

UD Graduate Student Government
October Committee Reports
October 13, 2016 | 103 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

IV.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee – Cara Tortorice (carat@udel.edu)

- Senator of Fashion & Apparel Studies program, Cara Tortorice, was elected as the chair
- The functions of social media operated by GSG were discussed. Committee members agree that:
 - GSG’s website should be the official media outlet which carries the fundamental information such as the Constitution, Bylaws, etc. GSG’s website should also activate a message and discussion page so that students could ask questions and discuss issues in an anonymous way.
 - The Facebook page, currently the most popular social media around graduates, should be not only used as a tool for event invitations and advertisements, but also be used as a live and responsive platform for graduate student to discuss issues that come up to GSG’s general meeting. A short but clearly stated summary of topics discussed in GSG’s public meeting will be published one day after the public meeting to reach more graduate students.
 - The Twitter account and Instagram account are less popular, but could serve as a supplement to the website and Facebook page. They could be used as a method to show graduate students’ life in a more active and detailed way. All graduate students should have the access to share part of their life in UD after a review by the communication committee chair. All publications should go through the communication chair to keep a consistent style, even officers from GSG.
- Communication committee is recruiting photographers and graphic designers from the graduate student body as external committee members.

Events Committee – Caitlin Hutchinson (chutch@udel.edu)

- Caitlin Hutchison, senator of Art History, was elected as the chair.
- Committee members agree that events committee should concentrate on hosting high-quality big events rather than a collection of smaller events.
- Events committee discussed the ticket selling and publicity of the GSG Gala at the Museum.
 - Ticket selling was relatively weak this year compared to last year. Potential reasons are that publicity and advertisement were relatively weak this year since the committees are just established before the Gala.
 - Committee members also discussed new ideas about the forum. With the existing form of the forum, some students felt that they are not well-connected with the presentations mainly because topics range widely even within a panel. There are not that many discussions for the type of studies presented. A potential new way is to

come up an interdisciplinary topic before the forum and solicit interested students and faculties to work on that topic together before the forum and present their ideas and results during the forum for discussion.

Social Committee – Ty Nie (htnie@udel.edu)

- Ty (Hetty) Nie, senator of Biomedical Engineering was elected as chair.
- Social committee discussed issues and ideas for the following events:
 - Social committee will start early on planning and advertising the Winterthur museum event. Some concerns rise as this event will get less attention since: it is out of campus, the exhibition is the same every year, and graduate students do not feel connected to each other at the event. But committee members agree that this is still a meaningful event and a good chance for students to reach out to local organizations. Committee members will get in touch with the Winterthur program for further discussion and for creative ideas to improve the event.

IV.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee – Justin Coger (jcoger@udel.edu) & Nathan Thayer (nthayer@udel.edu)

- Brainstorming Diversity Events:
 - The diversity white elephant was floated as a potential idea, given its success last year. We would need to find a place to hold the event, given that the speakeasy is now closed, and begin advertising by November if this plan was to be implemented. The diversity white elephant involved passing gifts that tell the story about your identity and background, helping to kick start conversations about diversity among the participants.
 - One member brought up a successful diversity panel held by CANR last semester which attracted a number of undergraduates and graduates to listen to student and faculty experiences in higher education based on their gender, ethnic, or religious background. It was suggested that we research if the other colleges have similar events, and if not try to organize and sponsor them.
 - Organizing a diversity themed session at the Graduate Research Forum, to highlight research in diversity.
 - An issue highlighted by a committee member was the issues that high school students of diversity in Delaware face that discourage them from applying to the university. A potential activity could be the organization of a volunteer program to plan visits to local high schools to share stories by students in the University to encourage application and enrollment in UD. We would need to find a student organization to partner with, as well as coordinate with administrators and guidance counselors at local schools.
 - It was decided that we should each plan and propose an idea for the next meeting.

Student Life Committee –Eddie Marks (edmarks@udel.edu)

- Edward Marks was elected as Student Life Committee chair.
- Topics were discussed in preparation for the new academic year:
 - An anonymous forum to be developed for general complaints around campus, with issues for discussion at Student Life/GSG meetings.
 - Continue to work on contract-mandated vacation time for graduate students.
 - Discussed dissemination of information on graduate student dental insurance plans and vision plans, the Speakeasy Resolution, White Paper (to be prepared and presented to the Graduate Office).
 - Will hold another Bike Seminar with the Sustainability Committee
 - Exploring options for a Student Life-related seminar.

Sustainability Committee

- Battery recycling report will be submitted to the university. This report is going to Michelle Bennett and EHS.
- Promoting awareness throughout the students should be our focus, since we have limited success talking to faculty and administration.
- We would like to organize regular volunteering events for grad students (e.g. clean up of a nearby park).
- Chairmanship of the committee has been discussed, but a definite election will be held at the next committee meeting.

IV.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Bassil El-Zaatari (bassil@udel.edu)

- Mainly focused on student’s reactions to Milo Yiannopoulos visiting campus. Questioned if there should be a faculty consensus about his visit.
- Idea of open forum for students to discuss what diversity means to them.

IV.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports submitted at this time.