Presented by the GSS Executive Committee
August 30, 2010
Overview

- Mission of the Senate
- Rights of the Senator
- Official Policies
- Responsibilities of the Senator
- Responsibilities of Committee Chairs
- Communication
- Monthly Meetings
- Committee Functioning
- Internal Committees
The Graduate Student Senate seeks to create a forum for graduate student advocacy while acting as a conduit between students, faculty and administration at the University of Delaware. The Senate supports campus-wide activities facilitating graduate student professionalism and collegiality.
How do members benefit from the GSS?

- Interact with other UD grad students
- Service and professional development opportunities
- Forum for active discussion
- Connect with relevant UD staff/personnel for info
- Support structure to advocate for change
You Have the Right To...

- Use the GSS a forum for advocacy
- Be made aware of different avenues for advocacy
- Be shown respect and consideration while participating in GSS activities
- Have privacy and confidentiality maintained when speaking and serving on behalf of the GSS
The Different “Hats” of a Senator

- A Senator may speak on behalf of:
  - Her or his Academic Plan
  - Herself or himself
  - Anonymously

- A Senator may vote on behalf of:
  - Her or his Academic Plan when the vote is about a statement or position of the GSS
  - Herself or himself when the vote is about the function or organization of the GSS
Official Policies

- GSS Constitution
- Official Committee Report Policy
- Process for Amending Constitution and By-Laws
- Active Standing Requirements
A Senator has the Responsibility Of...

Attendance
- Monthly meetings
- Committee meetings
- Provost Luncheon (Fall) /President’s Reception (Spring)
- By proxy

Representation
- Represent, vote and advocate on behalf of your Academic Plan

Service
- On one internal or select external committee

Information Dissemination
- Pass information from the GSS to you Academic Plan, and from your Academic Plan to the GSS
- Similarly, pass info between the GSS and External Committees
Information Dissemination Policy

- Copy ud.graduatestudentsenate@gmail.com on emails to Academic Plan
- Mailman lists for each Academic Plan
- Inform Exec if you choose not to disseminate information electronically
A Committee Chairperson has the Responsibility Of...

Organizing Committee Meetings
- Meet once a month during the Fall and Spring
- Doodle.com or MeetingWizard.com
- No more than two meetings per semester may be virtual meetings (carried out by email)

 Maintain Records and Communicate with Exec
- Within two weeks after each meeting, email attendance and minutes to Membership Officer and Secretary
- Regularly communicate with the President and Senate
- End of session evaluation of committee members
Internal Committee Chairperson

- Chosen at the first committee meeting (today) by election
- Must be a Senator in Active Standing
- Two Senators may be Co-Chairpersons
Communications from the GSS

- **Action Items**
  - Distributed after GSS meetings to Senators/Members to disseminate info from the meeting in a timely manner
  - Tailor to your Academic Plan

- **GSS Update**
  - Distributed on Mondays, every other week
  - Contains announcements/reminders
  - Deadline to submit an announcement is Sunday at noon

- **What’s Happening**
  - Voluntary
  - By the Communications Committee on Mondays
  - Variety of local, fun, and usually free activities in and around Newark and the UD Community
  - Deadline to submit is Sunday at noon
Electronic Media

- **GSS Website**
  - Facebook, GSS Blog and Calendar links on the website

- **Facebook Group**

- **GSS Blog**

- **GSS Google Calendar**
  - Integrated into website and public
  - Subscribe!
GSS Monthly Meetings

- Attendance
- Special Guests
- Committee Reports
  - Please keep to five minutes maximum
- General Discussion
  - Approach Exec with issues and questions beforehand so we may help you with the presentation of the issue before the Senate
External Committee Involvement

- Coordinate with Membership Officer, Kirsten Hirneisen (khirneis@udel.edu) or Mary Martin (marym@udel.edu)
- Attend meetings
- Give updates at monthly GSS meetings
- Act as a bridge between External Committees and the GSS
Internal Committee Functioning

UD Administration

Office of Graduate and Professional Education

Executive

Organization

Health Care

Diversity

Sustainability

Events

Social

Communications

Campus Issues
Internal Committees of the GSS

- Executive
- Organization
- Communications
- Campus Issues
- Sustainability
- Social
- Diversity
- Health Care
- Events