SNR GSA Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2014

Hardin Hall 2nd Floor Lobby

1. Chair report, Maggi Sliwinski
   1. 3-minute Competition and Poster Fair and Photography Contest
      1. Idea is presenting your ideas to the public in an interesting and engaging way
      2. One slide only, over 3 minutes disqualified
      3. John hopes that 1st place for each category will be awarded $1,000
      4. 3 categories: undergraduate, masters, PhD
      5. 1.5 hr program for finalists with judges, awards that evening
      6. Poster session will also be incorporated and have awards
   2. Seminar on retirement plans: 6/10 would be interested in attending
      1. graduate students not eligible for university savings plans
   3. Constitution needs 5% of member signature: next session
   4. Polled meeting dates or set time each month: set date for Friday at 12
2. Graduate Committee Rep, Katja Koehler-Cole
   1. Specializations not being updated or relevant classes were no longer available, so it was decided the specializations needed to be updated by faculty by December or removed.
      1. Specializations deleted: agroforestry, wildlife ecology, aquatic ecology
      2. if there is an issue talk to your advisor
      3. Certifications cannot replace specializations within SNR, but are best sought through your professional societies. There are some available, like a GIS certificate.
   2. Travel funds: no one is applying for travel fund, five of them listed on GSA website
   3. Stipends will increase for incoming students to $18,000 for Masters and $20,000 for PhD for students starting this Fall
      1. If a student switches to another assistantship do you get the new stipend?
      2. If you don’t have funding through advisor ask your graduate committee
   4. Shannon Moncure will be covering for Katja attending graduate committee meetings
3. Treasurer report, Katja
   1. $754.98 as of today
   2. Katja will need to stop being treasurer soon
4. UNL GSA representative, Maggi
   1. New garages being built so there might be an increase in fees next semester
   2. Midwest Research Career fair in Omaha on March 1, will send out more information
   3. April 7-11: Graduate Student Appreciation Week with free massages, classes, therapy dogs
   4. Issues with diversity climate on campus has prompted new program
      1. Look for workshops, possible opportunity for extra credit offering for TA’s
   5. New healthcare plan proposals went out in December but will be reviewed January 31
      1. February 13 Maggi will sit on the proposal meeting
      2. Later there will then be presentations from the proposals
      3. Potential for better coverage, hoping for a University wide plan with UNO, UNK, UNL, and other campuses
5. Outreach, Katie McCollum
   1. Farm: volunteer opportunity over summer (car accident)
   2. Tutoring opportunity (Lincoln literacy)
   3. If anyone has any connections with the local schools or know of other opportunities please contact Katie
   4. Green apple day of service: may be interested in having speakers as an outreach opportunity
   5. Two or three workshops put on with the NRD
   6. YWCA also offers opportunities for speaking/workshops
6. Fundraising
   1. Ilonka no longer fundraising chair
   2. Competitions between SNR and school of biological sciences—would be a lot of work
   3. Pub Quiz: reserve a bar for UNL competition
   4. Past funds used for: food, fall events, meetings, outstanding grad student awards (documentation about this?- Maggi will look into it)
   5. Currently not a huge demand for funds but if necessary we can focus and brainstorm again
7. Social Chair, Jocelyn Olney
   1. Wine & cheese social: tonight at Jim Brandle’s
   2. Feb 7: Hardin 4-5:30, first Friday for SNR, entire lobby reserved for social for faculty staff and graduate students with beer, wine, pop, and snacks
      1. With help from Larkin, who is also our bouncer and can’t drink but the permits are taken care of
8. Safety and Facilities, Bryce
   1. Attending first Safety meeting this afternoon at 2
   2. Advised by Maggi to mention: doors to men’s bathroom and elevator door North wing 2nd floor, area difficult for handicap to access
9. Announcements
   1. someone stole the popcorn maker
   2. Grad student lounge: old food in the fridge
   3. Faculty meeting Feb 19 1:30-3 (agenda usually comes out 24 hours ahead of time), PhD candidates are welcome to attend and see what faculty meetings are all about!
   4. SNR GSA meeting time moved to Friday at 12 (instead of 11:30)