**RGSA Meeting Notes**

**April 11, 2013 - 3:00-4:00pm**

**Present:** Ryan, Ellen, Kate, Vinson, Nathan, Becca, Christine

**Nominations and Elections of Officers**

Ryan will notify nominees this week and ask them to accept their nomination by Tuesday, April 16th. If they accept nomination, we’ll have them write 2-3 sentences about who they are and why they want to be on RGSA. Then we will have voting open for two weeks. We can have one more RGSA meeting during Finals Week to transition with the new officers, and we’ll announce new officers at the end of the year BBQ!

**Next RGSA Meeting with Kimberly**

We will try to get a meeting going with Kimberly between now and the end of the semester. If she can join us for a meeting, we’ll get an agenda together to talk with her about any follow-up from the Dean’s meeting. Kimberly could be the natural liaison between RGSA and the faculty (a sort of “faculty mentor” for the group) – we’ll explore that option with her.

**Jeff’s Idea About Graduate Student Group Space**

Jeff sent Nathan an idea. about the lack of open space for grad students, he suggested that the space next to his desk could be a good place for a couch, table, chairs as a meeting space. We need a communal space, but that space might not be the best for it, as it’s in the middle of the grad student desk space. We agree, though, that some space for meeting would be good, but maybe not in the grad student space. Possibly having one of those meeting rooms off of 303 or 308 be a dedicated to grad students? Might not hurt to ask. This can be an agenda item for next year’s RGSA.

**Socials – Lots coming up! Woohoo!**

- Com-PIE-tition a success! Raised good money, good turnout!
- Multicultural Dinner: Wednesday April 17th 5:30 – 7:00
- Last Happy Hour: **Ri-Ras on Thursday, April 18th 5:30pm.**
- Community Celebration: May 3rd 4:30 (food at 5:30) **RGSA can subsidize tickets for grad students to go to the end of the year celebration. We are budgeting $100 for that – 20 students @ $5/person. Also, anyone nominated for an end-of-the-year award will get a free ticket.**
- End of Year BBQ: Scheduled for May 10th – Oakledge Park.

**Treasurer**

Maybe in the future we could set aside some funds for helping students with money for binding theses and dissertations? We don’t have that set up now, but it could be a great item for next year. We’ll look at the budget to see if we need to purchase more toner or paper products, and the leftover amount, combined with Com-PIE-tition and Chili Cook-Off can go towards funding the BBQ.

**Mentoring**

Becca met with Marie last week to talk about the mentoring program. It has huge institutional support and has been publicized widely to the admin in Waterman and to the Board of Trustees. So they have a keen interest in this thriving. They want to know if any additional money does come in, if it should be housed in the RGSA budget or in the Experiential Programs (under Marie). There are advantages to either option. Also, overseeing the Mentoring Program has been a lot of work for just one person, so Marie also wants to know if we have other ideas about keeping this going sustainably. What about setting up a grad student work-study student helping with the matching process, sending out reminders, planning events, accounting? The timing of the work could be interesting (lots of work up front, then a lull), but Becca will work with Marie to do that. In the future – have a meeting with all the other grad students mentors (maybe once a semester) to share ideas, information, trouble-shooting mentoring. Also make sure the resources document is available electronically for grad student mentors. At the RSENR school-wide level, incorporate it into other school-wide events (Doc Donnelly day, Community Celebration), to raise the profile of the program.