

UD Graduate Student Government
December Committee Reports
December 14, 2017 | 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)

- No updates at this time.

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)

- Draft Resolution for Diversity Scholarship
- Discuss options with administration before submitting resolution to GSG:
 - Office of Graduate and Professional Education - Mary Martin, marym@udel.edu
 - Communications - Skip Cook, skipcook@udel.edu
 - **Student Financial Services - sfs-advisor@udel.edu
 - Development and Alumni Relations - Alumnet@udel.edu
 - Delaware First - Beth Brand, bqbrand@udel.edu

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

Discussed the replies and information gotten from Dr. Ann Ardis at the General GSG meeting regarding designated community space. It is important to make our voices heard with comments on the Grad Paper and to encourage constituents to do the same.

I. Tax Reform

a. Rally/Call Day

- i. A national walkout/rally day to bring attention to the proposed tax reform's effects on graduate students.
- ii. Wednesday, Nov 29 at 1PM

- iii. Organizing at UD
 - 1. On the Green, in front of Memorial
 - 2. Stijn will handle Facebook & GSG email
 - 3. Babak will create the flyer
 - b. States that Matter
 - i. Out-of-state students will have the biggest impact in contacting representatives
 - c. Can UD find ways around it?
 - i. If it were to pass, would UD be able to re-classify/rechannel the money so that it is not considered taxable income
 - 1. Already been discussed at Boston Uni
 - 2. This is a consideration to leave on the White Paper
- II. Student Life Issues
 - a. Issues which have been brought to the committee and require more information or research to improve the situation
 - i. Summer Gym Hours
 - 1. Not conducive to graduate students
 - a. Could possibly extend the hours or have a separate smaller section open after hours for graduate students
 - 2. Babak will research, contact & inquire
 - ii. Bus Schedules
 - 1. Summer especially
 - a. East/West Loop is not frequent enough
 - b. The schedule is not consistent with what is posted
 - 2. Tessa will research, contact, & inquire
 - iii. Transparency & Clarity of Fees
 - 1. Changing the deadline of fees to after the first paycheck
 - 2. Inquiring about the amount and increase in amount
 - a. For international students
 - 3. Stijn will research, contact & inquire
 - iv. Financial Literacy
 - 1. Office for International Students & Scholars (OISS)
 - a. Information on the website & they offer a workshop
 - i. However, information is lacking/inadequate
 - 1. Would be good to get more detailed information & workshops
 - 2. In extending financial literacy workshops etc to the general graduate student population
 - a. How to go about that
 - 3. Tessa will research, contact, & inquire
 - v. Graduate Student Space
 - 1. As discussed in the General meeting, there is still a high need for a community space just for graduate students

- a. It could be possible to arrange a temporary space
 - i. In a student center
 - 1. Need to contact Student Life
 - 2. Babak will research, contact & inquire
 - vi. Counseling Center
 - 1. Needs more space & more funding
 - 2. Comment on the White Paper bringing light to this issue
- III. #MeToo/Harassment
 - a. We discussed the possibility of GSG making a statement in support with the victims of sexual abuse, assault, harassment
 - b. How transparent is UD
 - i. UD Police Yearly Summary Report

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

- I. Focus on renewable energy & recycling
 - A. Work with the faculty senate and the university to transition to a renewable campus
 - 1. The faculty senate has passed a proposition that the University of Delaware transitions to 100% renewable energy by 2020.
 - 2. The transition will take place primarily using solar energy. There is ample space on the University of Delaware's buildings to supply its energy needs.
 - 3. A change in the university's policy is necessary to bring about this transition
- II. Repair solar one house
 - A. Michelle Bennett is looking to repair and rebuild the Solar One house – a fully renewable, proof-of-concept home. To accomplish this task she requires funding and support.
 - 1. We will give the support of the sustainability committee and determine what needs to be done to bring the building back into a working condition
 - 2. The building can be used as an educational building, a research facility, or an office space.
 - B. The sustainability committee will write a resolution giving its support to the project of repairing this building, and, if possible, will partake in the project itself.
 - C. The Solar One house is located to the East of campus on the corner of S. Chapel Ave. and Wyoming Rd.
- III. Connect the various sustainability organizations on and around campus
 - A. How many other groups are there?
 - 1. Faculty organizations
 - 2. Graduate organizations
 - 3. Undergraduate organizations
 - 4. Sustainability task force

5. Look into other groups and contact them
6. Figure out how each group relates to one another
- B. Create a document to determine what each organization focuses on
- IV. The solar decathlon is a competition where student organizations compete to design the most cost- and energy-efficient home
- V. OISS coffee hour
 - A. Better recycling on campus
 1. Improved signs to determine what is and is not recyclable
 2. Distribute flyers to the GSG and post signs around campus
 3. Work with custodial staff to avoid taking down the signs by accident
- VI. Reusable water bottles at the gym
 - A. There was a previous movement to provide reusable water bottles at the gym similar to the towel exchange system. However, no progress has been made in several months and the project will have to be revisited by contacting Michelle Bennett
- VII. Bike repair stations
 - A. Several of the bicycle repair stations around campus are lacking in tools and are, themselves, in need of repair. Facilities has been notified about these issues and will be addressing them in time.
- VIII. Oxfam Hunger Banquet
 - A. Planning an event of this scale would require the coordination of several organizations since the reach of the GSG sustainability committee does not extent far enough to gather the necessary number of people to make such an endeavor possible.

