

UD Graduate Student Government
February Committee Reports
February 8, 2018 | 103 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

III.A. INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee – Eric Y. Chen (eyc@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time.

Events Committee – Yuliya Brel (ulenka@udel.edu)

- Met three times in the month of January.
- The internal affairs committee will meet every Tuesday in 285 Graham Hall to discuss Graduate Research Forum
- Contact the Office of Senator Carper to invite him to be the keynote speaker for the Forum – Danielle Civil, Yuliya Brel;
- Chamath Chandrasekera - Create a list of external Universities to be contacted to invite their graduate students to participate in the Forum
- Working on the draft of the flyer
- Creating a tentative schedule of the Forum panels, sessions, and other events
- Discussing alternative key-note speakers
- Finalizing a list of universities whose students will be invited to participate in the Forum

Social Committee – John Stout (jstout@psych.udel.edu)

- No updates at this time

III.B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee Zachary Bailey (zbailey@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time

Student Life Committee – Montessa Brooks (brooksm@udel.edu)

Fees

- See breakdown by Stijn of fees (attached)
- To calculate the disparity in the installment plan, Stijn will wait for the spring bill to see.

Bus Schedule

- App is still inconsistent
 - Just last week there was a disparity in the bus saying it would arrive at 4:50 but it did not arrive until 5:20
 - As per email from transportation, the bus tracker issues have been fixed on UD's end but issues can still occur due to cellular outages or software updates from the vendor.
- **Bus Frequency**
 - Complaints about particularly summer bus frequency
 - As per email from transportation, the frequency of the buses are determined by three factors:
 - ridership,
 - geography,
 - budgeting.
 - The demand for service is greatly reduced in summer due to the reduced population on campus as well as more pleasant weather making walking a more viable option for some. For routes such as the East loop, geography determines the frequency in that we just have no control over where apartments and other buildings are located. Operating us costs the department a significant amount of money, so this dictates we must reduce service when the demand is lighter.
 - During the day there are three routes with one bus operating on each, with one bus in the wee morning hours and one bus in the evening. The routes are three of the same routes operated year-round.
 - To improve frequency, it is necessary to convince UD of a need
 - Stijn will reach out to Michelle Bennett to find out more information from the recent transportation survey
 - How can it be done without greatly impacting cost?

Additional bus stops

- Few graduate students have suggested places that they would like to see added to the bus schedules
 - Oak Tree Apartments
 - Stonegate
- **Lack of busses when campus is closed**
 - No service when university is closed. Grad students can't get to campus. When closure is announced last minute due to winter weather, students can get trapped on campus (and e.g. have to take an Uber).

Financial Literacy

- Tessa contacted OISS, and they were happy to join together to create a financial literacy workshop with a focus on filing taxes
 - OISS has a lot of information and resources on their website
 - They are not tax professionals/don't want to be liable for anything.
- Specific tax professionals would be supplied by OISS while Student Life would handle the logistics and planning of the event.
- Geared toward international students but open for all.
 - This just means the tax professional would need knowledge of international tax laws, visas, etc
- Event will be late February/early March
 - Waiting for confirmation from OISS as they are trying out a new system

Sustainability Committee – Alexander Harding (ahrdng@udel.edu)

- Updates
 - Stijn contacted Michelle Bennett in mid-January
 - Reusable water bottle exchange at the gym is a no-go
 - Repairing the Solar One house is one of the facilities' priorities
 - Needs a full engineering audit
 - Foundation, doors, windows, roofing need to be examined
 - Energy audit on final energy use
 - Final energy use is dependent upon its final purpose
 - After the audit, the final cost can be determined
 - Michelle would like to reach out to student organizations such as Engineers without Borders to give them an opportunity at working on a real project
 - Alex talked with Steve Hegedus (A scientist at the Institute of Energy Conversion, which built and designed the Solar One House)
 - Solar One was last worked on in the 1990s
 - Its original purpose was to showcase new technologies, i.e., Solar panels and Energy storage, e.g., Thermal salts, Batteries, "Smart" windows)
 - We might find the revamping of the Solar One House easier if we use similar promotional tactics
- b) Discussion
 - The GSG Sustainability Committee is in support of rebuilding the Solar One house. It believes that the graduate student body should place its weight behind this movement as well.
 - The Sustainability Committee would like to bring this attention to the graduate student government in the form of a written report and an oral presentation.
 - This report will outline the objectives and reasons for rebuilding the Solar One house. Some of these reasons include a. Providing a unifying goal toward which professors, faculty, and students

from various departments may work together to solve an interdisciplinary problem of contemporary relevance

