RGSA Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2014 | 10:30 – 11:15

**Present:** Sarah Pears (SP), Clare Crosby (CC), Jeff O'Donnell (JO), Bess Perry

**Old Business**

BP – The mentoring program has re-matched some folks. Christine is going to check to make sure we have enough balance on the Henderson’s coffee card.

SP procured a bin for RGSA supplies. The bin will reside in Aiken 111. All RGSA office and party supplies are in there.

**Faculty Breakfast**

SP – The breakfast has been scheduled for March 18th, 8:30 – 10:30 am in Aiken 103. The topic will be taking risks in research. Christine announced the topic to the faculty at the faculty meeting. An invite has gone out to grads and faculty.

CC – Clare and Sarah will procure coffee, tea, fruit and bagels.

**Social Update**

SP – Upcoming events: informal social hour coming up on March 27th, Com-PIE-tition on April 7th. CC - We will do posters for the Com-PIE-tition and allow faculty and staff to contribute pies.

SP – Com-PIE-tition should have a charity component. Let’s see how the funding comes through via the Business Office. SP will check with Business Office.

CC – Thinking ahead to the end-of-the-year BBQ. Let’s think about having the BBQ be BYOB. SP – We will be able to fund food for the BBQ.

**Social Hours**

CC – Attendance at social hours has been low. We need to think about how to make social hours relevant to grads and encourage wider attendance across all Rubensteins programs and concentrations.

JO – Next year’s Executive Committee can revisit whether social hours are working and learn from this semester’s social hours, including the upcoming faculty breakfast.

SP – Will need to revisit social hours in light of new UVM policy. Faculty breakfast seems like a good idea. Having social hours after seminar can stimulate discussions.

CC – Continuing informal social hours may be the way to go. We need to work on our recruitment strategies. SP agrees. We need to reach out to the different Rubensteins sections (Gund, TRC, Rube Lab, etc.) Maybe we could look to the GSS model of pub crawls?

BP – We should have a diversity of events, not all of them revolving around drinks. We could consider organizing short hikes followed by sandwiches. SP - Maybe modeled on the FN’s Friday Field Walks?
CC – Yes, but drop-in type events are good too in case people only have an hour. Also, we don’t want all the events to be academic, as we need social / relaxed events. Don’t want academic aspects to overwhelm the social aspect. This can help various Rubenstein sections mix and mingle.

SP – Should we think about repurposing social hour funds into a diversity of events (faculty breakfast, historic UVM tours, hikes, etc.)? RGSA could collaborate with Carolyn about including social aspects into professional workshops.

CC – We can think about things that don’t require funding like hikes, ice skating, etc.

SP – Social hours as they have been should be revised, especially in light of the new UVM expenses policy. Some should be cost-free, those with a clear business purpose should be funded, and pub-crawls and Duff Hours (non-funded) should be in the mix. Now the challenge is how to channel our funds and determine what the right mix of events should be. Let’s think more about non-pub social hours and how we can make the best use of funding. Our experience the rest of this semester will help inform next year’s Committee.

The exec. Committee will put together recommendations for next year’s committee. We will try to hand off our thoughts and ideas. They can use these as a springboard for moving forward next year.

Do you have ideas or thoughts on this issue? Send them to rgsa@uvm.edu or swing by our next meeting on 3/25 at 10:30 a.m. in Aiken 103.

Faculty Meeting (3/11)

Christine via SP – The faculty are looking to get the online Master’s up and ready by May. Some faculty have some reservations and questions, but the push is due to the need to have a program before students can be recruited. There are still many hoops to go through.

SP – The faculty is still working on sorting out the undergrad curriculum revisions.

SP – Tentative agenda for the next RGSA Exec. meeting: Com-PIE-tition, End-of-the-year BBQ, RGSA elections.