

October 2019 GSG Committee Reports

Social Committee

The Social Committee is planning the Nov 21 Theater Night event and approved the Dec 5 Milburn Orchards event.

Events Committee

The event committee met on October 14th, 2019. Some of the updates regarding the two main events, event committee is responsible for are:

- **Graduate Forum:**
 - Will be held on **April 17, 2020** in Star campus (Thanks to President Sindhuja)
 - We are going to have **networking event** as a new addition this year.
 - Vice-President Erin and senator Safiyah had a meeting with **WIE** and we think that WIE could be a could **collaboration** for forum event.

- **Gala:**
 - Will be held on **May 08, 2020** in Star campus (Thanks to President Sindhuja)
 - There are some changes that we think will be better (example heavy hors d'oeuvres instead of food truck etc) for Gala and we can discuss further on that.

Senator Safiyah is going to attend Delaware IDeAs Forum on November 7 and report us back on ideas that we can think of adding in our forum event. We are also going to talk to Suprawee Tepsuporn (Grad College Assistant Dean for Professional Development) to help us plan the event better. We are subdividing our committee into smaller teams to start working towards these events and already took a step forward towards arrangement that has been discussed in the meeting. More details can be found in meeting minutes.

Operations Committee

The GSG Operations Ad Hoc Committee met on 10/22/19 at 9 AM. We approved several base funding and event supplemental requests, elected co-chairs for the committee, and discussed our plan to develop guidelines for reviewing applications.

Communications Committee

Communications has started using Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to engage with the graduate student population and promote GSG events. They are working on updating contact information on the website and building out pages such as Events, Senators, and the Home page.

Diversity Committee

Meeting Dates: October 10, 2019 and October 19, 2019

Diversity Committee Members: Ariana Cerreta (co-chair), Nefetaria Yates (co-chair), Nancy Contreras, Safiyah Mansoori, Kathleen Hagerty

Diversity Forum Project:

- First project for this year
- *Goal:* Use a focus group of GSOs to identify issues around diversity for graduate students to help mitigate challenges and create an open dialogue
- *Dates:* Nov. 11, 2019 from 6-8 pm in Alison Hall 133 and Nov. 13, 2019 from 6-8 pm in Gore Hall 208

Communication with administration:

- We have also been working with Sindhuja (GSG President) to better communicate with the administration regarding diversity issues.
- Administration is willing to share information from graduate student diversity surveys that have been conducted previously.

Summary: We hope to use the information gathered during the forums and from previously conducted survey to prioritize initiatives and legislation.

Student Life Committee

Present: Will Thompson, Emily Kolewe, Ken Beidler, Mukund Kabra.

In the previous meeting we had decided to focus on the following issues: extending summer recreation center hours, safety issues in the Studio Arts Building, looking at issues grad student parents face including expanding options for childcare and increasing student health center hours. We added the issue of how to mediate/resolve conflicts between graduate students and faculty advisors. We discussed the replies and information received from different university sources, grad students and university administration on these issues.

1. Parenting: Maternity Leave Policy, Childcare, Information Collection and Lactation Rooms
 - Mukund Kabra (Chemical Engineering) updated us on conversations with Mary Martin, associate vice provost for graduate studies, on a number of issues related to resources for graduate student parents: UD maternity leave policy, creating a website/central information hub for parents looking for resources around childcare, UD policies, look at other university policies on maternity leave, lactation rooms.
 - Emily Kolewe (Chemical Engineering) related personal experiences and challenges of finding childcare, the limitations of the current UD maternity leave policy and the lack of and accessibility to lactation rooms on campus.
2. Studio Arts Building safety
 - Ken Beidler reported about survey he conducted with MFA students around issues they face regarding security in the Studio Arts Building.
 - Common complaints include: insecurity about studio equipment, unruly behavior in the parking lot of Studio Arts Building by Thursday night frat groups, inappropriate and destructive use of bathroom and other building facilities by the Thursday frat groups.
 - Steps are being explored regarding keyed access to the building, reducing evening access hours to the building to art related undergrads and grads and following up with police.
3. Conflicts between grad students and faculty
 - Mukund reported on conversations he had with Mary Martin about the need for a more clear mediation process for graduate students experiencing conflict on a variety of issues with faculty advisors.
4. Extending Recreation Hours
 - Mukund reported that he had received 54 affirmative responses to a survey about extending summer recreational center hours. He will conduct a further survey with Material Science grad students after which he will present his findings to administrative staff.
5. Student Health Center Hours

- We tabled the discussions on extending student health center hours since Seda O. could report

Next meeting: Nov. 19 4:00 pm. Morris Library

Mental Health Committee

The GSG Mental Health Committee met on October 25th, 2019 to review progress made in plans for the EmPOWER program expansion, Neurodiversity Event, and De-Stressing Event. A representative from the MHC will be attending an EmPOWER program committee meeting in November to gain a better understanding of program structure and function. The survey for the Neurodiversity event was discussed and updates regarding the plan for Neurodiversity and De-Stressing events implementation were given.

Sustainability Committee

October's Sustainability Committee meeting began with an in-depth discussion about the current state of sustainability at the University of Delaware with the University's Sustainability Manager, Michelle Bennett. She emphasized the impact of student outreach to University leadership. We plan to collaborate with the Green Liaison program to gather other ideas on pertinent issue.

Other Committee topics discussed were finalization of legislation titled "A RESOLUTION in Favor of Native Plant Landscaping on University of Delaware Campus", and other legislation ideas including increased awareness of recycling rules and visibility of bike lanes on campus.

Membership Committee

Not submitted

Governance Committee

Not submitted