Present: Nathan, Becca, Ryan, Vinson, Chenin, Sam, Kate, Ellen, (GSS), Christine (GSS)

**President's Report (Nathan):**

- **Grad Research Symposium** – big success!
- **Meeting with Jon and the RGSA** – Jon is interested in graduate education in RSNER. A great phrase he used was talking about closing the distance between grad students, staff, and tenure. He would like to meet with graduate students regularly. Maybe meeting every month or two with the Exec Body of RGSA?
- **Grad Student Forum** – Jon supports forum, thinks it is a good thing. Maybe we should have the forum in the beginning of the Spring semester, not this semester? We want to find a time to have staff/faculty, Kimberly, grad standards committee. We also agree that having it in the spring, and perhaps just having it be once a year is a good idea. We’re not out for confrontation – something congenial, informal and social.
- **Grad Standards Committee** – We are disappointed in the e-mail that came out, which said that if you have anything that you need to petition for graduation, you need to get approval to them in 3.5 days. RGSA will craft a letter to Bob and Kimberly to explain that more notice (2 weeks, but at the very least, 1 week) is desired by grad students in the future.

**Aiken Chair (Becca)**

- **Faculty Meeting Report Out:** Shades will be installed on faculty doors (it was an important issue for faculty for a while). The “Environment Committee” – UVM-wide committee looking at all the environmental programs on the campus in all different departments to streamline environmental programs. There will be a forum for grad and undergrads to talk about these courses. This is a big deal for Rubenstein. They will soon be developing a website. This committee will make some large- and small-scale recommendations. R
  - Within RSNER, the school is rethinking the undergrad curriculum: research (more integrative), undergrad and grad curriculum, outreach.
- **Rubenstein Core Curriculum:** Claire Ginger is chair of the committee looking at the core. They are looking for input from students to get input by Thanksgiving. We should make sure we are invited to comment as grad students as well (knowing how many of us TA core curriculum classes). These are some macro-level suggestions.
  - An idea floated in the faculty meeting was that maybe the grad program should be a cohort program that would involve all grad students in a cohort being unified by a central theme. Kimberly is involved in both the grad and the undergrad changes... Not many details on if/how such a cohort model would take effect.
  - **Mentoring:** Seems to be going well, but some mixed reports from the staff knowing what the program is, and trouble with getting the drinks paid for. Jon is really into this program, and wants to have a lot more publicity around it – newsletters. We are not sure what the budget is for the whole semester and if it is a use it or lose it by the end of the semester.

**Treasurer (Kate):** Review mini-grants on Tuesday or Wednesday – Subcommittee is: Nathan, Sam, Ellen, Christine, Chenin. Names will be closed off of applications for blind rankings. Mo Money!

**Social Chair (Ellen):** Last happy hour at the ONE Pepper Grill. Lots of grads, one faculty. Good amount of food. Toby was great to work with. We have two upcoming events: **Nov 16**th Happy Hour and a December holiday party. It looks like we may have extra money for the upcoming semesters – so maybe we can increase our budget for the upcoming events. **For the next event – possibly Sweetwater’s**... Someone has also mentioned a new lounge above Leunig’s. Ri Ra’s also has a deal for booking an event in December. November happy hour will be decided by Nov 1st.

**Senators’ Reports:** Last meeting was with the new President. He said that one of his biggest priorities is that the wants to decrease undergrad enrollment, and increase grad school enrollment. Vinson asked about the different levels of classes (how few grad classes in RSENR are offered per grad student). We may consider sending him a report from the RSENR Grad Forum, and invite him to the Grad Forum. GSS pub crawl went very well.

**Seminars:**
Attendance is going pretty well (22-24). Jon mentioned the Seminar series a lot in our meeting with him in RGSA. He felt like we should unify the fall and spring seminars more. We identified that it should not be titled “Graduate Seminar Series” – it is just the RSENR Seminar Series – open to all!

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, November 8th – 3:30pm