GSS SENATOR ORIENTATION

Presented by the GSS Executive Committee

February 18, 2010
How does the Senator benefit from the GSS?

- Converging point for Senators
- Forum for active discussion
- GSS Liaison for your program
- Connect with relevant UD staff/personnel
How does the GSS benefit from the Senator?

- Information Dissemination
- Feedback channel
- Quorum
- Support structure
Active-Standing Requirements

1) Senators are required to attend all meetings or send a proxy from their program
   - A Senator who cannot attend a meeting due to unavoidable circumstance and for whom no proxy can be found may request an excused absence from the Membership Officer
   - Senators may be granted one unexcused meeting absence without proxy during a Senate Session

2) Senators are required to serve on at least one Senate or UD committee.
The 3 C’s of being a Senator

Come to meetings

Committee Involvement

Communication
You have the responsibility of...

- **Attendance**
  - Monthly meetings
  - Committee meetings
  - Provost Luncheon/President’s Reception
  - By proxy

- **Representation**
  - Represent and vote on behalf of your Academic Plan
  - Advocate for graduate students in your AP by bringing questions/concerns to the GSS

- **Service**
  - On one internal or external committee

- **Information Dissemination**
  - Pass information from the GSS to their Academic Plan
GSS Monthly Meetings

- Identify your “local” issues
- Sign in first thing!
- General discussion
- Other GSS functions
The 3 C’s of being a Senator

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Internal Committee Involvement

- Attend monthly committee meetings
- Work closely with committee chair(s)
- Participatory and proactive
External Committee Involvement

- Coordinate with Membership Officer or Mary Martin (marym@udel.edu)
- Attend meetings
- Give updates at monthly GSS meetings
The 3 C’s of being a Senator

- Come to meetings
- Communication
- Committee Involvement
You have the responsibility of...

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  - Represent and vote on behalf of your Academic Plan
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- **Information Dissemination**
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Communication from the GSS

- **Action Items**
  - Distributed immediately after monthly GSS meetings to allow Senators/Members to distribute information from the meeting in a timely manner
  - Action Items can be tailored to your Academic Plan prior to distributing

- **Weekly Update**
  - Distributed on Mondays
  - Contains announcements/reminders for Senators and Members
  - Deadline to submit an announcement for GWU is Sunday at noon

- **What’s Happening**
  - Voluntary
  - Distributed by the Communications Committee
  - Large variety of local, fun, and usually free activities in and around Newark and the UD Community
COMMUNICATIONS

Exec

Chairs

Members
Electronic Media

- GSS Website
  - http://www.udel.edu/gradoffice/gradsenate/

- Facebook Group
  - Search “UD Graduate Student Senate” or click on the Facebook icon on the website homepage

- GSS Blog
  - http://udgraduatestudentsenate.blogspot.com/ or click on the Blogger icon on the website homepage

- GSS Google Calendar
  - Integrated into website and public
  - Subscribe!
GSS Meetings and Committee work (Spring)

Attend President’s Luncheon (Late Spring)

Think about prospective senator for your AP (Late Spring to Summer)

Evaluation forms due (Late Spring/Early Summer)

Email MO - Returning or New senator (Summer/Early Fall)
You have the right to...

- Use the GSS as 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
Summary

- Attendance
- Representation
- Information Dissemination
- Committee Involvement