I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome. Officers introduced.

II. Presidential Address

President Bonistall began by saying that she's excited for all of the possibilities ahead and that each of us need to decide what we want to do this semester in order to begin on a good foot. She hopes that we can properly advertise and communicate our events and programs to the school, at large, in order to continue the efforts of the GSS from the previous year. Her remarks focused on the key themes of Passion, Support, Trust & Communication, and Standards of Excellence.

Passion
"The key to a successful organization is having successful people. The key to successful people is passion. If you don’t love what you do, you just won’t be very good at it. It is important to find the right niche which aligns the individual properly with the requirements of the position so there will be a high probability of success. (Which committee will you join?)"

President Bonistall is passionate about: Constitutional changes, elections, the Counseling Center, the GSS budget/student fee, fitness/student health, graduate student space, and student safety.

Support
The GSS wants to provide its members tools for success: “The people who care about us most are those who stand shoulder to shoulder with us during our most difficult times.”

Motivation is a personal responsibility. It is not President Bonistall's responsibility to motivate members; it is her role to care about members, give them the tools they need to succeed, and then to support them in their work.

Trust & Communication
Communication, honesty, forthcoming, transparency, acting in good faith, accountability, and "tough love" all facilitate and feed into trust. In particular, President Bonistall wants to see trust among Executive Officer, Executive Officers and Dr. Martin/Dr. Riordan, committee members and chairs, committee chairs and the respective vice presidents, the GSS and the president, the graduate student body and the GSS, and the administration at large and the GSS.

Standards of Excellence
"All relationships flourish or fail simply based on a clear or unclear understanding of what we expect from one another. We must clearly define and communicate expectations."

"Instead of approaching them as rules – because rules are suffocating – in this organization, we’ll have standards of excellence. These standards encourage maximum performance and individual growth."

Each graduate academic program is represented by a Senator, who is expected to attend monthly GSS meetings, to be actively involved in the business of a standing or external GSS committee, and to disseminate information from the GSS to his/her academic program. (Reference: Senator Responsibilities in GSS Handbook, pages 10-12).

The Four P's:
Passion
Positive attitudes
Productivity
Play

III. Committee Break-outs and Planning Time

Facilitated by Vice President Ralston and Vice President Richard.

IV. Brief Committee Reports

Communications Committee The Communications Committee is still looking for a chair! Email Kevin Ralston (kralston@udel.edu) if interested.

Diversity Committee Thursday, September 22, 4:00 pm at Bleeker Street in Morris Library Co-Chairs: Kristen Hefner (mkhefner@udel.edu), Ken Adams (kenadams@udel.edu)

Events Committee Wednesday, September 14, 5:30 pm at Bleeker Street in Morris Library Co-Chairs: Brittany Scott (bscott@udel.edu) and Mikahila Bloomfield (mbloom@udel.edu)

Organization Committee Wednesday, September 14, 3:00 pm at the Trabant (room TBA) Chair: Emily Bonistall (ebonistall@udel.edu)
Social Committee  Monday, September 19, 12:30 pm at Brew Ha Ha  Co-Chairs: Kimberly Frederick (kfred@udel.edu) and Sarah Markland (sarmark@udel.edu)

Student Life Committee  Tuesday, September 13, 5:00-6:00 pm at Grotto's  Chair: Abhinav Jain (arjain@udel.edu)

Sustainability Committee  Tuesday, September 13, 1:30 pm at the Perkins Student Center  Co-Chairs: Heather Thomson (hthomson@udel.edu), Greg Ardini (grardini@udel.edu)

V. General Discussion

Senator Jain by asked for a clarification of the fee for international students and why we have a fee now, when no one really knew about it ahead of time.

President Bonistall asked Dr. Riordan answer the question, and he began by saying that he absolutely hears our concerns. He met with Dr. Martin and the GSI and, at the time, his office was not aware of the fee installation and there was a breakdown in communication, and that measures would be put in place to ensure this would not happen again.

He explained that the fee was instituted because the campus hasn't done as much as it should in order to provide services to the international students and that in order to do more and give more support, we need more money and resources. So, a group was put together of many offices and gathered a plan of the OISS. They tried to find a way to use resources appropriately and use the fees exclusively for the purpose of services for the international students. He wants to make sure that we all hold the office accountable and make sure that the fees are used solely for this purpose and that people are getting what they need out of the fees.

Dr. Riordan was asked why people were not involved directly in the decision and why the input of students and their consideration were not involved in the decision-making process. He answered by saying that there was an external program review with the University of Michigan and Georgetown University. Their review provided information on the situation, and we need to offer further services and support.

A discussion was held on who the students were who gave their input and that "we"
think it should be one of "us" from the Senate. President Bonistall mentioned that she felt we've grown as an organization and we feel we should be invited to the table, so to speak. Past President Falcone referenced many examples where the GSS has been invited to the table.

The fee will be charged per semester and students should now expect a higher level of service for their money; if they feel otherwise, they should speak with Dr. Riordan.

Another question was posed about a rumored $7-8 fee for visitors in buildings and Dr. Riordan said he had never heard of that, unless it were for a basketball game.

Senator Adams suggested that GSS meetings be reported to The Review so that other students could read about them, and people seemed to think it was a good idea.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
GSS Secretary