November Public Meeting

18:30 | November 5th, 2018 | Gore 227

1. Call to Order & Welcome
2. Invited Speaker: Leanne Moore is affiliated with the Institute for Public Administration and the School of Public Policy and came to speak about the new City of Newark Partnership
	1. The city of Newark is planning on sunsetting the Downtown Newark Partnership (an initiative that promotes businesses on Main Street). They are planning on replacing it with the Newark Partnership. This will will promote businesses throughout the city, including those beyond Main Street. There will be a public meeting on November 27th at 7PM at the Newark Senior Center to discuss issues such as housing, transportation, and business need around town. If you are interested in being involved as a graduate student, they have reserved a special set as a voting member on the committee.
	2. The City of Newark is also planning on holding a Futures Workshop on December 5th at 5:30 PM at Clayton Hall (with a networking session beginning at 5 PM) where community members will gather for a roundtable discussion about building a better community. In previous years, discussion topics have included housing, improving the relationship between Newark and UD, developing better schools, and more. Every student at UD is considered as a resident of Newark, so our input is highly valued.
	3. In the near future Main Street WILL BE FIXED. It is estimated that a complete renovation will begin in March where piping will be replaced and the road’s foundation will be replaced. Businesses will remain open, but one lane will be closed at a time for construction.
3. Committee Reports
	1. Internal Affairs
		1. The Social Committee led a hike along the tri-state trail in White Clay on November 4th. The weather was perfect for a fall hike: clear skies, mild temperatures, and beautiful fall foliage.
		2. The Events Committee is partnering with the Social Committee to host a happy hour, dinner, and Night at the Theatre event on Friday, November 16th. We will be starting happy hour at 5:30 PM at Deer Park followed by dinner and a play by the Resident Ensemble Players (REP).
			1. The play, Woman in Mind is described as a black comedy of domestic madness. Susan’s life is far from perfect: a loveless marriage, a distant son and a miserable sister-in-law. Everything changes one day after an accident in the garden. Suddenly, she has a family that is charming and delightful, with days full of champagne breakfasts and jolly tennis matches. This life is everything she has ever wanted, but is any of this real? Is it a perfect dream or a perfect nightmare?
		3. The Communications Committee is working on updating the GSG website with a google calendar displaying all the events put on by the Graduate Student Organizations on campus. In addition, communications will be working to send out reminders a day or two before events for last-minute planners. Communications asks that all senators do their part to spread the information to their constituents in a reasonable and timely manner. The committee also plans to begin developing relationships with the leaders of each Graduate Student Organization to foster better attendance at events.
	2. Student Affairs
		1. The Sustainability Committee is working on several initiatives:
			1. First, the committee is looking into **food recovery** efforts on campus. These efforts reroute excess food from dining halls to homeless shelters to help those in need and prevent food waste.
			2. Next, the committee is working to have the **bike repair stations** on campus fixed. There is supposedly quite a lot of derelict equipment that needs maintenance, which facilities have not managed properly.
			3. Additionally, the Sustainability committee is pushing for **better labeling on recycling bins** around campus. It hopes this will promote recycling education and participation.
			4. Furthermore, it is investigating the possibility of installing renewable energy on campus to power UD’s day-to-day activities. The main barrier lies in installing the system without fracturing the delicate relationship between UD and the City of Newark municipal utility. The Sustainability is investigating how to advance solar energy efforts on campus in the appropriate manner.
			5. Lastly, the Sustainability Committee is beginning to work on a resolution that will ask the University to investigate the economics behind ending the use of single-use plastics across its facilities to promote better environmental stewardship.
		2. The Diversity Committee will be co-hosting a coffee hour with HGLSA to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (the day of the dead) on November 14th at 5 pm in the Blue and Gold room of the Perkins Student Center (FLYER)
		3. The Student Life Committee is working on several initiatives:
			1. The buses have to keep running on snow days to prevent students from becoming stranded on/off campus
			2. How the semesterly graduate student fees are allocated needs to be more transparent
			3. Graduate Student Organizations deserve a yearly budget from the university to host events - policies are being drawn up to hopefully make this happen by the spring semester, 2019.
			4. The role of the new Graduate Student Space is being determined. There will be a presentation at the next GSG public meeting to get feedback on the current plan. In the meantime, email Danielle (dvalcour@udel.edu) with any particulars you would like addressed.
			5. Recently the Conover Apartments evicted students over potential health concerns from excessive mold. If any students have information about the issue, they are encouraged to get together to take action - email Danielle (dvalcour@udel.edu) with any questions or information.
		4. The Community Engagement Committee is making steady progress on its course documentation. It is working to push the course through curriculog in the coming months.
		5. The Mental Health Committee is working to setting up their Get-Out Not Stressed Out (GONSO) Facebook page and improve peer mentoring through the CoE EmPOWER program.
	3. External Committees
		1. A Town Hall discussing a draft of the Organizational Structure and Bylaws for the Graduate College took place on October 29th. The organizational structure is being sorted out, and will be clarified over the coming month. Another town hall will take place in mid-November (date to be given later) to discuss the revised Organization Structure and Bylaws.
		2. Several Board of Trustees Meetings took place over the past week
			1. The board is working to reach a $750 million fundraising target by 2020. In this fundraising campaign, increasing participation among faculty members & students will go a long way toward raising donations to the university. Encourage your advisor to participate.
			2. With regard to student life, the administrators recognize the same key issues as graduate students do - mental health & career services are at the forefront of their list.
				1. President Assanis plans to bring a speaker to discuss Mental Health during the spring semester
			3. A meeting (date TBD) is being organized between several GSG officers and a representative from UD Career Services to discuss the professional development opportunities that are needed for graduate students in the coming years. If you have feedback on what you would like to see, please send an email to Mike Bush (mikebush@udel.edu) or Danielle Valcourt (dvalcour@udel.edu).
4. Open Floor
	1. There are four candidates in the election for a new GSG Secretary:
		1. Jenna Harris
		2. Ana Kelbakiana
		3. Gunner Taylor
		4. Christine Hoh
5. Senate Floor
	1. The October meeting minutes were approved.
	2. A vote took place on the candidates for secretary and the winner was announced after the conclusion of Senate Floor.
6. Announcements
	1. Based on the results of the vote, Gunner Taylor will serve as the next GSG Secretary.
		1. He will give up his position as the Senator from the English Department and Deputy Parliamentarian, so replacements will be found and voted on.
	2. Updating the GSG website, Officers are to send pictures and bios to Juniper Lake (dnovick@udel.edu)
	3. The Yuletide event will be taking place again this year. Diane Codding has contacted the organization and they have given a special discount code of UDNight which lowers the price to $10 per ticket
	4. The Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) is hosting a festival on November 10th to celebrate Diwali (FLYER)
	5. The Events Committee will be hosting a Night at the Theater on November 16th.
		1. The first half of the event will be a happy hour at Deer Park Tavern starting at 5:30 PM; appetizers will be covered by the GSG and there will be a cash bar.
		2. The second half of the event will be a viewing of the play Woman at Mind, starting at 7:30 PM.
		3. The price of attendance for the entire event will be $14.65 and tickets can be purchased at: udel-graduate-student-government.ticketleap.com/ud-gsg-night-at-the-theater/