

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

February 09, 2016 | 104 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm.

**II. GUEST SPEAKER – ANN ARDIS (OGPE)**

- Dr. Ardis was not able to attend, she will be attending in March to talk about the proposal for Graduate College.

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

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

- Please take flyers for distribution to your department. Abstracts are due March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Forum’s official name has been changed from “Graduate Research Forum” to “Graduate Students’ Forum” to invite more non-academic works (art, music, etc.) or non-academic presentations (presentation about community outreach, non-conventional presentation styles, etc.).

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

- Work is being done to select and secure keynote speakers for the forum. We are striving to find a speaker relevant to the overall graduate community.
- Please talk to your constituents about the forum and encourage them to participate / volunteer.

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

- March 10<sup>th</sup> has been secured for Theater Night showing of “Elephant Man” (~90min). 125 tickets are saved for graduate students.
- Claymont Steakhouse will be providing space for the reception.
- \$15 tickets (tentative) will include the show and food after the show.

### **III.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))

- There were undergraduate students that approached the committee to provide help in raising awareness for disabled members of UD community.
- RePRESENT Yourself has been postponed until a space becomes available.
- There is a resolution today on the floor about the executive order on immigration.

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

- No updates at this time.

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

- Thank you to Ashley Kennedy for taking care of the food from Olive Tree for this meeting.
- Adopt-a-Park is a making progress and the committee is in process of application.
- There have been efforts to raise awareness on recycling amongst students.
- There has been interest in forming an interdisciplinary organization for environmental issues.

### **III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Please refer to Senate floor.

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

- No updates at this time.

### **III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- President Assanis spoke upon his progress during his time at UD.

### **III.E. ORGANIZATIONAL DELEGATE REPORTS**

- No delegates present at this time.

## **IV. OPEN FLOOR**

- A. Officer nominations are open February 10<sup>th</sup> and due by February 17<sup>th</sup> (open for extension if no nominations). Please be active about nominating.

- a. GSG has been continuously evolving within itself and externally, its relationship to the Grad Office. GSG stands for the advocacy for graduate students and for the social networking within the community.
  - b. Any graduate student member, even non-Senators, can be nominated for a position.
  - c. The Election is held during the Special Election Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Officer positions require leadership and various types of active input, so please be aware of workload and be prepared to work ambitiously.
  - e. April meeting is co-run with old & new officer cohorts, while the May meeting is fully transitioned into the new officer corp.
- B. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Students' Forum will be held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, at UD Clayton Hall Conference Center with the theme "Leaders of Engaged Citizenry: Graduate Student Research and Creative Works".
- a. Abstracts will be analyzed for coherent themes and topics.
  - b. Departments with low participation may be reached out to individually.
- C. GSG has drafted resolution SR-1617-04 advocating diversity
- a. Senator Nathan Thayer (Geography): It is important to stand in solidarity during this time when diversity and the proliferation of research and community from diversity is under threat due to the new executive order.
  - b. Senator Marcia Shrilla: please consider changing the wording on line 22 from "such a blow" to a language that sounds more formal.
  - c. Line 16 "questioned the constitutionality": are we emotionally disturbed by the constitutionality of it, or the immorality of it?
    - i. However, we believe that the constitution vouches for our rights and freedom as individuals, so this wording may still be relevant.
    - ii. The Supreme Court has just decided to maintain the ban of the appeal, so the word "constitutional" seems pertinent.
    - iii. The word denotes the larger national movement and justifies / contextualizes our resolution in midst of the movement.
    - iv. Can we perhaps add a clause that highlights the moral value of diversity and inclusion in addition to this factual statement?
      - 1. The word "xenophobic" implies this in the resolved clause.
  - d. Line 18: are we limiting the scope of affected individuals by delineating the resolution the members of UD?
    - i. This is addressed in the second resolution clause, "not limited to".
  - e. Is the wording too condemning towards this particular office in the government?
    - i. It could be interpreted that way, but we are trying to chase the principality of the order, not this government in general.
  - f. There was a similar resolution condemning hate environment earlier this school year in response to a local hate crime.
  - g. Line 22: should we add a more personal aspect to our damages, such as the ambience?
    - i. "Research and education integrity" highlights GSG's relevance to the issue and other parts of the resolution (previous WHEREAS) address the personal impacts of this order.
  - h. Line 25: word "condemnation" is strong. Should we lean towards supportive language for diversity rather than condemnation of an order?

- i. This is an issue we could vote on.
    - ii. Condemnation of an order is separate from the condemnation of the President himself.
    - iii. We could take out the second mentioning of the Presidents name, although it does not serve too great of a purpose.
    - iv. There is concern for overstepping boundaries, but some members believe that this case is important and worthy of a strong statement.
  - i. There were some responses from the general community (not present in GSG) expressing disappointment at UD's official response that lacked sympathetic anger and distress they were experiencing as individuals.
  - j. A WHEREAS clause will be edited to address more relevancy to diversity and inclusion.
- D. Can we implement re-useable water bottles at the gym to discourage students from using disposable ones? (Similar to the towel program.)
  - a. This is something we can bring up to a greater platform.

## V. SENATE FLOOR

Parliamentarian Rinkevich opened the Senate Floor at 7:28 p.m.

- A. Old Business
  - It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There was no discussion and the Minutes were approved.
- B. New Business
  - SR-1617-04
    - The Senate unanimously approved to accept the revisions.
    - The Senate unanimously approved to accept the revised resolution.
  - No legislation from the floor.

Senate Floor closed at 7:29pm.

## VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Forum on Executive Order is held on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Class of 1941 Lecture Room in Morris Library. Info Session will be held at 11:30am, while the Academic Forum is held at 1pm.
- February 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for nominations for GSG officer positions (2017-2018 academic year).
- Immigration Forum is held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, Daugherty Hall, 4-6pm.
- BGSA Welcome Back Meet & Greet is held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the Center for Black Culture, 6-7:30pm.
- DENIN (Delaware Environment Institute) is hosting its second research symposium. Abstracts and registration are due February 17<sup>th</sup>, 5pm. The Symposium will be held March 16<sup>th</sup>, ISE, 5-7pm. <https://t.e2ma.net/message/9apvq/lgx6gf>
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the deadline for call for papers for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Grad Students' Forum.

- Marth 10<sup>th</sup>, Theater Night. More info to follow.
- Jewish Family Services is seeking help finding landlords who are willing to aid (forgo a credit check and income verification) a refugee family arriving next week. The family of 3 (with one being an infant) is bringing \$4000 for rent purposes, and affordable housing is preferred. Their future employment will not be an issue. Please identify potentially-interested landlords and forward this message.
- For all upcoming committee meeting times and locations and GSG events, please see <http://sites.udel.edu/gsg/>.
- Announcements from the floor.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyra H. Kim  
Graduate Student Government Secretary