I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

II. WELCOME

President Bonistall mentioned several opportunities for graduate students which are listed in the Announcements (Section IX).

She also noted that the Graduate Office Ambassador email account sometimes receives questions from incoming graduate students regarding student life in particular academic programs. She asked Senators to keep an eye on their email in case any of these emails are forwarded to them for a response and to respond in a timely manner.

III. OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officer Markland outlined the organizational structure of the Graduate Student Government, and her role as Elections Chair. She explained that each candidate has five minutes for a speech, followed by several minutes of public questions; anyone may ask a question. Only Senators have ballots. She stated that she would announce the election results at the end of the meeting.

Speeches proceeded in the following order: President (Emily Bonistall and Marvin Whitaker), Vice President of Internal Affairs (Kevin Ralston), Vice President of Student Affairs (Cesar Caro), Parliamentarian (Chris Castillo and Heather Thomson), Membership Officer (Alicia Dahl), Recording Secretary (Chris Castillo).

Following candidate speeches, President Bonistall called a 5 minute recess at 6:57 pm.

IV. INTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Bonistall reconvened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Communications Committee - Senator Dahl

Senator Dahl announced that committee membership has grown to two members. She encouraged interested students to join the committee.

She also announced that the Graduate Student Government website is up and running, and showed the new homepage. Photos and pages for individual committees are coming soon.
Committee chairs who would like a page on the website to highlight upcoming events or initiatives, or who would like a poster produced for those events, should contact her at dahl@udel.edu.

Next meeting: April 13 at 1:00 pm at Brew Ha Ha.

Events Committee - Member Scott and Senator Miller

Member Scott announced that the Graduate Student Forum is on May 4 and that registration opens this Friday, April 13. Roger Craig, UD alumnus and Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions winner, will be joining us as the Keynote Speaker. Volunteers are needed to serve as moderators and event staff; anyone who can volunteer for an hour or two (or more) should contact her at bscott@udel.edu.

Next meeting: April 17 at 5:15 pm at Brew Ha Ha.

Organization Committee - President Bonistall

The Organization Committee is working to publicize the recent constitution changes. UDaily published an article (http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2012/apr/grad-student-government-040212.html), as did The Review (http://www.udreview.com/students-edit-graduate-governmental-body-1.2850771). President Bonistall is grateful to both UDaily and The Review for working with us to spread the word about the organizational changes.

President Bonistall announced that the Organization Committee will not be introducing any legislation later in the meeting; the committee will leave it to the incoming Parliamentarian and next’s years Senate to direct next year’s legislative agenda.

Social Committee - Senator Moinolmolki

There is a Happy Hour immediately following the meeting at Caffe Gelato from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

On May 11, there will be a “Pub Crawl” event starting at 5:30 pm. All graduate students are welcome. The group will begin at Klondike Kate’s and work its way down Main Street to Deer Park. Senator Moinolmolki solicited ideas for event T-shirts.

President Bonistall clarified that the Pub Crawl will not be a formal Graduate Student Government event. Different appetizer platters will be waiting for the group at various locations, which were chosen based on places the organization has had its Happy Hours already this year.

The End of the Year Picnic has been postponed to the beginning of next academic year.

V. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

Diversity Committee - Senator Hefner and Member Ifill

The Diversity Committee continues to reach out to graduate student organizations and offices that provide graduate student services on campus. Senator Hefner and Member Ifill met with the
Office of Equity and Inclusion for guidance on reaching out to groups on campus. The main point raised was that the committee needed tangible goals before reaching out further. Now that the committee has delineated tangible goals and formulated a purpose statement, it is ready to proceed with reaching out to graduate student groups on campus.

The committee has scaled down the list of organizations it is reaching out to. Rather than emailing every graduate student organization, it will which organizations can be most beneficial to its goals and proceed from there. In particular, it can reach out to groups that have the highest likelihood of responding favorably. Senator Hefner stated that members would like to personally address each organization rather than sending one general email to all of them. Members are inviting organizations to the last committee meeting of the year to get input for things to work on next year.

Senator Hefner also announced that the second Diversity Luncheon was held on April 12. Diversity is brainstorming ideas (topics, speakers, etc.) for next year’s Diversity Luncheons.

