RGSA Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2013 | 12:00 – 1:10

Present: Christine Peterson (CP), Clare Crosby (CC), Jeff O’Donnell (JO), Donna Parish, Anna Smiles-Becker, Bess Perry

SP – Introduced Donna Parrish, our new RGSA faculty advisor. Donna is excited to help us find opportunities for graduate student engagement with school affairs. As part of Donna’s US Forest Service appointment she is required to only be involved in graduate education. Donna is involved in school meetings related to graduate education. She would like to see grads more involved in the workings of the school.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Fair
Anna Smiles-Becker discussed the proposed research fair. Timing the event will be critical. Many of the competitive research-based internships have early spring deadlines (i.e. EPSCOR = Feb. 7th, RSENR internal internship program is Feb. 10th, LANDS is usually later). Spring Break is March 3 – 7, 2014. We should advertise the event early and often. We could integrate this into the NR206 Senior Capstone process. Anna will be at the meeting to discuss opportunities for undergrad compensation and other internships.

CP – March may be a good time to hold the event. Grads could use Spring Break to figure out their research needs. Good middle ground between grads figuring out what they need and undergrads applying for opportunities. CP will get a head count of how many grads are expecting to need help next summer. Food (snacks) will be provided via mentoring funds.

SP – What do we want to accomplish? Raise awareness among UVM undergrads of UVM research opportunities. The fair could include mini interviews with undergrads. Cluster research projects by program. Potential date: February 18th at 5:30. One hour of presentations, one hour of tabling.

SP / CC / BP – We could model the first part as graduate research quick talk (like Gund Research Slam). Students would learn about opportunities, then talk to graduate researchers at tables. Grads could collect e-mails of undergrads interested in their project and do follow up. Grads should come prepared with a one page summary of their research and intern needs.

DP – Encourages grads to have their advisor weigh in on candidate selection. SP – We will include mention of this in outreach to grads.

Chair Updates:

CC – Chili cook-off is next Monday. We currently have 2 vegetarian and 4 in the meat category. Everyone needs to nudge friends to sign up as cooks. We will do a gift card to encourage participation (outdoor store in town). We agreed to donate proceeds to a food shelf (http://www.feedingchittenden.org/). RGSA invite will go out to undergrads, faculty, staff and grad students. BYOB spoon and bowl.
CC – Holiday party will be at NorthEnd Studios on Thursday, Dec 12th, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

SP – State of the School feedback? People enjoyed Jon’s presentation. Attendance was good; around 15 – 20 students attended, representing a good portion of active grad students.

SP – Meeting this afternoon on RSENRR community sustainability. She will report back.

Dean’s Forum Topics

An online survey has gone out to grads. Please respond sooner rather than later. SP will talk to Jon, Carolyn, and Kimberly about the topics.

GSS Update

CP – GSS Wine and Cheese is happening this Friday at 7:00 in Waterman Manor ($10). Please RSVP soon. Fossil fuel divestment got tabled pending a revised resolution.