RGSA Executive Committee Meeting  
October 9, 2012

Present: Nathan, Ellen, Ryan, Becca, Kate, Vinson (GSS), Christine (GSS), Sam, Monika

Seminars (Monika): Going well, even when competing with Presidential Installment. Highest attendance at the last seminar - about 30 people total. Looking for more numbers on graduate student attendance v faculty & undergrads.

President's Report (Nathan):
Jon Erickson invited the RGSA Exec Committee to a meeting Wednesday at 11:00am. Probably a 30-minute meeting. Talking points with Jon Erickson: Introduce him to RGSA (contrast to the old GSAB); inclusion in some social events like holiday parties, state of the school meetings (with reciprocity from our end, like the happy hours); organizing the Graduate Forum who we want in the room for that meeting is one question we will address. Goal is for the meeting to be partially steered by us, but also allow for Jon to bring up some topics.

Nathan spoke with Kimberly about hosting a Grad Forum as an opportunity to sit down with administrators about interests we have as graduate students. Who to make sure is present from the RSENR administration: Jon, Kimberly, Allan, Carolyn, possibly the grad standards committee. Who else to make sure we include? For the Grad Forum, while we don’t have specific complaints right now, we want to raise the relationship between graduate students within RSNER and among faculty and staff of RSENR. Especially noting that those of us with GTAs and GRAs have interest in the school’s goings-on, like meetings about the state of the school, curriculum. So if there is a way to have some more inclusion on some of the faculty/staff meetings, we won’t feel like only students in RSENR. Possible Talking Points for the grad forum: Grad student representation on the strategic visioning/mission/planning of the School; Rubenstein family gift funding for doctoral students; graduate guidelines currently being revised (is this actually happening?); university-wide strategic initiatives.

Grad Student Senate (Christine and Vinson)
GSS was trying to add by-laws to the committee so that non-senators could join a committee, as there was a large desire for involvement by people not in the Senate. There was not a vote on it, but it will be talked about in the next meeting. They will also address the raising of the Grad Student health care at the next meeting, where President Thomas Sullivan will be present. We do have a third senator appointed now, along with Vinson and Christine: Isaac Lawrence, who was not able to make in on the ballot in time.

Treasurer (Kate)
Account is at $809, reduced by $115 after the Farmhouse. Mini-grants: applications are due October 22.

Social (Ellen)
Farmhouse had about 25 students at the Happy Hour, we aren’t certain for sure right now. No faculty and staff were present, as there was simultaneously a going away party for Mary happening at the same time (which we unfortunately didn’t know about it when we scheduled it). It went well, although we could not negotiate down the prices at Farmhouse. Small portions, high prices. Next social event: ONE Pepper Grill in the Old North End - corner of North and Winooski. Faculty attendance at that space may be low, however. August First could be a good location for a happy hour (on Pine St.) if they can make some flatbread for the event. Since the research symposium is coming up, which will be a good student-faculty/staff mingling event, we can shoot for ensuring that the happy hour in November is at a “classier” joint that would attract more faculty and staff (Sweetwater’s, for example).

Vice-President:
Nothing to report from the faculty meeting. Mentoring is going well, we are getting some more students trickling in.

RSENR Newsletter (Christine):
Christine is the new grad student assistant for the newsletter. Proposal to make sure we have RGSA updates in every issue!

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 25th at 4:00pm.