RGSA Committee Meeting
November 5th, 2014

Present: Bess Perry, Tyler Goeschel, Ari Cano, Stephanie Juice, Xiao Xiao, Emil Tsao

Action items:
- Chili cookoff: Ari/Steph shopping for prizes/accoutrement
- Surveys: Steph/Rez/Bess work on Spear St survey, Emil/Ari/Xiao work on lounge survey
- Everyone should poll fellow grad students for Fireside chat questions (around the theme of work-life balance) and for interest in grad student retreat
- Grad student retreat: VYCC Barn? By next meeting: ideas, curriculum, interest generated, etc.
- Emil: Facebook and Aiken for Lunch email

Xiao brought donuts and bagels!!

Professional Development Chair
Bess is officially the new Professional Development Chair! She hopes to bring ideas about next semester to RGSA meetings this semester.

Updates
- Seth fixed the printers yesterday (Nov 4th). The first floor computers are now connected to the printers.
- Logo: Jess and Audrey came up with designs.
- Mini-grant review process: 6 applications and 1 was ineligible. The remaining 5 are all eligible and all written. The applicants must keep receipts, spend the funds by the deadline, and take photos of their projects.

Logos
Both Jess and Audrey submitted really cool designs. Audrey came up with multiple design ideas, and Jess had an intriguing design with a thistle(?).

Professional Development with Ann Swanson
Ann, the chair of RSENR’s board, wants to do an informal meet and greet with RSENR grads.

Community and Sustainability Committee
Bess is helping with a town hall meeting on March 17th from 4-6pm. (sidenote: Bess raised the Aiken for Lunch idea and none of the staff or faculty had heard of it -- RGSA needs to do a better job sending these out to the listservs.)

Next Steps after Meeting with the Deans
They were very supportive of RGSA, our ideas, and the alternative solutions we proposed. 
Action items and subcommittees:

• Transportation to Spear St (how many people and their preferred method of transportation: Stephanie Juice, Rezwana Zafar (survey)).
• Carrels and grad lounge space: Emil Tsao, Ari Cano, Xiao Xiao (survey on lounge)
• Survey done and to the Dean by Thanksgiving Break

Fireside Chat with Dean Mathews
We’re trying to generate questions for Dean Mathews around the theme of work-life balance. Rez tried to track down a room but most of the fireside room were not open to private parties. Ari is reserving Aiken 311 and we’ll project a video of a fireplace.

Chili Cookoff
Four people are signed up for veggie, six for meat chili. Do we need a chili caravan? Ari could pickup chili from the Old North End and Bess could do a pickup from Winooski. And we should ask for people to lend their crockpots to the cookoff. Giftcards: $15 and $20.

Faculty Meeting
Rez got RGSA on the faculty meeting agenda. Items for Rez? Invite them to the chili cookoff, Aiken for Lunch, the seminar, and the town hall meeting.

Holiday Party
The total price for the ONE Studios is $300 (and we get $50 back as a deposit). We decided to book it from 7-11pm (rather than to midnight). Kegs?

Updates to Mini-grant Applications
We can table this, but we should say no attachments, don’t have info repeated, etc.

Graduate Student Retreat
How should we go about planning this? Should we do this upcoming Spring semester? A location where people can go recreate in different ways in their downtime? By next meeting let’s have more ideas, possible budget (Xiao’s on it), etc.