I. Call to Order & Welcome ......................................................... President Castillo

II. Guest Speakers
   A. Cathy Wojewodzki, University of Delaware Library Scholarly Communication Officer (on open access)
   B. Polly Sierer, Newark City Mayor

III. Committee Reports
   A. Internal Affairs Committees ........................................... Vice President Brodie
      - Communications (Stephanie Luff)
      - Events (Andrea Drewes)
      - Social (Katie Bonanno and Vishnu Vardhan Chittamuru)
   B. Student Affairs Committee ........................................... Vice President Sossong
      - Diversity (Holly Walker)
      - Student Life (Meg Hutchins and Xunyi Xie)
      - Sustainability (Nick Kaufman and Kelsea Schumacher)
   C. Senate Committees ..................................................... President Castillo
      - Governance (Isaac Harris)
   D. External Committee Reports ......................................... President Castillo
      - Faculty Senate (Cesar Caro & Chris Castillo)
      - Faculty Senate Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault (Chris Castillo)
      - Graduate Studies Committee (Chris Castillo & Jane Wessel)
      - College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate (Stephanie Luff)
      - Newark City Council (Stephanie Luff)
   E. Organizational Delegate Reports .................................... President Castillo

IV. Open Floor ................................................................. President Castillo
   A. January meeting
   B. White paper on Graduate Student Commons
   C. General discussion: Public comments and concerns

V. Senate Floor ................................................................. Parliamentarian Harris
   A. Old Business
      - Approval of the Minutes from November 13, 2014
   B. New Business
      - Proposed Legislation to thank the University for the new health insurance plan
      - Legislation from the floor

VI. Announcements ......................................................... President Castillo
   A. Dissertation Boot Camp (Jan 20-30); applications are due December 19
   B. Announcements from the floor

VII. Adjournment
Internal Affairs Committee Reports

Communications Committee – Stephanie Luff (sluff@udel.edu)

- T-shirt orders have been placed and are expected to be ready for the Senate meeting. Those who pre-ordered will be contacted with instructions for purchasing.
- Information from the presentation on our new health insurance has been posted on the website.
- The committee has completed the call for papers for the 2015 Graduate Research Forum.
- The committee made daily Facebook blasts on the days leading up to UD Night @ Yuletide at Winterthur.

Events Committee – Andrea Drewes (adrewes@udel.edu)

- Graduate Research Forum
  - Save-the-Dates distributed and need to be placed around campus – we will need assistance with this effort.
  - Call for Proposals draft text finalized by group and sent for Grad Office approval
    - Discussion was had around how to select/audition for student evening plenary talks. Final decisions will be discussed at future meeting.
  - Event Logistics Discussed and Decided upon:
    - Keynote Speaker timing – will be held in the evening session
    - Some discussion was had about the overall event timing, finalizing details at a future meeting.
    - Ticket sales will be held for dinner ($5)
    - Lunch will be provided for presenters.
- The next meeting of the Events Committee will be in the week after the November GSG General Meeting and will be held at the Speakeasy. Exact time and date will be determined via a Doodle poll sent out to committee members.

Social Committee – Katie Bonanno (kbonanno@udel.edu) and Vishnu Vardhan Chittamuru (vishnuv@udel.edu)

- Bimonthly Meet & Greets are being held at the Speakeasy this year:
  - The last Meet & Greet was Friday, November 14.
    - 58 students attended.
    - The Food Drive and raffle drawings were successful.
  - The next Meet & Greet will be Friday, January 16, 7-9 p.m. Theme TBD.
- UD Night was Yuletide at Winterthur was Wednesday, December 3. The event ran smoothly, though only 25 students attended. We will discuss strategies to improve for next year at our next meeting.
We will host weekly game nights on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Speakeasy this January.
  - The first is tentatively Tuesday, January 13 with board games.
  - The next Social Committee meeting will be in January, date/time TBD.

**Student Affairs Committee Reports**

**Student Life Committee – Meg Hutchins (mhutch@udel.edu) and Xunyi Xie (xunyix@udel.edu)**
- In terms of housing-related issues, we have not yet heard any answer from those in charge of communicating with UD classify. And we still think classify is the best way for new student to get help in housing. We also discussed the possibility of putting a link to classify on the GSG website.
- We decided to use the survey the Sustainability Committee made to address biking-related issues and make biking around campus easier.

**Sustainability Committee – Nick Kaufman (nkaufman@udel.edu) and Kelsea Schumacher (kschum@udel.edu)**
- The committee reviewed two questionnaires, one regarding bicycle-related issues and one regarding recycling-related issues. The intent of the former is to obtain, in a quantitative fashion, student interest in the expansion of bike services, in particular the addition of bike racks. Additionally, this information will help guide future bicycle related programming. The latter is an effort to determine ways to facilitate recycling done on campus. The Sustainability Committee is interested in partnering with the SGA and affiliates so that these surveys might be sent to undergraduate, as well as graduate, students.
- The Sustainability Committee also began discussion on the Dumpster Detour project. Like last year, the aim of the project will be two-fold: to reduce the amount of recyclable material thrown away during “move out,” and also making functioning useful items available to incoming international graduate students. Look for a promotional flyer soon!

