RGSA Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2013 | 12:00 – 1:00

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

Chili Cook-off Debrief
CP, CC - Total attendance was around forty folks. Four vegetarian and seven meat chili dishes were enjoyed. The event raised $80 for Chittenden County Emergency Food Shelf. Proceeds were delivered to the Food Shelf on 11/20, and their development director was very pleased. Great job chili cooks and eaters!

Dean’s Forum Topics
SP provided Jon, Kim and Carolyn with the discussion topic survey results. Moderator SP will keep discussion to around 20 minutes per topic. The grad student exit survey topic has been removed, since there is already one in place. Carolyn and Kimberly plan to revise the survey this year and will seek input from RGSA. Carolyn is planning a “where are you now” workshop for grad students on December 5th.

Holiday Party
CC – The party will be a dessert potluck, with RGSA providing beverages and snacks (cheese and crackers, fruit platter, popcorn, etc.) Monika and Arianna have volunteered to help with party planning. Decorations from last year’s party are stowed, so we can use them again this year. There will be games and activities. Tyler G has graciously volunteered to curate a festive and party vibe-inducing playlist.

Mini-grant Update
RGSA Exec Committee is reviewing applications. SP will talk to Carolyn about an issue that has come up regarding permissible uses for mini-grants and the possibility for rolling over funds to next semester.

Mentoring Program Update
CP – Unfortunately, the Steward’s grad school workshop event had light attendance. Stewards and the mentoring program are planning another grad student workshop in March (with publicity help from RGSA to increase attendance). Planning for the spring undergraduate research fair continues. An undergrad student workshop e-mail will go out to grads around mid-December.

Other Business

Our last RGSA Exec meeting for the semester will be Monday, December 2nd.

SP will talk to Christopher re: Dean search process and where grad students can get involved.