The committee’s future goals include continuation of Diversity Luncheon and reaching out to graduate student groups on campus.

Next meeting: April 30 at 1:00 pm in 205 Trabant.

*Student Life Committee – Vice President Richard*

Vice President Richard announced that there is no update on the Recreation Services fee at present; the proposal is currently moving through the university administrative chain.

At the last Student Life Committee meeting, Senator Garcia presented his concerns regarding the lack of bus service on campus during Spring Break. He collected concerns from colleagues and started a dialog with Parking Director Richard Rind. In particular, many graduate students continue working throughout spring break, and although there are better parking options, not all graduate students have cars or cannot afford parking permits and therefore they still depend on the buses. Alternative options include Unicity buses and DART, but some of these alternative options incur additional costs to the student. The decision was made in the Parking Office, and was in line with historical policy. The committee will assess alternative options and negotiate a mutual resolution with the service policies in Parking and Transportation.

Other concerns arose regarding bus services to the train station and grocery store. Service schedules and policies seem to correlate directly to the undergraduate needs only. There is an issue of safety during later hours, which particularly affects engineering and science students who work in labs. There were also concerns regarding the transparency in finances and decision making for Parking and Transportation.

Senator Garcia will be taking the lead in organizing material for the Senate and meeting with Director Rind. Vice President Richard announced that this would be treated as a subcommittee of Student Life. He encouraged anyone with concerns about the bus schedule should contact Senator Garcia to become involved in the Parking Subcommittee.

Ryan Mieras gave a presentation to the committee on the “HENS” Ride Concept. The idea is based on a program at Texas A&M called CARPOOL, of which Mieras was a member and organizer. The concept is to offer free, non-judgmental rides home between 10:00 pm and 3:00 am Thursday through Saturday nights. This will prevent drunk driving and provide a safe transportation option during later hours. This is currently still in the idea stage, but Mieras is
speaking with student groups to determine the level of support within the university community. He hopes to have a more detailed presentation for the Senate in the future.

**Sustainability Committee - Senators Thomson and Ardini**

Senator Thomson discussed the Sneaker Mountain Collection Drive, a part of the Earth Week activities where old sneakers are collected. They will be donated to Perpetual Pumps for Africa; usable shoes will be donated to the needy in Africa, and unusable ones will be turned into playground material. Collection times and locations are:

- **5K**: April 22 from 12 noon to 3:00 pm on Laird Campus
- **Green Expo**: April 25 from 12 noon to 4:00 pm at Trabant
- **Clothing Swap**: April 26 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Trabant

Students who want to donate but cannot make those times, or have smaller collections in their buildings, can contact Senator Thomson at hthomson@udel.edu or Senator Ardini at grardini@udel.edu to arrange another pickup time.

Senator Ardini discussed the Student Move-Out Project, which has been renamed Dumpster Detour. The committee needs 30-35 graduate student volunteers on May 19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and on May 23 from 12 noon to 10:00 pm, times when most undergraduates will have already moved out and cannot staff collection sites. Other times to volunteer are available as well. Volunteers are asked to staff a 2-3 hour shift and will receive a free lunch and T-shirt. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be April 18 at 1:00 in Trabant 205.

Next meetings: April 24 at 11:00 am and May 8 at 11:00 am.

VP Richard reiterated that Dumpster Detour is a great opportunity to become involved in a community service project which benefits the entire campus community.

**VI. EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Newark City Council**

A representative for this external committee is still needed. Please contact President Bonistall at ejb@udel.edu if you are interested.

**Faculty Senate - Senators Portnoi and Pons**

Senator Pons recapped remarks from Provost Tom Apple from the Faculty Senate meeting: 90% of “first-choice” faculty are accepting the university’s offers for employment; research funding is increasing; Admissions has brought in the largest, most diverse freshman class with the highest SAT scores and GPA; the freshman to sophomore retention rate is the highest ever; and graduating students are more successful than in the past.