**Diversity Committee – Holly Walker (hollylyn@udel.edu)**
- Discussed details of the upcoming December GSG Diversity Committee Brown Bag event
- Discussed way to try and get better attendance for Brown Bag event
  - May try for a ‘coffee hour break’ event in the future versus a brown bag lunch type of event
  - Consider a different format for these events
- Rep Your Culture Event – Feb. 19, 2015
  - Still waiting confirmation of the space we requested in Perkins Student Center.
  - Will be reaching out to the Graduate Connect Program in terms of a partnership
  - Will be using GoogleDocs forms – similar to last year
  - Begin designing advertising package
Begin reaching out to GSOs in December, reach out to graduate students as a whole in January
Looking for other avenues in which to advertise and garner support for this event (CAP students, OISS, etc.)

- Next Brown Bag Event
  - February 8, 2015, in Speakeasy Lounge, 12-1pm
  - Topic: “Interfaith: Religion and Faith in a Diverse Campus Community”
  - Speakers: TBA

**External Committee Reports**

*UD Library Student Advisory Council – Alex Ames (alames@udel.edu)*
- Morris Library Renovations/Information Room
  - Library administration seeks feedback on recent renovations to Morris Library, especially the Information Room (area with new vertical computers, seating, printers, etc.). If you/your constituents have feedback, please e-mail Alex Ames (alames@udel.edu) and Rachel Zimmerman (rachelz@udel.edu).
  - Questions for consideration: Do you use the space more? What other conveniences do you desire? How does graduate student use of the space vary from undergraduate use?
  - Refer to this article for more information: [http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2015/dec/information-room-120114.html](http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2015/dec/information-room-120114.html)

- Graduate Student Commons
  - The library will soon commence planning for the new Graduate Student Commons. We need your help!
  - A small, informal committee of students will advise the library on room decoration and functionality. We desire input from across the disciplines. Tasks may include focus groups, tours of space, meetings, and more. If you are willing to serve, e-mail Alex and Rachel by December 20.
  - Participation will be open to the student body. Once a small group of GSG senators and active members is assembled, an announcement will be released via senators to all students.

*Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies – Chris Castillo (Castillo@udel.edu) and Jane Wessel (jwessel@udel.edu)*
- The Graduate Studies committee is considering a request for extension of the Permanent Status Program Review (PSPR) for the MA in Historic Preservation. For background, each new graduate program is approved conditionally for a period of 5 years (for MA degrees) or 7 years (for doctorates). After that time, the faculty in the program prepare a PSPR document, which is an evaluation of the program so that the Faculty Senate may make an informed decision about granting it permanent status. The MAHP program had previously been a concentration within the MA in Public Policy; it was spun off as an independent program five years ago, and thus is up for permanent status review. The
faculty in the program had requested a one-year extension of the PSPR due to the retirement of one of the faculty members in the program. The Graduate Studies Committee spoke with both the program director and the Director of School of Policy, but has not yet voted on the extension as it is continuing to discuss the matter.

- Professors Tripp Shenton and CP Huang from the department of Civil and Environmental Engineering presented information about a proposal to amend the admission requirements to be able to accept students from Tong Ji University prior to their completion of the bachelor’s degree. The students in this program would complete 3 years of study in China and attend UD for their fourth year at which time they will complete courses that will be transferred back to Tong Ji for the completion of the bachelor’s degree. In addition, the students will complete 30 credits for the MCE degree at UD which are the same requirements for all students in the program.

- The committee considered a proposal for curriculum changes in the MCE, MS and PHD programs in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The Committee requested that the side-by-side comparison of the changes be presented before the Committee votes on the changes. The proposal was tabled.

Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault – Chris Castillo (Castillo@udel.edu)

- Last month, the Faculty Senate approved a motion to form a Commission on Sexual Assault and Harassment, charged with the "task of making recommendations for the implementation of best practices for the prevention of sexual misconduct and for addressing sexual harassment and assault allegations.” The Commission has been formed, chaired by Engineering Professor Michael Chajes and with representation from faculty, administration, and undergraduate and graduate students (Chris Castillo is the graduate student representative), and it met for the first time last Wednesday, December 3. The chair reviewed the charge for the Commission, and there was some discussion about what outcomes everyone wanted to see from the process. Common themes in the responses included: recognition that this is a gender-based problem; being survivor-focused; engaging faculty to address the issue in the classroom, during the First Year Experience, and in New Student Orientation; clarification of and education on what sexual assault is, what constitutes consent, and the reporting procedure; and the necessity of trust, confidentiality, and transparency throughout the process. The Commission will meet again this Friday, Dec. 12, where it will break into three subgroups to address education and prevention regarding sexual misconduct; policies and procedures to deal with sexual misconduct cases; and data collection (climate survey) and dissemination. Anyone with questions or input should contact Chris Castillo at castillo@udel.edu.

