

University of Delaware Graduate Student Government
SR-1617-02

Sponsor: Acting-Senator Julie Steinberg

Proposal for the Establishment of a Graduate Student “Speakeasy” Space

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WHEREAS, before its closure on 11 July 2016, The Speakeasy at 44 Kent Way was the only social space on the University of Delaware campus designated for the exclusive use of graduate students, faculty, and staff; and

10 **WHEREAS** The Speakeasy offered an accessible and centrally located recreational space with flexible hours in which graduate students established personal and professional relationships with peers, faculty, and staff within and from other departments; and

15 **WHEREAS** university-run social spaces at other academic institutions, including Boston University, UMass-Amherst, Stony Brook, UCSD, Rice, and the University of Chicago, have provided inclusive and community-building atmospheres promoting engagement; and

20 **WHEREAS** The Speakeasy provided a space for faculty and staff to host departmental gatherings, socialize with their students, advisees, and other faculty and staff outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS several university departments utilized The Speakeasy as a venue for recruitment events that facilitated positive interactions between current and prospective students in a relaxed atmosphere that attracted applicants; and

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WHEREAS The Speakeasy provided the opportunity for graduate students, faculty, and staff to meet in an environment oriented around discussion and, through events such as celebrations, trivia, and karaoke, afforded new and current graduate students an opportunity to meet with peers in a safe location where social drinking was available, but not required; and

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WHEREAS the establishment of The Speakeasy testified to the University of Delaware’s commitment to helping graduate students realize a work/life balance, contributing significantly to their mental health by reducing stress and forming positive relationships;

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BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Government supports the creation of a campus location that provides an inclusive social space explicitly for graduate students, faculty, and staff.