

September 2019 GSG Committee Reports

Social Committee

The Social Committee chose possible venues for the Theater Night on Nov 21. They also decided that the GSG Holiday event would be a bonfire at Milburn Orchards. They discussed working with Dr. Doug Doren, Interim Vice Provost of the Graduate College, on Graduate Student Mixers throughout the year.

Events Committee

The Event Committee met on September 25th, 2019, 8-9 pm. Priyanka Mondal got elected as Committee Chair with a unanimous voting and Erin Hein took responsibility to take minutes of the meeting.

Since forum and gala are the two main events of the year that event committee is responsible for, we took a step forward discussing how to enhance event success i.e. engage more student participation. Some of the ideas that we came up with are as follows :

- **Graduate Forum :**
 - avoid date overlap and compare graduate forum with other research events on campus,
 - Invite prominent keynote speaker of universal interest or replace keynote with panel discussion or networking lunch with alumni (participants can be asked during RSVP, alumni from specific field they would like to interact with and contact those alumni accordingly for availability),
 - Students who receive OGPE awards have to present, spotlight winners in their departments, 1-3 min thesis competition,

- **Gala :**
 - Participants come for food/booze and not using University Catering may reduce ticket price,
 - We may do hors d'oeuvres instead of seated dinner,
 - Add more fun activities like photo booth, caricature, henna tattoos, dance, other things,

We appreciate Mary Martin and President Sundar's effort to get STAR campus as venue for both these events.

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee reviewed their first round of base budget and event funding requests from GSOs. They will be working this semester to create an orientation packet, review guidelines, and updated FAQs that will help clarify the process for future GSG Operations committees and GSOs.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is working to gain access to all GSG Social Media accounts, which they are planning to use throughout the year to distribute information about GSG events and news. They also audited the GSG website and prioritized changes and updates that need to be made.

Diversity Committee

Not submitted.

Student Life Committee

We discussed the previous actions of the committee and decided to tentatively focus on Childcare, Building Access and Safety, and Increasing Summer Facility Hours. Ken Beidler has been elected Chair of the Committee.

Mental Health Committee

The GSG Mental Health Committee met for the first time on September 30th, 2019. Three long-term goals were established for the 2019-2020 academic year, including the holding of a Neurodiversity Event, De-Stressing Event, and broadening of the COE EmPOWER program to two other graduate departments within the university. The committee elected Christina Warden as chair. Members of the committee all selected an event for direct involvement.

Sustainability Committee

The first meeting of the Fall 2019 semester for the Sustainability Committee was on Thursday, September 26th. This year's Committee leadership was voted upon: Elizabeth Davis and William Vincett, both from the Department of Earth Sciences will serve as Co-Chairs. This year, we have acknowledged the need for a point contact in Lewes. The Lewes community is directly tied to sustainability, and oftentimes are not heard due to their distance to the majority of the student population in Newark. We hope to reverse this vocal imbalance with the appointment of Jessica Czarnecki as the Lewes representative.

We are currently planning a poster for display at the Lewes campus during Coast Day on Sunday, October 6th! This poster will publicize the Sustainability Committee's role in improving sustainability initiatives at UD, as well as the current legislation in progress. Public outreach efforts will continue past Coast Day with the appointment of Samantha Bingaman as the Sustainability Committee's representative to the UD Green Liaisons.

The current initiatives of the Sustainability Committee include the voting on legacy legislation written during last year's session, namely (SR 1819-05) - A Resolution in Favor of Additional Water Bottle Refill Stations on Campus, and (SR 1819-06) - A Resolution in Favor of a UD Office of Sustainability. Future potential legislative ideas include increasing tree canopy cover on campus, planting of native plants on grounds, moderating air temperatures inside buildings, increasing energy efficiency with new air dryers in bathrooms, and increased awareness of recycling best practices.

Future research ideas include how to hold conferences in a sustainable manner, how to expand committee membership outside of CEOE students, how to connect some sort of demonstration to the Committee's initiatives, and how to further publicize the Committee's initiatives through public outreach.

If you have any comments, or any ideas on legislation that the Sustainability Committee should consider, please email sustainudel@gmail.com, and it may be brought up at the next Committee meeting. This next meeting will be on Tuesday October 8, from 9:30-10:30 AM. The location of the October meeting is yet to be decided.

Membership Committee
Not submitted.

Governance Committee
Not submitted.