RGSA Meeting Minutes
September 17th, 2014
Present: Ariana Cano (AC), Rezwana Zafar (RZ), Emil Tsao (ET)

Professional Development Chair
Emil is close to finishing a position description and sending it out to the grads: The Rubenstein Graduate Student Association (RGSA) is looking for a Professional Development Chair who can help to coordinate RSENR professional development activities and is also aware of UVM-wide programs, workshops, or events. Your official responsibilities will be flexible and based on the ideas you envision, but in general we’re looking for a graduate student that can commit to organizing one event (at least) related to professional skills (CV writing, networking, etc), can help us collate a list of various resources and events that occur campus wide, and could potentially be available to be used as a professional development resource by graduate students. This person would also serve on the RGSA committee, and you would have input into RGSA’s other student activities.

RGSA Logo:
Let’s try and consult the budget to see if we have any funds to hire a professional graphic designer (like Audrey Stone).

RSENR Faculty Meeting:
RZ: Faculty have divided into sub-hiring committees for the new tenure-track positions. Diverse range of faculty on each sub-committee. Also looking at the thesis vs. project based Masters. How to increase cohort closeness and more attendance at thesis defenses?
ET: What proportion of the faculty serve on the graduate college (and can have grad students)?
AC: Could we get a meeting with just these grad-oriented faculty?

Facebook
We’re motioning to rename the Facebook page “Rubenstein Graduate Students” as “moderated by RGSA”.

Social Events
GSS’s social event at Tilt is unfortunately exactly the same time as what we had conceived of. Let’s try and get more grad students at this event and plan our RGSA event.
AC: I’m going to shoot for October 2nd for our social.

Kitchen
AC: From my understanding, in order to open the kitchen after hours, it’s a decision that the Dean and Associate Dean have to make. The kitchen may be considered a staff/faculty lounge and therefore off limits to grad students.
AC: Apparently we also have a fridge. It used to be in the dungeon(sic), but it’s not plugged in anymore.
RZ: Maybe we should ask Gary to figure out whether it’s feasible to put a card swipe on the kitchen door for graduate students.
Chili Cook-off
AC: Kimberly has the Green Conference Room reserved at the time we had scheduled on November 10th from 11am-1pm.
RZ/AC: Let’s make it on Aiken 311 from 10am-2pm on November 12th.

Mentoring Program
RZ: We have $30 more this year to spend because we have more undergrads who signed up this year. Cool stuff we have planned:
- Instead of an ice cream social we’re going to make fall snacks
- We have a game planned in which we divide into teams and have RSENR trivia questions
- Henderson’s $5 card is still on ($250 for the whole semester)

Fall Seminar
RZ: The second series (with the Park Studies Lab) went super well! Lots of participation and activity.
Let’s invite Sarah and Bess to the next RGSA meeting.

Faculty Breakfast
AC: Lets try to do it on October 21st and highlight specific faculty members.
*ari will work on this (advertising it to graduate students and recruiting a couple faculty).*
8:30-10:00am?

Faculty Lunch
AC: The lunch will be more informal and brown-bag style.
This will Friday September 26th at noon. At any rate it will be a good cohort building time.

Next week:
- Allocating funds for dwindling supplies
- How will we determine faculty?