Newark City Council – Stephanie Luff (sluff@udel.edu)
A new proposed snow removal plan was discussed at the Nov 10th meeting and can be found here: http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/DocumentCenter/View/5333. Included in this plan are the plow routes for each level of winter storm severity.

College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate – Stephanie Luff (sluff@udel.edu)

- The following programs have changes to their curriculum: M.M. in Voice Concentration, Teaching, Performance Keyboard, Performance Non-Keyboard, Conducting, and Composition; M.A. in Sociology China Dual Degree & Criminology China Dual Degree; Ph.D. in Disaster Science & Management; M.A. in Urban Affairs & Public Policy

Faculty Senate – Chris Castillo (castillo@udel.edu) and Cesar Caro (ccaro@udel.edu)

- The Faculty Senate meeting on Monday 1 Dec. started off with presentations from Provost Grasso and from the UDance organization, but the majority of the meeting focused on issues related to Title IX developments. The Senate passed legislation to allot a spot on the Graduate Studies committee to the Vice Provost of Graduate and Professional Education as a result of last meeting's unfinished business, forgoing the addition of three more committee spots coming from faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences for the time being.

- UDance has grown over the past five years and is now the single largest philanthropy on campus, raising over $850k last year. As part of their outreach, they have maintained contact with alumni in their effort to grow, and they contacted the Faculty Senate in the hopes of expanding their reach and getting more faculty involved in the effort. Faculty wanted to know how best to get involved when approached by multiple students for donations, and it was made clear that donations can be made directly to the organization rather than on behalf of a student.

- The Provost announced a series of informal teas with the Provost next semester to foster discussion, transparency, and inclusion. A new Responsibility-Based Budgeting (RBB) model is being unfurled with a multi-year phasic, and there is the launch of new Faculty-180 software to manage faculty data and data analytics to encourage partnerships and to more easily track accomplishments and success. This is in addition to a renewed subscription to Academic Analytics. An on-campus forum on the software is scheduled for December 10 for those interested in learning more. Provost Grasso made a special point of noting that the perception of increased crime is false, with a 36% decrease in over 5 years in incidence of the more serious crimes and a 5% decrease in the month of November compared to November last year. He also made mention of the events of Ferguson, MO, and said that UD and its community members should continue to strive for diversity and inclusion, ensuring everyone feels safe and able to pursue success. He quoted Jon Stewart on the topic of race: "You're tired about hearing about it? Imagine how exhausting it is living with it."

- The Provost gave a status update of the various committees in the Title IX office that were formed this summer. He also announced a new commission recently formed at the
behest of the Faculty Senate to work with the Title IX office to review policies and procedures, in particular the terms "consent" and "responsible employee." Michael Chajes, who brought the proposal for said commission to the Faculty Senate, has been appointed the chair of the commission. The Title IX office under Sue Groff is also hiring 2 investigators to be selected this winter.

- The final bit of senate business also concerned Title IX policies and compliance, specifically the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Privileges (FWP) Termination and Complaint Procedures; these had been discussed previously at an open hearing, but not many Faculty Senate members were present. There has been a recommendation to revise the policies for faculty termination in cases of sexual misconduct. The current policy requires a standard of "clear and convincing" evidence in all cases of termination. The proposed revisions, made in light of the federal Office of Civil Rights (OCR) requirements, would lower the evidence standard for sexual misconduct cases only to "preponderance of evidence."

- The proposed revisions were prepared with significant input and influence from the office of the General Counsel of the university. The chair of the Faculty Senate FWP committee felt that the committee should have the opportunity to formally approve the revisions before the senate votes on it, with General Counsel Larry White warning that further delay in approving policies to bring UD into compliance with Title IX could provoke the OCR into swift action whenever they visit campus to inspect for compliance, which should be soon. Because of technical concerns and also to give a chance to the FWP committee to review the termination policies, the revisions have been referred to committee with the committee's approved version to be voted upon at a special session of the Faculty Senate on January 12th. Many faculty present objected to the need for lowering the standard of evidence for termination, and cited external pressure from the OCR as the main impetus for change. In response, Larry White cited civil rights law practices of adhering to the preponderance of evidence standard to remove barriers to vulnerable populations' access to justice, and Vice Provost Kinservik made a moral case that this policy change is the right thing to do to protect victims.