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

- Discussion of the structure of the university-wide program including sub-divisions and overall umbrella program
- Start developing Code of Ethics modified from CBE's EmPOWER program

Community Engagement Committee – Bridget Killian (bkillian@udel.edu)

- We will hold an open discussion at the December GSG General Meeting to circulate some ideas and get feedback.

III.C. SENATE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- In response to the resolution request by Michael Bush (Mathematics Senator), Governance virtually convened on November 14, 2017 to draft SR-1718-03.

Governance Committee – Bo Tew (botew@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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- The administration is planning cluster hires of new faculty in targeted interdisciplinary areas.
- The FS passed a resolution to support efforts by the President of UD to seek funding for the potential establishment of a Graduate College at UD as a priority in the University's comprehensive campaign.
- The FS passed a resolution to change the approval process of Multicultural designated courses to include a review of a Diversity and Inclusion subcommittee.

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- President Assanis gave an update on the search process for a new provost, and clarified that it will be a mostly closed/confidential process. David Maisson is on the search committee. Any suggestions regarding the search can be directly send to him through the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfz98pNd_NDLiumDYrh6cuGxbc0NdJpfpK_CCZJTE3QJFTRLg/viewform?usp=sf_link. You can also send suggestions to the president at president@udel.edu.
- The Unidel Foundation is awarding the university with a new 2.5 million **yearly** grant in support of graduate education. This money will be used to fund twelve 5-year "Unidel" scholarships (60 scholars total present per year at full capacity), which will be allocated to departments specifically to attract outstanding applicants. Additional money in the first four years (when the limit of 60 scholars has not yet been reached) will be used to supplement some specific, existing stipends on campus and create new programs for grad students (not specified).
- The FS tried to pass a resolution to revise the new UD Non-Discrimination policy. Most importantly, the revisions change the 'standard of proof' for discrimination complaints from 'preponderance of the information' to the more strict 'clear and convincing evidence'. Comments from the floor stated that this change sends a bad message to students and will make it less likely for students to report cases

of discrimination. The resolution was tabled to a later meeting in early Spring, with a Town Hall to be held beforehand. We strongly encourage students to be present at this Town Hall.

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

- A wide range of graduate programs has been reviewed for curriculum changes, approval, and disestablishment. All affected programs and changes can be found at <http://grad.udel.edu/faculty/graduate-studies-senate-committee/>. If you have any comments, please contact Stijn Koshari (kosharis@udel.edu) or Hiral Master (hiral@udel.edu) as soon as possible.
- Programs that have been considered for disestablishment: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Concentration, MS in Software Engineering, MA in Social Studies in World History, MEM degree in Engineering
- Some of the new programs: PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders, MS in Exercise Clinical Physiology, MS in Athletic Training, Certificate in Molecular Diagnostics, PHD program in Health Behavior Science and Promotion, MS in Human Nutrition, MA in Educational Leadership
- Major changes: Name Change of Dept of Medical Lab Sciences to Dept of Biomedical Science, MA in Leadership in Disability Services, Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Senate Awards Committee – Carrie Glenn (carriele@udel.edu)

- You probably saw an email from Michael Chajes come through a month or two ago, soliciting nominations for faculty and graduate student teachers. The committee will send a second email shortly after the Spring semester commences to remind students to nominate faculty. Please encourage your constituents to nominate faculty for the teaching award.

Faculty Senate Library Committee – Matt Rinkevich (mrink@udel.edu) and Bo Tew (botew@udel.edu)

Three topics likely to be of interest to graduate students were 1) a planned library expansion, 2) a collection review, and 3) the Scholar in the Library series.

- **Planned Library Expansion:** A \$30–100 million renovation is planned for Morris Library. It would focus on consolidating the Special Collections holdings in a single location--they are currently distributed across the three levels--and increasing student spaces. Currently, the library can accommodate 7% of the undergraduate population, and the library hopes to raise that to 13%, the average capacity of our peer institutions.
- **Collection Review:** The library plans on reducing its collection by 25% (in a 3–5 year process). Each department has an assigned library selector in charge of selecting holdings to be removed and disposed of. Currently, they are focusing on duplicates and outdated editions. Faculty and graduate students are encouraged to speak with their library selector.

- **Scholar in the Library Series:** On the second Wednesday of each month, Morris Library hosts a lecture by a faculty member. See this sight for more information: <https://library.udel.edu/scholarinthelibrary/>

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

- No updates at this time.