Meeting Minutes October 24th

1. Update from Patty: The Graduate Connection newsletter is changing and will now be more of a blog with general announcements put on the Graduate Studies website (front page). An email should be sent soon explaining the change.
2. November First Friday: Due to an alcohol policy change we will not be allowed to serve alcohol at First Friday in Hardin. We will have First Friday as planned on November 7th with just soft drinks and snacks. Undergraduates and those under the age of 21 are now welcome to attend.
3. November SNR GSA Thanksgiving: We will have a potluck style Thanksgiving for the graduate students in Hardin on November 25th at noon. Stay tuned for an email about this.
4. Discussion of ideas for future profession development seminars: We discussed having a seminar to train graduate students in giving a talk, how to design an appropriate powerpoint presentation, presenting at the elevator speech contest, and how to build a good relationship with your advisor.
5. Poster Contest February 26th: We will have the poster contest right before the elevator speech contest. Bring an old poster from a previous contest or make a new one!
6. Career Fair: We will be applying for a $1000 RSO professional development scholarship to go toward the career fair.
7. Bake Sale: We will have a fundraising bake sale this semester during dead week. A doodle poll will be sent out soon to sign up.
8. Change of research credits (from Larkin Powell): UNL is making a change in policy about your thesis/dissertation hour grades. The common practice of assigning a temporary “I”  grade for research, thesis and dissertation hours creates a problem for both our graduate students and the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.  Assigning a temporary “I”  grade for research, thesis, and dissertation hours makes it appear as though a student is not making satisfactory progress.In lieu of an Incomplete (I), the alternative options are as follows:
9. IP:  (In progress) indicates satisfactory work in progress (i.e., student is making progress or effort as determined by the faculty supervisor).  The “IP” would stand until the final examination, at which time a grade of “P” or a letter grade for all dissertation hours is submitted to the Office of the Registrar.
10. XP:  (No progress) indicates students are not making adequate progress on their thesis or dissertation work). Consecutive “XP” (as determined by the graduate program committee) may result in the graduate committee taking action to inform the student and Graduate Studies regarding continuation of the student’s graduate study.
11. P or final grade can be given for the research, thesis and dissertation work AFTER successful defense and acceptance of the research project, thesis or dissertation Graduate Studies.
12. TIPS hotline: There is a new hotline on campus known as TIPS where you can anonymously report sexual misconduct
13. Bus stops: Buses will now only be stopping at designated locations on campus.
14. Outreach at Lakeview Elementary: Katie has been in contact with Gina at Lakeview Elementary and we will be setting up our after school program soon.