

UD Graduate Student Government
September Public Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2016 | 103 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm.

II. ST. PATRICK'S DAY TASK FORCE

- A. Presentation & Overview – There are a lot of high-risk behavior during St. Patrick's Day, and concerns have risen in the University and City of Newark community due to increase in student incidents and arrests, reports of property damage, and disorderly conduct of students (both on and off campus). Input from community is important, as well as crime data and spring break timing of other schools in the region. Proposals have been made to change spring break to overlap with St. Patrick's Day.
- B. Open Discussion
 - a. Richard (SMSP) – Halloween, Homecoming, and Graduations are also offenders in this behavior, so the key should be curtailing this undergraduate behavior, rather than the timing of these breaks. This would be more effective year-round. Suggestion to share spring break schedule of schools in the region.
 - b. Caitlin (Art History) – Timing seemed to not matter at other institutions, since students are capable of organizing themselves despite the break.
 - c. Eddie (Med Sciences) – Students from schools that have St. Patrick's during spring break will visit other schools to pursue this party behavior.
 - d. Bo (Material Science and Engineering) – UIUC moved their spring break a week earlier in a similar attempt, but it also coincides with "unofficial" party weekend that a created party weekends two weekends in a row. A big push was that the restaurant owners were not getting their big increase in sales.
 - e. Question asked how much restaurants profit from the weekend: Bob Ashby – Owner of Deerpark. It is a large weekend, but not to significantly impact sales overall. UD was very supportive of moving the academic calendar. Bars and restaurants are busy during St. Patrick's Day, but house parties are the bigger concern as they have no policing. This movement of week may encourage enforcement.
 - f. Matt (Parliamentarian) – Please keep in mind that our semester starts later than other institutions. It may not be the most natural breaking point.
 - g. Caitlin (Art History) – Can Fall break be a consideration?
 - h. Cesar Caro (President) – Has this affected graduate student life? General consensus is to avoid Main St.
 - i. Swapnil (Physics) – Resident of S. Main St., next to a party house. St. Patrick's Day is noisier than usual.

- j. Sam (English) – The sooner spring break may be disruptive to teaching, as it is shorter time to draft a teaching plan. 2-3 weeks spent on developing classroom culture can be hard to pick back up after the break.
- k. Cesar – What are our third options?
- l. Bo – Moving exams are not an option as students will show up drunk. There were active police force in large auditoriums at UIUC.
- m. Trevor (Winterthur) – Penn State policies targeted residential buildings (off-campus) and complexes, got landlords on board to have police called on parties with more than 8 people. In effect just for the large weekends. Landlords were happy to comply.
- n. Nate (Geography) – Small school and town experience. They worked with Greek Organizations to cut down extreme drinking, self-enforced.
- o. Bob – City of Newark has had discussions on having a limit on the number of people that can gather together, but they did not want to make it harder for residents to gather.
- p. Yehia (Chemistry) – Winter break is very long here, so a break 3 weeks into the semester is not intuitive. Changing the break would not discourage students from drinking.
- q. Caitlin – What would happen if they did move it and the behavior ensued or another incident occurred?
- r. Caro – Option are being discussed, but not sure how the University would respond to that.

III. A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

- Richard – Lack of voice on GSG Instagram is evident. Please have a better media presence spearheaded by the Communication Comm.
- Cesar – Part of the problem is the lack of the committee at this point, but this is something we could discuss more about.

Events Committee

- Graduate Student Gala (Oct. 7) will be held at the museum, ticket sales will be open to the public soon.

Social Committee

- No updates at this time.

III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee

- Last year's Diversity Brown Bags were a success with partnership with the Center for Diversity, but planning to have our own this academic year.
- Friday after GSG meetings at 4-5pm, location TBD.

Student Life Committee

- Run club was successfully launched last year, GSG will continue to promote their events.
- Graduate Student White Paper will be drafted to present to President Assanis.
- Thursday after GSG meeting at 4-5pm, location TBD.

Sustainability Committee

- Bicycle Seminar was a success last May.
- Battery Recycling Program Proposal has been submitted to the University.
- Thursday after GSG meeting at 5-6pm, location TBD.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Please come and talk to Matt if interested in serving for the Governance Committee. This semester the Comm. will focus on attending other committee meetings. In the past this committee was reactive, but now will focus on being proactive.

Elections Committee

- No updates at this time.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

No updates at this time.

III.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS

- Eddie – Run Club will still be supported by Student Life Committee. Feel free to join, Tuesdays 6pm at Deerpark. Every Saturday runs and bike rides are held in the woods with coffee.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. Discussion of Vice President of Membership position, election laws, and introduction of candidate – There is a vacancy for the VPoM position. Carrie Glenn (History) has been listed as candidate but more nominations can be taken. Voting will take place in the October General Meeting.
- B. Introduction of Deputy Parliamentarian position and candidate – In the event that Parliamentarian cannot fulfill his duties, a Deputy Parliamentarian steps up to fill the role. Sam Nystrom (English) is recommended for the role.
- C. Richard – Winter Hooding ceremony has been disposed of, making it a disappointment of doctorate students that graduate that semester.
 - a. Rectification by Dr. Martin – Dec. 16th is the Graduation Ceremony, but we have not made it a requirement for ordering a regalia.
- D. Julie (SMSP) – Speakeasy is closed, and has been announced closed for fall semester on Facebook. This leads to: lack of sense of community, lack of socialization with and amongst faculty members, unable to utilize the Speakeasy as a promotion strategy for new students, lack of graduate student-only space, lack of profit for the University.
 - a. Cesar – Graduate student-dedicated space is important, albeit there is academic space in the library. It is important that graduate student voices are heard. A resolution can be a powerful method to convey our opinions to a broader platform. There are different options available. An appointment can be made with administrators.
 - b. Comment by Dr. Martin – All points valid save the last argument, but very good points. Other options are being looked at this point, it is also unclear to campus community why the building had to be closed. Options are having other spaces open occasionally sans alcohol, but understood that it is not of the same nature.
 - c. Matt – Governance could also work on this.

V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 7:22 p.m.

- A. Old Business
 - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from May 12th, 2016. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
 - Approval of Deputy Parliamentarian appointment. There was no discussion and Sam was appointed as Deputy Parliamentarian.
 - There was no legislation from the floor. Motion to close senate floor carries.

Senate Floor closed at 7:23pm.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- First State Symphonic Band, volunteer and non-profit, is looking for members. Please contact Stijn Koshari. A flyer will be sent out via email.
- Caro – There has been talk of social media policy for UD organizations, which will be discussed next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyra H. Kim
Graduate Student Government Secretary