. Communication launched a new website at the beginning of the year, new Instagram account in addition to FB and twitter. They will also be working on the white paper.

III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Final Committee Report from Vice President Kim

Most of the updates are in the reports. Diversity has received support from faculty caucus for public safety walk early next school year. Sustainability held the bike safety seminar today which was successful (200+ survey participants). Student life will be assisting with the white paper and Run Club will become a GSO next year. Today, phase one of the campus framework: 64% of classes west of the green. Graduate students need designated space. S. College is the spine of the university. There are many front doors to UD but no sense of arrival. Trying to be more inclusive, create a landscape language. Now is the time to be sure you get your input it. Member Wessel suggested including faculty/grad student space because that is an important professional connection. Disability themed public safety-walk in the planning stages.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- See open floor and committee reports.

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

- Senator elections complete, see committee report.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

See committee reports.

III.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

No updates at this time.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. Faculty Senate Committee Nominations –The combined executive boards, outgoing and incoming, selected the nominees, and the sitting senate is constitutionally required to select a slate and approve them on senate floor. No further discussion
- B. There was no discussion on the Respect and Responsibility Resolution.

V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 6:14 p.m.

- A. Old Business
 - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from April 14th, 2016. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
 - There was a motion to approve all selected nominees for external committee representation. This motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion carried.
 - There was a motion to approve the Respect and Responsibility Resolution. This motion was seconded, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Senate Floor closed at 6:16 pm.

VI. GSG OUTSTAND SERVICE AWARDS

2015-2016 Outstanding Service Award for Advocacy

- Bassil El-Zaatari – for taking the lead on the establishment of interfaith programs at the University of Delaware, increasing student exposure to peoples of different faiths, actively and dependably serving as a core member of the GSG diversity committee, and being dedicated to diversity and inclusion.

2015-2016 Outstanding Service Award for Community

- Ty Nie – for building upon her efforts from the previous year, and continuing to create, and seamlessly and expertly host, various regular social events for graduate students, which establishes a sense of community and friendship at the Speakeasy. Ty has been dedicated to creating joyful events and a relaxed atmosphere outside of professional graduate student life, and has made it possible for graduate students to have age/student status appropriate activities, and create bonds and support systems with other graduate students. Ty was also a key advocate for the initiation of the battery recycling program on campus.

2015-2016 Outstanding Service Award for Leadership

- Yiben Wang – for serving as a positive, well prepared, organized and flexible Events Committee Chair. Yiben lead the Events Committee to host a successful Graduate Research Forum, a key event for the GSG among other important events, while making everyone on the team feel included. He kept a fine balance between productivity and playfulness, and was a great example of leadership in the GSG. The forum would not have been a success without Yiben; he earned the respect of his committee members and shared his positivity and hardworking energy with everyone on the committee.

VII. TRANSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2015-2016 Executive Board members (Rinkevich, Hudson, Kim, and Gao) were recognized for their efforts. Dr. Martin recognized the e-board and committee chairs, stating that the work is a large time commitment. She highlighted President Brodie with personal recognition, and thanked him for representing the graduate students fairly.

President Brodie recognized Dr. Martin on behalf of the graduate students. She has been a great advocate for grad students, and especially for the executive board.

President Brodie then called up the new executive board: Matthew Rinkevich (Parliamentarian), Kyra Kim (Secretary), Yiben Wang (VP Membership), Vinnie Liu (VP Student Affairs), Tianhang Gao (VP Internal Affairs), Cesar Caro (President) to take the oath of office. All new Executive Members were sworn into office and President Caro finished the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For all upcoming committee meeting times and locations, please see <http://sites.udel.edu/gsg/>

- Two representatives from UD Create, a group of students hoping to assist with access to resources for the commercialization of research and entrepreneurship in technology and engineering. Currently have professors and start-ups helping to start business here at UD. Email niemczyk@udel.edu with comments, questions, interest, suggestions, etc.
- Announcements from the floor.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Hudson
Graduate Student Government Secretary