

RFWG Meeting 8.5.17

Bridget's Apartment on 10 Hungerford Ter | 6-7:30pm
August Meeting

Facilitator: Gina

Notetaker: Bridget

Present: Alison, Gina & Bridget

Introductions (10 minutes)

- Summer Bucket List

Membership Update (10 minutes)

- Faculty Membership
 - David Conner was selected by the majority
 - Taran working on a formal invitation
 - We need to ask for affiliation next time to make sure we meet quorum (5 students and 2 of each other group)
- Student Membership
 - Three (3) new student members selected by chairs
 - Not yet formally invited
 - One application came in late, will be considered next time
- Student Chair transition in effect
 - Taran jumping in now
 - Katie jumping in at the end of August
 - Bridget leaving at end of August & returning in the Spring
 - Gina supporting transition into early September.

Collaborations with other student groups (10 minutes)

- Human Trafficking Activism & Awareness Club (HTAAC)
 - A club officer applied (late) to RFWG, will be considered next time we have student openings
 - HTAAC last year tables for labor reform & enslavement in food industries
 - has the capacity to collaborate with tabling
 - Fair Trade chocolate campaign, becoming a Fair Trade Campus
- Juntos: "Human Rights Can't Wait" Campaign: Ben and Jerry's dragging their feet on signing the Milk with Dignity pledge
 - opportunity for HTAAC and Real Food to co-sponsor.
 - Seems a political event, not an educational one.
 - Timing is perfect: early in the year to tie students into the initiative

Procurement (20 minutes)

- Market Gaps Group
 - Meeting every week
 - Farm to Plate meeting:

- learned where other organizations are in challenges and successes sourcing things locally
- Potential for UVM to be in the broader conversation in the community about what needs to be met
- Farmers producing more of
- Planning to meet with UVM Medical Center to learn overlap in things we are trying to be purchased
- Sabina put together spreadsheet of NOT real products by dollar value:
 - where are we spending our money and where can we shift things?
 - Numbers don't represent a full year but show the relative value.
 - We are using this spreadsheet going forward to decide what products to research.
 - First draft includes: Chicken, seafood (shrimp, salmon, halibut) Tea & coffee, Turkey, Duck & egg products (liquid eggs)
 - Second draft includes produce
- Potential Farm Forward Partnership
 - Do we want to ask Melissa to join the leadership circle?
 - Waiting to discuss with full group in a meeting to answer questions
- Alison met with new Sustainability Coordinator from Northwestern. they are at 5.5% and feeling overwhelmed. Made a lot of seafood changes before the guidelines changed and lost 10% Real Food

Fundraising (10 minutes)

- Crowdfunding format through UVM Foundation
- Talking to UVM Foundation about what kind of promotion they do
- Who to target for financial support?
 - Real Food Challenge Listserv, UVM Food Feed blog, UVM RF Facebook page, Real Food website, Percentage Party invites

Real Food Revolution (30 minutes)

- *Impetus for discussion:* Difficult to deny people RFWG membership when they have passion and are qualified to make meaningful change.
- *Concerns:*
- RFR was designed to be lower-commitment, more inclusive route for student involvement in RFC.
- However, the group has struggled with sustained engagement and rapid leadership turnover.
- Without a functioning RFR, the RFC initiative loses an important movement component, because the RFWG is not inclusive to most students. Limited space, short recruitment window, recruitment through listservs.
- Feedback from RFR leaders: *Pending*
- Discussion:

- History of RFR: Students couldn't be as radical politically within the structure of RFWG. This group became more about spreading the word of real food rather than the nitty gritty work
- That purpose was a good fit for the energy that was happening then: is it still relevant just because we are at 22%? Not as much of a sell to students. To what extent do we need an alternative way of interacting with Real Food that includes activism education and awareness raising that is complementary and different. Is that still what we need?
- Gina: I think we are seeing a lot of students that want to be part of the movement
- But we don't need the energy to "fight against" the institution. Real food has become an apolitical issue on it's own, mainstream. It would be great to integrate that sentiment
- Sense of hierarchy between RFR and RFWG, and we need to avoid that. It is because there is an application process, but a select number of students creates: a sense of responsibility and ownership - What is the balance there?
- Real Food Challenge Coalition?
- A group focused on food activism issues that isn't about industrial procurement at UVM
- Get in touch with everyone we did not invite into the working group and invite them to have a conversation about how they would like to take leadership
 - The RFWG is a body that can only handle so many people working on it but give them the other applicants the agency to figure out how they could form a new group to support food justice issues.
 - Ask in the letter about the opportunity to reinvigorate Real Food Rev or rename a coalition.
 - A smaller group that could brainstorm a structure & stepping into a leadership role.
 - Making sure the wording of the letter will be particular and the wording of the conversation has to be meaningful and provide agency.
- Let's explore the resources provided by the RFR advisor: Suzie, Vic