

UD Graduate Student Government  
**January Public Meeting Minutes**

January 12, 2016 | 103 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER – DAVID MAISSON (ATLAS)**

- ATLAS: Association of Tomorrow's Leaders in and Advocates for Science
- ATLAS responds to the disconnect between the academy and academic work and public understanding of them.
- Mr. Maisson identified three "pillars" or goals for ATLAS: 1) community engagement (ATLAS intends to open lines of communication between academics and the surrounding community); 2) communicating and sharing information about the sciences more generally; increased advocacy (creating actionable policies that influence the local, national, and international political communities)
- Mr. Maisson welcomes feedback from the Graduate Student community.
- Discussion followed Mr. Maisson's presentation.

**III. A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Communications Committee – Cara Tortorice ([carat@udel.edu](mailto:carat@udel.edu))

- Did not meet, no updates at this time.

Events Committee – Caitlin Hutchinson ([chutch@udel.edu](mailto:chutch@udel.edu))

- Did not meet, no updates at this time.

Social Committee – Ty Nie ([htnie@udel.edu](mailto:htnie@udel.edu))

- The recent end-of-semester graduate student ice-skating event was a great success; there were 80 participants. A second one is planned for the future.
- Unfortunately, the viewing of *The Ph.D. Movie* was postponed due to low interest.
- Vice President Gao encouraged those interested in the Vice-President for Internal Affairs position to contact him.

## **II.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- The Diversity committee is in need of graduate students to host/volunteer at the upcoming White Elephant event.

Student Life Committee – Eddie Marks ([edmarks@udel.edu](mailto:edmarks@udel.edu))

- The Student Life committee discussed graduate student vacation time; the Faculty Senate has formed a special committee to address this issue, Senator Edward Marks (Medical Sciences) is serving on the committee.
- Graduate students will again be able to purchase dental insurance on semester-by-semester basis this year.

Sustainability Committee – Curt Davis ([cjdavis@udel.edu](mailto:cjdavis@udel.edu))

- The Sustainability committee plans on providing vegan food during the February general GSG meeting.
- Recently, it presented the GSG battery recycling program resolution (SR-1617-01) to the department of Environmental Health and Safety.
- Sustainability (and the GSG) is also participating in the Newark Adopt-A-Park program, sponsoring Fairfield Park.

## **II.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Governance Committee – Matthew Rinkevich ([mrink@udel.edu](mailto:mrink@udel.edu))

- No updates at this time.

Elections Committee – Carrie Glenn ([carriele@udel.edu](mailto:carriele@udel.edu))

- Officer Election Rules will be discussed during Open Floor

## **II.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Faculty Senate – Stijn Kosharis ([kosharis@udel.edu](mailto:kosharis@udel.edu)) & Richard Bowers ([rpbowers@udel.edu](mailto:rpbowers@udel.edu))

- No updates at this time.

## **II.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS**

- Member-at-Large Adam Bell (MBA) announced that MBASA is hosting a Toastmasters International event focused on professional development and communication and leadership. The demo meeting will be on 10 February 2017 from 5:30-7:00 p.m, Lerner Hall 125,

registration is necessary. Please contact Mr. Bell at [adambell@udel.edu](mailto:adambell@udel.edu) or Alex Brooks at [ambrooks@udel.edu](mailto:ambrooks@udel.edu) to RSVP or with questions. Please see attached flyer.

- Additionally, MBASA is hosting a business conference entitled “Launching Tomorrow’s Business Leaders” on 17 February 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Contact Mr. Bell via email before 10 February 2017. Please see attached flyer.

### **III. OPEN FLOOR**

- A. The GSG briefly discussed the Officer Elections Rules to be voted on during Senate Floor.
- B. Senator Samantha Nystrom (English) made the GSG aware of the graduate-student Environmental Humanities reading group and inquired about ways it might increase its visibility, particularly at the Graduate Student Forum. A Forum panel was proposed, and discussion will continue. Those interested in the reading group should contact Senator Nystrom ([snystrom@udel.edu](mailto:snystrom@udel.edu)).
- C. Senator Mike Donovan (Linguistics & Cognitive Science) raised the issue of graduate student unionization, which he has been discussing with his constituents. A discussion ensued, and there is a plan for further investigation, spearheaded by Senator Donovan.

### **IV. SENATE FLOOR**

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 7:01 p.m.

- A. Old Business
  - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
  - Officer Election Rules
    - The Senate unanimously approved the Officer Election Rules.
  - No legislation from the floor.

Senate Floor closed at 7:02pm.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- For all upcoming committee meeting times and locations and GSG events, please see <http://sites.udel.edu/gsg/>
- Announcements from the floor

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyra H. Kim

Graduate Student Government Secretary