

UD Graduate Student Government
November Committee Reports
November 10, 2016 | 103 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Discussion on Publicity on GSG night at Yuletide @ Winterthur museum
 - Poster document and updated information was organized and sent to OGPE for editing and printing. The communication committee is expecting the work to be done soon and have hard copy ready to distribute during the November public meeting. Each senator or graduate student present will get at least 2 posters to hang up in their department.
 - At least 2 email blasts will be sent to all graduate students with more detailed information about the events and purchasing tickets will be included in the email.
 - A Facebook event page will be created.
- Discussion page on GSG website
 - Tianhang brought up a test discussion page under GSG's website. Committee members agree that it is necessary to put up an anonymous channel for discussion and comments after moderation of website administrators. Communication committee will keep working on this and hopefully have a page ready to go soon.
- Instagram account
 - President Cesar Caro addressed the original ideas of opening up an Instagram account and its potential benefits. President Caro also agrees that it is necessary to write these ideas out and keep them as a guide line to use the Instagram account.
 - VP Tianhang Gao brings up the idea of soliciting photos from the general graduate student body and posting photos under the Instagram account after moderation so that graduate students can share their research life around UD. The Instagram account of OISS(Office of International Students and Scholars) is a good example and reference where they introduce different international scholars. The committee members also discussed the potential of holding a photo contest and giving out rewards for sharing photos.

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

- Committee members discussed aspects of the Yuletide at Winterthur Event, including: updating flyer to be distributed by the next general GSG meeting, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, new online registration for the event, and encouraging graduate students to attend event between 4:30 and 8:00pm on the night of November 30, 2016.
- Need for more members for the Events Committee to ensure the Graduate Student Forum is planned effectively and successfully.

- The Events committee discussed Theater Night at the REP and where to hold the graduate student mixer as The Speakeasy is now unavailable. Ideas included the atrium at the Roselle Performing Arts Center, either before or after the play, and students could be given a free drink ticket at concessions.
- Regarding the Graduate Student Forum, the committee members worked to solidify a main theme, which is the benefits of interdisciplinary and liberal learning for the “Common Good” and “Whole Person”- an idea derived from NEH Chairman William Adams visit and speech to UD in September.
 - While there will continue to be an open call for papers, several panels will be slightly more selective and have an already proposed theme to engender better crossover and discussion of connected ideas across disciplines. Such panel themes may include: Gender and Sexuality, Race, Media and Society, Sustainability, The Body, Theory, Globalization, etc. An additional panel was proposed to highlight what graduate students are doing outside research to benefit the University and the Academy, such as those involved with “Passport to the Liberal Arts” and “CIRTL”.
 - Tactics to increase participation and success of the Forum also were brainstormed. For example, highlighting departmental agendas to get faculty and more students involved, such as showcasing DelPHI (Delaware Public Humanities Institute) participants for those departments related to Material Culture.
 - President Assanis was proposed as Keynote Speaker. The members discussed that this may be preemptive, as this is his first year at UD. However, this might be beneficial for graduate programs as the Forum supports his aims for the University and this is the type of event in which he will experience the type of research and projects students are producing at UD first hand.
 - The Special Panel of Speakers may include faculty members who embody this idea of interdisciplinary and liberal learning, such as John Jungck and Larry Nees. They can highlight their philosophies as researchers, educators, mentors and administrators.

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

- PhD Movie
 - Townsend Hall, tentatively 11/11. Price of Admission will be 7\$ for one movie, 10\$ for a double feature. May add an option to add a scoop of ice cream to your ticket (since it's right next to the creamery).
 - It will be 250\$ for the 2nd PhD movie and 90\$ for the 1st
 - First movie shown from 6-7pm, Second from 8-9:30pm.
 - Food options – outside catering.
- Meet & Greet
 - Will be the November Meet and Greet.
- Monthly Events

- First monthly event to be held in January.
- Potentially ask Painting with a Twist to host a graduate student paint night.

III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- **White Elephant**
 - To get this rolling, we discussed that we need to find a new useable space for the event, and will need to speak with the internal committee to see what sorts of funds we can secure, and what rooms are available to us.
 - We also discussed the need to find a host (emcee) for the night to keep the event running smoothly. We also need to secure a camera, either from one of our members or see if anyone in GSG could lend their skills for the night.
 - We need to make sure that we can easily get a registration list, and make the registration form easy to access to ensure that folks will sign up. We could easily use either TicketLeap or Evenbrite as the platform, and include the link on all emails and fliers. We also plan on including a QR code on fliers to make it much easier for students to register.
- **Planning Ahead**
 - We also delegated out responsibility to committee members to
 - Contact local school districts (with a special focus on Wilmington) to inquire about the possibility of bringing graduate students (maybe undergraduate volunteers as well) to come and talk to underrepresented groups about scholarship and higher education life to encourage students to consider applying to places like UD.
 - One committee member will also be contacting the Black Graduate Student Association to see if we can get some co-support from them in this endeavor.
 - We all agreed to begin contacting faculty members in our colleges and departments to encourage students doing more social science research to present at the graduate student forum, as we often have little representation from the social sciences. On this note, we also discussed the possibility of having a research and diversity themed session at the forum to highlight research done by graduate students that touches on diversity.
 - We discussed on building a WordPress for the Diversity Committee to use both as our face to the broader UD community, but as a way of advertising events we put on, and events put on by other groups (like the Women in Engineering and Persian Students Organization).

