

# October GSG Meeting Minutes

126 Lerner Hall | October 4th, 2018 | 6:30 pm

- ❖ Call to Order and Welcome
- ❖ Invited Speaker - Adam Cantley Interim Dean of Students
  - <https://sites.udel.edu/studentlife/>
  - Many grad students are unaware the of resources available to them
    - Everything is available on **stUDent central**
      - These resources will be a part of the Graduate College
  - For those staying in town for Thanksgiving, there are discounted rates for the Thanksgiving football and basketball games
    - Graduate students are overrepresented in the tailgating zone in proportion to the student body size
  - UDaily and StUDent central are used to reach students. Most everything is done online these days. It's important for students to know where to go to get information.
    - Social media plays a big part.
    - During orientation, undergraduates receive information on all the resources available to them.
      - Nothing like that exists for graduate students.
      - It may be of use to incorporate that info into future orientation events.
  - Recently the university realized the importance of graduate student family needs, and plans on addressing these issues:
    - There are essentially no child support services outside of the Early Learning Center daycare.
    - There aren't many interaction groups for students with families.
    - International students come with spouses and family more often than domestic students.
      - The spouses of international students are limited in what they can do due to their visas.
    - No data on the number of graduate students with families so far
- ❖ Committee Reports
  - Communications
    - Juniper Lake was elected chair of the committee
    - This year's focus is on:
      - Promoting GSG events through Facebook and the GSG website
      - Posting a google calendar accessible to all
      - Making a newsletter with each month's updates
  - Events
    - This year will focus on:
      - Partnering with existing student organizations to co-sponsor events
      - Hosting classic GSG events (Winterthur & Forum)
      - Holding workshops applicable to all students
  - Social
    - Rachael LaBattaglia was chosen as the committee chair
    - This year will focus on:
      - Hosting 1 to 2 social events per month
      - Promote seasonal events
      - Helping people get out of their labs to have a good time
  - Student Life
    - Gunner Taylor was elected as the chair for this committee.

- Our main focuses for this year are currently:
    - Addressing student fees and where the money goes
    - Advocating for the best grad student space we can get
    - Addressing the main concerns with transportation (e.g. bus schedule, particularly on snow days)
  - We welcome further suggestions on common issues grad students would like addressed.
- Diversity
  - Our goals for the year are:
    - Hold three smaller coffee hours throughout the year with cultural themes to offer a low-barrier way to expand people's horizons
      - ◆ Partner with diversity groups on campus (e.g. BGSA, IGSA, etc.)
    - To hold one "heavier" event in the spring
      - ◆ Likely a workshop from the CCSD related to diversity and inclusion
- Community Engagement
  - We are aiming to submit the Course of Study to curriculum by November. We ask that all Senators that have not passed along the message emailed to them yesterday (Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>) please do so ASAP.
- Sustainability
  - Tiffany Doherty and Zach Cannon were elected as the co-chairs for this committee.
  - Our main focuses for this year are currently:
    - Making recycling bins more accessible (always partnered with trash bins, particularly outside)
    - Potential advertisement for markets selling the food grown on South Campus
    - Addressing what happens with the waste from UD Catering and the dining halls
    - Pushing for more sustainable energy use
- Mental Health
  - This committee is continuing to revise the documentation created last year in conjunction with the CCSD. In the meantime, we are working to provide stress-relief activities for all grad students by creating a new group called Get Out, Not Stressed Out (GONSO \*pronounced gone-zo) – be on the lookout for this Facebook group!
- ❖ External Committees
  - Graduate College
    - All feedback on the Bylaws or the Mission & Vision Statement are appreciated
      - It's the only way to advocate for graduate student needs
      - The Mission & Vision Statement is entering final edits
    - The Bylaws are nearly finished
      - Released in the next month
    - The Graduate College will have a governing body of the same size as faculty senate with 3 graduate student representatives
  - Faculty Senate
    - There is a push to make digital resources more accessible for students with disabilities. The focus is on teaching people how to format documents with this in mind
    - There is a movement to use the university's organic produce in the dining halls. However, the supplier (ARAMARK) makes this difficult. In 2 years their contract expires. The university is exploring new options.
      - If the produce cannot be sold, it ought to be taken to a food pantry to help those in need
- ❖ Organizational Delegates

- The Library Advocacy Council is looking for two delegates
- ❖ Open floor
  - Removal of Natalie Criscenzo as GSG Secretary
    - Natalie Criscenzo has failed to fulfill her duties as GSG Secretary. She has been unresponsive to all attempts at communication. She is in good health, attending courses in the school of public policy and administration. Due to her decision to not partake as a GSG officer, the other members of the executive council have decided to remove her from her position. With the approval of the GSG Senate, a search will begin to fill the role of Secretary
  - Discussion on the health insurance changes for part-time students
    - Part-time students no longer have the option of purchasing health insurance through the university
    - Either offer lower quality health care to all, or provide the same health care to fewer students
      - The university administration made the decision to make part-time students ineligible for health insurance subsidized through the university
    - The GSG is not in a position to change the administration's decision. It understands the difficulty of such a decision. The GSG can, however, advocate for a change in administrative decisions that have such wide-ranging implications. Namely, the GSG wishes to express its disapproval at the narrow window of time between this announcement and when the health insurance waiver was required to be completed. Students should have been given advance notice of the issue to allow more time for properly selecting a health-care provider.
- ❖ Senate Floor
  - Old business
    - The September meeting minutes were approved
  - New business
    - The GSG senate chose to remove Natalie Criscenzo as Secretary and begin the search for a new one
- ❖ Announcements
  - Future GSG meetings will take place on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM (Location TBD)
  - Each semester, the chairs of each committee must meeting with their Vice President to discuss their goals and directions
  - The Materials Research Society will be hosting a fundraiser at Chipotle on October 9th from 5-9pm. 33% of the proceeds go to funding the chapter's academic activities.
  - Coast Day is taking place on the Lewes campus on Sunday October 7th
  - All those working with high performance computers in STEM fields are encouraged to contact John Russo at [jrusso@udel.edu](mailto:jrusso@udel.edu)
    - They are encouraged to pool knowledge to attack computationally challenging problems together
  - The Society of Industrial and Mathematics is planning a trip to Millburn Orchards on October 13th that coincides with the GSG Social Committee Outing
  - It's college application month. Anyone interested in helping high schoolers in Delaware apply to college are encouraged to contact Rachael LaBattaglia ([rlabatta@udel.edu](mailto:rlabatta@udel.edu))
  - Garden plots are available to graduate students on south campus. They cost between \$15 and \$20 depending on the size of the plot. They are advertised to the College of Agriculture, but they are open to all students.
  - Colburn Laboratory has a green roof where students can grow flowers and plants. All those who are interested are encouraged to participate. Contact Eric Steinmann for more information