**Present:** Sarah Pears (SP), Christine Peterson (CP), Clare Crosby (CC), Sam Parker (SPA)
Jeff O'Donnell (JO), Chester Harvey

**Chair Updates:**

CC – The first happy hour will be at One Pepper Grill this week. Clare will be sending around an e-mail shortly. Chili cook-off is scheduled for November 11th in Aiken 311.

CP – Bess and Christine paired everyone up. So far no issues with pairing. Christine is sending placement e-mails to undergrads today. Meet and greet is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:30 in Aiken 311 (ice cream social). They are working on an end-of-the-semester survey for participants.

JO – RGSA update for RSEN R e-newsletter is in the works. Will include info on upcoming RGSA events and our vision for the year. It will include mentoring program statistics.

SP – Graduate Student Senate (GSS) – Chester, Eduardo and Christine are interested in being senators. You can still participate in GSS even if you don’t get senator status. If interested, let RGSA know. FROM GSS E-MAIL: “Senator elections are now open. Please go to survey.uvm.edu/index.php?sid=44388&lang=en and fill out a ballot. There are spots available for write-in candidates if you didn’t get your name in on time. The election will be open for one week.”

SP - Shelly Hart is the new grad co-chair for the RSEN R Diversity Task Force.

SP - Dean’s search candidates will be on campus in January and February. Grads will have an opportunity to talk to candidates. We will think about how this process could work (standard set of questions?)

SP - Faculty Advisor update. SP is meeting with a faculty member this afternoon.

**Dean’s Forum**

SP - Dean’s Forum update. Dean Erickson suggested doing the forum in November. (Possible Date Nov. 21st 2:30 to 4:00 in Aiken 103) This will allow for time to keep the process going into the Spring semester. The Dean offered to meet with the Exec. Committee once or twice a semester to get updates on funding, Dean search, etc.

SP – Tentative plan for October 28th 12 to 1:00 State of the School address for grad students. Surveys for the Dean’s forum could go live that week. This will help students decide on what topics we want to cover at the Dean’s Forum.

SPA – We will only have snacks at Dean’s Forum. There will be happy hour after on that day (Nov. 21)

JO and CP will work on survey of topics for Dean’s Forum. Exec. Committee will discuss this on October 21st meeting.
SP – One issue to research prior to Dean’s Forum….How do Rubenstein grad stipends compared to UVM stipends and similar programs nationally? SP will spearhead this investigation. CP can check with GSS if they have some of this information.

**Mini-Grants**

SP - GSS mini-grants are due Friday (they do three rounds). RGSA mini-grants. We will send out an e-mail with call for applications the first week of October and give students three weeks to return. Due on Oct 18th, RGSA to decide at Oct 21st meeting.

CP - Mini-grant process from last year: Treasurer receives all applications, takes names off, then Exec. Committee does a Doodle poll to select top three. Try not to do retroactive / reimbursement type grants. Let people know in e-mail that we will be doing another round in the Spring (for conferences). JO will work on announcement e-mail. JO to strike names and programs and forward to SPA. SPA will pull together info on prior RGSA winners.

SP – Anna Smiles-Becker is interested in working with RGSA on the proposed Intern Research tech fair next semester. Anna could attend one of our November meetings (11/4 or 11/18).

**Staplers !!!!!!**

JO – Put forth a proposal to fund an office supply basket for each Aiken Pod or other Grad student seating areas, mostly staplers and paper clips. Staplers will be branded with RGSA initials.

SPA – Staplers from Staples will be $3.86 with UVM discount. If we save room for two toners, that leaves $40 for office supplies. JO and SPA will check Dean’s office supply cabinet first (see Philip) and grad lounge to take inventory of current supplies, then get whatever else we need. They will also think about where to place them in carrels.

**Professional Development**

SP – There is interest in doing a natural resource-focused professional skills / interview workshop (perhaps early in the spring semester, January or February). We could pull in grad alumni or NR practitioners to participate. Exec. Committee to start planning at end of this semester.