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

- Attended “Speakeasy Committee” meeting- offered support to help in any way; other GSOs use it and would be willing to support reinstatement.
- Discussed the graduate student White paper
- Devised specific goals to tackle a contracted-vacation for graduate students:
 - Make students and advisors aware of what is on their contract
 - Direct a specific cultural change
 - Work with governance to change the contract to provide a protective clause for graduate students
 - Send a poll to students to gauge interest in this issue
- Other issues:
 - No family members are provided access to facilities (gym, library, etc.)- can we get a statement from the University on why?

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.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Members of the Governance Committee met with the Speakeasy Working Group to prepare a resolution on the Speakeasy's closing for the Senate's consideration.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Senate – Stijn Koshari (kosharis@udel.edu) & Richard Bowers (rpbowers@udel.edu)

- With regards to the controversial visit of Milo Yiannopoulos, the provost reinforced UD's commitment to Free Speech issues, mentioning that a cancellation of the visit was considered but, in light of this, not enforced.
- Next year, President Assanis wants to increase the incoming class target to 4600 from 3600 (increase the student population by 1000).
- A work force will be convened regarding the re-establishment of a Graduate College.

- Minor resolutions were approved to increase efficiency of Faculty Senate operations.
- Presentations on UD Engage, General Education update, Non-Discrimination Policy update.

Graduate Studies Committee – Carrie Glenn (carriele@udel.edu)

- The GSC will establish an ad-hoc committee to discuss concerns that graduate student RAs have raised over the issue of vacation time. The committee will identify how vacation time works at the departmental level and work to draft a reasonable proposal. The committee will also include graduate student representation, including representation from programs whose students have raised this particular concern.
- As one possible avenue for increasing graduate student enrollment and promoting the cross-pollination of different disciplines, the University is considering the formation of a Graduate School. The University is setting up a Graduate School Work Force to put together a white paper to discuss pros and potential barriers. The Work Force intends to organize focus group sessions, including one or more sessions for graduate students.
- The GSC is also considering raising the minimum score requirement of TOEFL scores for graduate students. It was pointed out that the university's minimum requirement for graduate applicants is lower than the minimum requirement for undergraduate applicants.

Faculty Senate Library Committee – Janice Hudson (jehudson@udel.edu)

- In an effort to determine what resources researchers and other users of the library are utilizing, as well as to meet reporting requirements for cost analysis, a Library User Survey has been implemented. Responses to these surveys are of the utmost importance to the library. Surveys will occur randomly during a two-hour period, one day each month, for the next year. The first survey was administered at the end of October. Please make your constituents aware of the survey and its importance. You can find more info here: <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2016/october/library-user-survey/>
- The university is also moving forward with its initiative to disseminate research at UD via its open access policy. A link can now be found on the library homepage, which will direct you to a page with a considerable number of links and resources regarding open access at the Morris Library. <https://library.udel.edu/openaccess/>
- In conjunction with the open access policy, library staff are encouraging "researchers and authors to register for an ORCID ID and use it for publishing, funding requests, professional memberships, and more." The ORCID ID is a unique digital identifier linking you to your publications. It is currently only encouraged, but will continue to become mandatory for publication submissions, etc. <https://library.udel.edu/openaccess/orcid/>

Library Student Advocacy Committee – Rachel Zimmerman (rachelz@udel.edu)

- The library is working on tutorial videos to help students navigate library services and conduct research. The current tutorials can be found here: <https://library.udel.edu/instruction/tutorials/>. I gave some suggestions for improving the layout, and requested they add tutorials on Course Reserves, and Chicago Manual of Style. Suggestions for other useful tutorials are welcome.

- For the next year on random occasions when signing in to library services, a window will pop up that will require you to answer some quick demographic information. I am sure it will be annoying, but I hope that everyone will understand that it is quite important. The library needs this specific information from this specific survey in order to be able to get funding: <http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2016/october/library-user-survey/>
- Finally, the council has had difficulty with student attendance of the meetings. The last two meetings, I was the only grad student, and only one undergrad was present. The council meets twice per semester, each meeting is an hour long, and food is provided. I have spoken with grad students in my department, and three volunteered to join the committee. However, I don't want art history to monopolize the entire council. It would be great if the GSG could select one or two grad students from different departments who are interested in joining the committee. If you find volunteers, please contact Judy Hamm (jhamm@udel.edu).