He also shared remarks from Cindy Campanella, Director of Alumni Relations, who encouraged students to attend the fourth annual Alumni Weekend, June 1-3. She expects 20% growth year to year. More information is available at [http://www.udel.edu/alumniweekend](http://www.udel.edu/alumniweekend).
Senator Pons mentioned that there was also a lot of information about tweaking academic programs; email him at kpons@udel.edu for more information.

*Diversity and Equity Commission – President Bonistall*

President Bonistall will be attending the final DEC meeting of the year and will present an overview of what DEC has accomplished during her report at the May meeting.

**VII. **OLD BUSINESS

*Approval of March Minutes*

Senator Pearson motioned and it was seconded to approve the minutes from the March meeting of the Graduate Student Senate. Senator Thomson corrected the date of sneaker collection to April 25. The motion passed as amended 21-0-0.

**VIII. **NEW BUSINESS

*Save the Dates*

President Bonistall asked members to put the following dates on their calendars:

- Graduate Student Forum, May 4
- President Harker’s Reception, May 7
- May Graduate Student Government Meeting: May 10
- Pub Crawl: May 11

Time for President’s Reception is 4:30; the March minutes will be amended to reflect this time change. More information will be forthcoming.

**IX. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Senator Thomson shared a concern that the minutes were posted on the website before they were approved by the Senate.

President Bonistall suggested that in the future they be labeled initially as “tentative” or “unofficial” and re-posted after a final version is approved.

Senator Dahl believed that the minutes should be posted in a timely fashion so that information can be disseminated, and then updated as appropriate.

Senator Garcia asked whether the minutes can be distributed to Senators first, who can suggest corrections before the minutes are distributed to all graduate students. President Bonistall said that this would work if Senators were willing to read them and turn them around quickly. Senator Garcia recommended waiting two days, and interpreting non-response as tacit approval.
It was agreed that Secretary Castillo would distribute the minutes to Senators once they are completed, and two days later they will be distributed (with corrections) to the graduate student body.

President Bonistall encouraged Senators to continue to read and send feedback on the minutes.

Senator Pons announced that undergraduate Student Government Association is holding event on April 13 as a part of Election Week where they will be tie dying T-shirts on the Trabant patio. He encouraged members to attend.

Senator Ardini announced that he will be sending out an email to Senators asking students to sign up for Dumpster Detour, and he asked that Senators forward that email to their constituents.

**Announcement: Mentoring Opportunity**

Newark High School is in the process of establishing their Mentoring Program and is reaching out to the university community to participate by becoming volunteer mentors. As a mentor, participants will have the opportunity to help shape the lives of young people in the community by working with them to help them achieve their goals. Participants will be paired with a mentee and will have a one-on-one meeting for about an hour once a week. This will take place in school during school hours. To ensure the program is meeting the particular needs of the students, mentoring activities will vary on a case-by-case basis; some students may want to use the time for college preparation and others will want to work on study skills. Program coordinators will take the time to match mentors with students who will benefit from their unique skill sets. Interested students can fill out an application and register for training online at [www.creativementoring.org](http://www.creativementoring.org). All applicants must pass a screening and background check that typically takes about four to six weeks. A minimum one school year commitment is required. For more information, contact Ashley Michini, Newark High’s Mentor Coordinator, by phone at (302) 631-4700 ex. 14257 or by email at michinia@christina.k12.de.us. Students are encouraged to apply early since the paperwork takes time to process.

**Announcement: Campus Sustainability Day**

The Campus Sustainability Day working group is looking for members to help put together next year’s events. Currently there is only one graduate student member and they would love to get some more representation from this sector of the university community. Campus Sustainability Day is held in mid-October and is a daylong celebration of sustainability on campus with several events held throughout the day. They had a preliminary planning meeting earlier in the week and expect to hold one more before the spring semester is over to jump-start planning for the Fall. The working group is open to all university community members including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. If anyone would like to join, they can email Courtney Siegert at siegert@udel.edu.

**Announcement of Election Results**

Officer Markland thanked Senators for being present to vote. The 2012-2013 Graduate Student Government officers are as follows:

President: Emily Bonistall  
Vice President for Internal Affairs: Kevin Ralston
X. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Pearson motioned and it was seconded to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Castillo
GSS Secretary