- Establishing a community of involved citizens that are educated on the topics of energy, environment, and climate change, alongside their role in developing a future in which they will want to live
- Serving as the impetus that the University is in need of to begin a whole-hearted attempt at transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy.
- If approved by the Senate, this message will be shared as a PDF file with the graduate student body in the GSG monthly update.
- In the written proposal we hope to:
 - a. Share important facts on climate science
 - Excite community members about renewable energy
 - Set obtainable goals
 - Motivate action on the individual level e. Rally support to drive the change forward
 - Empower citizens to take action at the local level and move forward from there
 - Set goals for how the Solar One house will be used once renovated
 - Active research by the UD Energy Institute
- Following the writing of this report, the Sustainability Committee will schedule a meeting with Michelle Bennett to gain a better insight toward understanding what the current state of the project is and how to move it forward together. This will follow the presentation of the written proposal
- Blue Henergy is a movement by the University of Delaware to engage, educate, and raise awareness for climate science and what each of us can do to contribute toward a future with no emissions
 - The Delaware Energy Institute is a subsidiary organization of the University of Delaware consisting of over 250 researchers that are working on environmentally-minded solutions such as:
 - a. Solar cells
 - b. Electric vehicles
 - c. Wind power
 - d. Fuel cells
 - e. Energy policy
 - The University of Delaware has a policy called the Path to Prominence whereby one of their main goals is:
 - a. "The University of Delaware will engage students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the most compelling social, cultural, artistic, and scientific challenges of our age. It will place itself among the world's leading universities by addressing such important matters as environmental sustainability, social justice, and alleviation of human suffering." If one of the University's main goals is environmental sustainability, then it must be held accountable and take action.

- There are existing outreach groups such as: a. The Sustainability Task Force b. Green Liasons c. UD Sustainability Fund d. Delaware Environmental Institute e. See <http://web.facilities.udel.edu/blueenergy/> for more details
 - Actions to take before next meeting
 - Write proposal
 - Contact Michelle Bennett 1. Ask for tour of the facility
 - Contact other sustainability organizations on campus
 - Identify interest in the Solar One house and widespread solar energy installation on campus
 - Look into the Graduate Research Forum
 - Bringing this message to the public may bolster our cause

Mental Health Committee – Danielle Valcour (dvalcour@udel.edu) and Michael Bush (mikebush@udel.edu)

- Code of Conduct was reviewed and modified
- The Committee Report expanded outline was reviewed

Community Engagement Committee: Bridget Killian (ckillian@udel.edu)

- The Committee agreed to meet biweekly for the Spring semester in order to complete and edit the proposal for the Graduate Community Engagement Certificate
- We have come up with the preliminary design for the certificate program, which uses a system of points for the completion of the degree
- We are planning a meeting with the Community Engagement Initiative in the following week to make sure we have all the information we will need to include in our proposal
- We have reached out to the Faculty Senate to get the format for the proposal
- We have also compiled a survey, which will be sent out to the GSG Senators at this meeting to be forwarded to their constituents. It will be used to gauge interest in the certificate program.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance Committee – Samantha Nystrom (snystrom@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time

Election Committee – Bo Trew (botew@udel.edu)

- Met, set up date and format for Officer election 2018.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Senate – Stijn Kosharis (kosharis@udel.edu) and David Maisson (dmaisson@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time

Graduate Studies Committee – Hiral Master (hiral@udel.edu) & Stijn Koshari (kosharis@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time.

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

- No updates at this time.

Faculty Senate Coordinating Committee on Education – Marcia Shirilla (marcia@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time.