

DARTMOUTH

Graduate Student Council

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October GSC General Body Meeting Notes

4th October 2022

Topic 1. Ombuds Representative Introduction

Tracey Brant, the newly hired Ombudsperson, attended the meeting and introduced herself alongside explaining the role of an ombudsperson. Tracey outlined that the fundamental role of an ombudsperson is to listen without judgment. An ombudsperson is, however, not an advisor/advocate for any specific individual but rather an advocate for fair process. There are four basic principles of practice: the ombuds practice is independent of reporting mechanisms of the institution (at discretion of the president), informal, impartial, and confidential (excluding imminent risk of serious harm or as obliged by law). Tracey emphasized that an ombudsperson deals with any issue affecting a worker's time. She can be contacted by email or phone, as there is not yet an official in-person office location.

Topic 2. Standard Funding Requests

Members voted to approve the Dartmouth Desis' standard funding request for a Diwali event. Members also approved a standard funding request for a TDI Trick or Treat for Pakistan event held on behalf of UNICEF, granted the event can find a suitable location.

Topic 3. Co-Chair Elections

Anusha Bhatt and Dhvanir Kansara were both elected to External Affairs Co-Chair, and will share the position. CARE elected Sreeja Poduri as its second Co-Chair.

Topic 4. Budget

After amending the budget to give Clamantis the maximum allowed organization budget, members approved the budget for this year.

Topic 5. Transportation and SOJ Updates

President Irma Vlasac met with the Provost and Transportation consultant. The Thayer school now has a new van student driver program where students can get certified to drive a rented van and be paid. It has come to the attention of the council that SOJ inconsistently charged some students for an extra month of rent when moving in earlier than the standard date of August 19th. This issue mostly applied to Geisel students, whose program starts August 1st instead of in September. It was proposed that a Dartmouth master lease, which is the system currently in place at other Dartmouth real estate properties, replace the Michaels Organization (the 3rd party institution currently providing the leasing services). It was noted that there appears to be a suspicious amount of people leaving SOJ after only a short period of residing there, and subsequently advertising that they need a subletter. Additionally, families are not allowed to live in the SOJ graduate student partition which can be limiting for graduate students.

Topic 6. Safety and Security Update

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Safe havens in local businesses close to campus could help address safety in places which are technically out of campus jurisdiction. President Irma Vlasac is working with the Town of Hanover on implementation.

Topic 7. Announcements

October 21st is the Day of Caring. Cleaning issues with the Guarini Commons will be handled by taking before and after photos of the space to provide proof of adequate measures. The GSC Member of the Month is Caroline Donovan!!! Congratulations Caroline!

Topic 8. Open Forum

There is a rally for better pay on the Green on October 12th hosted by GOLD.