RGSA Executive Committee Meeting
September 20, 2012

Present: Nathan, Monika, Becca, Ellen, Ryan, Vinson, Kate

Graduate Seminars (Monika and Ryan)
Two seminars have been completed. 25 people came to the first, 24 to the second one. There is a push for more attendance at the seminars, as faculty had been talking about it possibly not being worth it if less people were there. There were a number of faculty members, sometimes a number of undergrads, and about ½ are grad students. We are going to take change the wording so that it isn’t just "Graduate Seminar Series" because it is open to other people outside of RSENR, and not just graduate students, so that needs to be more clear. The next announcement will go out to RSENR grads, faculty and staff, undergrads, and then also to the other listservs as needed.

Mentoring (Becca)
First dinner for undergrads and grad mentors is Wednesday Sept 19. There will be a packet available for mentors. The budget is getting bumped up a little bit due to the high interest – 30 undergrads responded from just one e-mail blast. New graduate mentors are still welcome. We are getting about another $200 (from $500 - $700).

Faculty Meeting (Becca)
The Rubenstein family is giving another $11 million - 70% will go to the endowment, 30% will go to current use. Of the current use funds (~$3million), 30% will go to scholarships, 30% to professorships, 40% to Dean’s discretionary fund. RSENR will create a number of scholarship opportunities for graduate students. It seems like most will be for exceptional 2nd-year PhD students for two years of funding at 20 hours/week. They plan on launching this by next year. RGSA needs to get on board with this to have a hand in shaping what these research scholarships could look like. Other funds will go to faculty development, Dean's discretionary fund. Also, a chart was passed out to look at the types of courses offered through the school. The chart showed 23 grad courses vs. 237 undergraduate courses offered. This seems highly skewed. Something to consider bringing up in an open forum meeting.

Treasurer (Kate)
No updates. After Farmhouse, there will be less money :-) About $150 less.

Social (Ellen)
First event: Farmhouse, next Friday the 28th. They open at 4:30pm, so we are looking at 5:00-7:00pm for the event. No fee to use the space. Either upstairs or downstairs depending on the weather. We’ll keep negotiating a better price for food. Next Happy Hours: October 19th and November 16th, and then Holiday Party in December, TBD. Chili Cook-off maybe on December 5th.

President's Report (Nathan)

GRAD FORUM:
Meeting with Kimberly Wallin to schedule a graduate student forum - an opportunity to sit down with the new Dean, Jon Erickson and Kimberly. We can use the RGSA all-member meeting to generate ideas for this. We should do one this semester and one in the spring. Late November or first week of December for the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING WITH KIMBERLY WALLIN:
Nathan will talk with Kimberly about: curriculum (NR 306 / 378 and the general need for more grad courses offered); the Rubenstein Family gift and the Stephen Rubenstein Graduate Fellowship; Plus more on the Dean’s Transition - what’s happening with that, there are lots of questions about it

GRADUATE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING: We were praised by Kimberly as we are the only recognized Graduate Student Body by the GSA. Hurray!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 9th at 3:30pm.