

UD Graduate Student Government
October Public Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2017 | 208 Gore Hall | 6:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. GUEST SPEAKERS: ANN ARDIS-SPEAKING ON THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

- Presentation overview:
 - The comment function for the White Paper is still live, and they would like feedback; it will be live until the end of Fall 2017 semester (at least).
 - Primary charge consideration about the operating structure of the Graduate College. The benefit of Graduate College is the move from a support service title to an academic title: enhance academic excellence, promote interdisciplinary, support inclusivity, and centralize services.
 - Proposed implementation date: July 1, 2018
 - Working Group Recommendations: 1. Establish Graduate College (partner with academic colleges and Office of Provost; interdisciplinary graduate programming; diversity in recruitment, retention, mentoring, community-building, and alumni engagement; consistency within the program; improve fundraising) 2. Dual-Title Leadership (a Dean and Senior Vice Provost) 3. Establish Graduate Council (address university-level policies) 4. Division of Student Life should reform their mission for graduate students and post-docs 5. The Division of Professional and Continuing Studies renamed as a “school” within the Graduate College 6. A separate organizational unit reporting directly to the provost should be established to provide university-level oversight and a strategic vision for online education at UD
- Open discussion:
 - The working group seems from the perspective of administrators. How will it express student life concerns since Working Group isn’t charged with those concerns?
 - Response: Please use the comment function in the white paper to raise concerns, which then be passed onto Student Life.
 - How will it impact the relationship with the department? Where are funding come from/redistribution between departments?
 - Response: They are working in partnership with program directors and faculty. Departments review applications; Grad College ensures that they follow their own, and UD, rules. They don’t see programs moving into Grad College; Grad College helps with resources for program development planning. Re funding: they are still thinking about those issues. They do know that endowments specific to departments, however, wouldn’t change and are looking for more centralized fellowships.
 - Will there be more requirements, coming from the Graduate College, to get MA or Ph.D.?

- Response: They have not recommended any requirements. To improve academic excellence, they want to focus on overall department/program reviews for their effectiveness (retention, time to degree, placement).
- What do they then do with that review information?
 - Response: Consistency with evaluation and they will consult with the department. There is no standard of sameness for each department.
- Is the review information available publicly? Will they deal with advisor issues?
 - Response: They are not sure about sharing the data. They hope that the Graduate Council and having more centralized resources/support will help with these department issues.
- What happens with students in the 4+1 or 3+2 programs?
 - Response: They are not sure about that issue. You wouldn't move to another program, however, during that +1 year; you would be charged graduate rate.
- Please clarify: are all graduate students a member of the Grad College?
 - Response: The degree of the Chemical Engineering would still come from the original college. It would expand the offices. Fees would go to support Graduate services.
- Is there a demand for grad housing?
 - Response: Yes.
- What is the role of graduate students on the graduate council?
 - Response: Level of operational detail they haven't gotten to yet. Sam (English) Response: Ask graduate students about their amount of time they are willing to give to graduate council.
- Community space clarification from graduate students? There is no community space for graduate students.
 - Response: The White Paper says community space is in Trabant or Perkins, but there is not marked off grad space in those locations.
- There is a displacement of responsibility in the management of these student life services; recommendation to have a person/office dedicated to advocating for grad students at these standing institutions in student life.
 - Response: funding and resources needed. Surprise response from Ardis: should we have a Student Government, not separate undergrad and graduate.
- Emphasize that for Ph.D., for those of us that we teach, the difference between our students and us is palpable. Senators and the executive board supported these ideas. However, there was a concerns for being hierarchical.
 - Response: there is no stratification, but there are different needs for graduate students. Definitely there is an added value to have a separate area, especially as you teach (group therapy with your own student is highly uncomfortable, for instance).
- Why is the deadline for fees before the first paycheck? Why does the installment plan have a high interest? What do the fees cover, how are they allocated?

Transportation: Parking Fees are exceptionally high. Often students live farther away because there isn't a lot of housing, so we must pay for parking.

Buses: Inconsistent, so then we need to get the expensive parking pass.

Gym: during the off-semester the rec center follows the undergraduate hours, but grad working hours don't change.

Will our fees only go to grad services?

 - Response: They are thinking about these fees structures.
- What is the timeline?

- Response: Many of the issues are UD policy matters and UD practices that need to be addressed by the institution at large.

III. A. Internal Affairs Committee Reports

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

- No update at this time.

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

- Please send out the Winterthur flyer. The deadline to register for the event is a week before i.e. November 29, 2017.

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

- No update at this time.

III.B STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity Committee – Zachary Bailey (zbailey@udel.edu)

- New event (Deer Park meeting). Discuss a fundraising event to increase diversity. Can we make UD a Sanctuary?

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

- Issues that were brought up during Invited Speaker

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

- Alex Harding elected chair.
- Hosted coffee hour to promote recycling.
- Next Friday they will have another park clean up and picnic in Fairfield Park.
- You can file a request for more bike spaces for GSG meeting anyone interested in helping GSG will be appreciated.

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

- Structure for program discussed

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

- Structure for program discussed

III.C. Senate Committee Reports

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

- No updates at this time.

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

- No updates at this time.

III.D. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Faculty Senate – Stijn Koshari (kosharis@udel.edu) & David Maisson (dmaisson@udel.edu)

- No updates at this time.

Newark City Council –

- No updates at this time.

III.E. Organizational Delegate Reports

- None present.

IV OPEN FLOOR

- A. Bowling night on November 17, 2017 at Elk lanes, MD. RSVP Link to register for the event is <https://grad-admissions.udel.edu/register/bowling2017>

V. Senate Floor

Parliamentarian Sam opened the Senate Floor at 6.54 p.m.

A. Old Business

- There was no old business.

B. New Business

- Unable to hold senate floor (we had quorum at the start of the meeting, but senate floor wasn't called until 7:41, when we no longer had quorum.

Senate Floor closed at 7:41pm.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- November 9 on Green: Launch of Delaware First campaign.
- Please submit comments to White Papers. <http://grad.udel.edu/grad-white-paper/>.
- Board of Trustees asked for grad students to participate in the fundraising campaign (donating, talking to donors etc).
- UD night at Winterthur on December 6th, 2017 at 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The google form link is <https://tinyurl.com/udyuletide2017>.
- The GSG Sustainability Committee is hosting a potluck-style get-together in Fairfield Park on Friday November 10th at 3 PM, with a social gathering afterwards at Deer Park.
- The Center for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) is planning series of discussions, called "Future Faculty Conversations" and, on November 16th, we are hosting a discussion called "Work-Life Imbalance" at 116 Willard Hall, from 11AM-12:30PM.
- The School of Energy and Environmental Policy in association with Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is organizing a 'Smart City Symposium' to be held on Nov 28-29, 2017 at University of Delaware.
- Bowling night on November 17, 2017 at Elk lanes, MD. RSVP Link to register for the event is <https://grad-admissions.udel.edu/register/bowling2017>

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiral Master
Graduate Student Government Secretary