Present: Nathan, Becca, Ryan, Vinson, Chenin, Ellen, Christine (GSS)

President’s Report (Nathan):
The Diversity Task Force has a desire to meet with RGSA. Kirsten is trying to get more people involved in organizing and attending different breakfast. For example, we are helping host the ALANA breakfast, which is a big deal for the undergrads, but not much representation from the graduate student body.

All-Members Meeting: We have neglected advertising for this – it will occur on Wednesday, November 14th from 10:00-2:00. We need to get on it quickly. This will be a drop-in style meeting, set up in the Green Conference Room (hopefully – but we need to find out if that room is available). We will have a whole bunch of coffee and donuts. We will have a fact sheet about RGSA and a calendar, along with a voting booth for amendments for the by-laws. There will also be electronic voting open for a couple of days thereafter. We need 51% participation from the RSENR graduate student body to vote in order for the votes to be tallied. Two amendments are: changing the position title from “Aiken Chair” to “Vice President” and having a faculty “delegate” position for someone to participate in the RGSA meetings and act as a liaison. We can also solicit ideas for a holiday party that we can host – something downtown, someone’s home, etc. Let’s get ideas.

Social Chair (Ellen):
Many thanks to Kate for hosting the Halloween party – it was great! An idea for the holiday party is renting a room in City Hall, depending on whether we can bring in booze. Ri Ra has some sort of party rental deal, that might be possible.

Chili Cook-Off: We have it on the schedule for December 5th. As soon as the Hurricane Sandy bake sale is done, we should begin advertising for the cook-off. Do we need more of an incentive to get cooks? We don’t have much to give them (we barely made $100 on the cook-off in the past). Perhaps we can get things like shirts/sweatshirts for winners? Donated prizes? There will be 1st and 2nd for best meat and veggie, plus a special category prize (most creative, etc) presented by Suzanne Levine (who has been really enthusiastic about the cook-off in the past). Maybe we include a raffle – so that every ticket has a stub and there is a prize for the raffle, and we could solicit prizes for that. Maybe we just auction off different services – bake a cake, bike repair, etc...

Next Happy Hour: Sweetwater’s, Nov. 16th! Upstairs.  Holiday Party: Friday Dec. 14th?

Bulletin Boards:
What is the deal with the different bulletin boards, what are you allowed to put on them? Somewhere in the Rubenstein Stewards office, there is a “key” to the different boards, and we should figure out what we can put up there – as it would be great to start posting photos of get-togethers, contests, students doing field work. Suggestion to use the bulletin board by the water fountains and bathrooms on third floor for posting photos of grad students in action and posting accolades.

Treasurer (Kate):
Mini-Grants: We have four proposals that won, with no ties – it was pretty straightforward in the ranking process. Kate will get pre-approval from Carolyn to make sure that the proposals can be funded using the chart string, if that is the case, then the student will get an e-mail that they have been approved for an RGSA mini-grant.

We have an extra $450 for the whole year’s budget that had been allocated to the Seminar Series, but we did not spend that money. So we now have rolled that money into the total “events” budget – which will now be $750. But that money can also be used to fund more mini-grants in addition to things like the holiday party.

Newsletter (Christine and Ryan):
What do we want our RGSA section to look like? Jon would like the Aiken Stewards and undergraduate association to be featured. So we may have a student-body association part. Next newsletter will come out December 1st-ish. It may not go out until the 15th though. Three good items: Mini-grant winners, amendments to the by-laws, chili cook-off (either advertising or winners: lots of photos). A couple of years ago, we reported it all out like a scientific report, we could explore doing that again. All-members meeting. Also, wrap-up of the fall seminar series – what happened, how many participants, introduce the spring one – GET THAT REQUEST to MONIKA. Spring seminars will be on Thursdays.

Seminars (Chenin):
We had to cancel last week’s, which is unfortunate, but we hope to get the speaker back in the spring. Bob Manning will be running the Spring Seminar series, and there is a grad student assistant who will be assigned to it for a job.

RGSA All-Member Meeting: Wednesday 10:00am-2:00pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 8th – 3:30pm