SNR GSA Meeting Notes  
February 18, 2011

* Central Plains Severe Weather Symposium & Family Weatherfest- Ken Dewey
  + Saturday, April 9, 2011- 9:00am-4:00pm
  + Free all day event with free parking
  + Lunch and dinner provided for volunteers
  + No training needed for the volunteers
  + Weather and science related booths
  + Contact Ken Dewey if you would like to volunteer
  + Dr. Dewey has offered to pay for SNR students to create a poster with photos from SNR related activities. If you would like to submit a photo, please send it to Ken Dewey.
* Report and TA discussion from the Grad Committee Rep- Eric Hunt
  + Much needed changes are coming for the TAs within SNR.
    - Syllabus database where future TAs can research classes and sign-up for classes that they might be interested in being a TA for
    - The Grad Committee will then assign TAs from the list of desired courses you would like to be involved in. After a decision is made, the faculty member will be emailed.
    - For the Fall, faculty would have to confirm a TA by April 1st. For the Spring, the deadline will be by October 1st. TAs would be contacted within the week after that confirmation is made along with their advisor. This email will include a copy of the most recent course syllabus.
    - Around April 1st, Christine will send an offer letter for fall semester to students. Fall TAs will have until April 30th to the TA offer. For the spring semester the dates will be October 1st and October 30th, respectively.
    - Attached to the letter will be the SNR TA Agreement (which incorporates the Rights and Responsibilities) that the TA and the faculty member must complete and submit by the Thursday before classes start.
  + Eric Hunt, Christine Steggs & Mark Mesarch very influential in making sure these changes are implemented. Be sure to thank them for their hard work when you see them.
* SNRGSA website- Crystal Bergman
  + SNRGSA does have a website
  + It needs to be updated- The template is even incorrect- The template is being updated soon
  + The website is going to turn into a general information page for graduate students to cut down on the amount of updating that is needed.
  + Mark Mesarch is going to be sending out a pdf file to all of the graduate students in SNR with the information that they have on the SNR webpage about you. Please update and add to it as desired.
  + There is a need for new pictures on the website. If you have any pictures from activities around SNR, please send them to Crystal.
  + Crystal will let us know when the new website is up and running.
  + Suggestions:
    - Give info about GSA to incoming students to increase participation.
* Graduate Student Break Room-Crystal Bergman
  + It is the responsibility of the SNR graduate students to keep the break room on the second floor of Hardin Hall clean.
  + There have been complaints about the break room being dirty and smelling
  + The break room was deep cleaned this past Saturday thanks to a couple of graduate students. Please be respectful of that area and clean up after yourself.
  + Guidelines are going to be posted in the break room
* SNRGSA Elections for 2011-2012-Crystal Bergman
  + Elections will be during our April 8th meeting
  + Consider being involved as a chair or officer
    - Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary , Treasurer, Outreach Chair, Social Chair, Fundraising Chair, or many other positions as a representative for SNRGSA
  + If you would like to nominate someone, please discuss it with that person before nominating them to make sure that they are interested.
* SNRGSA Travel Grants- Brittany Potter
  + Deadline March 18th
  + Two $250 travel grants will be awarded
  + Selection will be decided by April 1st
  + These grants are for conference participation for the end of Summer and Fall
  + Selection based on:
    - Quality of Research
    - Activities
    - Financial Need
  + 1 Master’s student and 1 Ph.D student will be awarded
  + 2 students and 1 faculty member will make the selection
  + If you are chosen as the recipient of the travel grant, you will be asked to serve of the travel grant committee the following semester.
* Report from the Fundraising Chair- Becky Puta
  + $25 from fruit sales so far this semester
  + Weatherfest bake sale and coffee- April 9th- Need Volunteers
  + T-Shirt Fundraiser?
* Treasurer’s Report- Atefeh Hosseini
  + $1,575.30
* Report from the Safety & Facilities Committee Rep- Sarah Becker
  + Don’t smoke outside of the loading dock
  + If you smell smoke, exhaust, or anything else coming from the vents, let Sarah or Bernice know.
  + Situational Awareness Flyer (What to do during a bomb threat, fire, etc.)
  + Make sure you are closing the doors to the graduate offices
  + Don’t prop open exit doors
* Report from UNL GSA Rep- Joana Chan
  + Events
    - March 1- Professional Development Seminar- “Interviewing for Non-Academic Jobs”
    - March 10- Delray Ballroom- “Jump and Jive with the GSA at Delray” – 5:00-10:00
    - Dissertation Support Group- March 2, 9, 16- 2:30-4:00- City Campus Union
* Report from the Outreach Chair- Brittany Potter
  + March 10- 2:00-4:00- Science Fair- need volunteers to be judges
  + Always need help on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:00
* Upcoming Wine & Cheese Social
  + March 4- 6:00- Jim Brandles’ House
    - Bring your advisors
    - Sign-up is you are coming in the graduate lounge
    - Bring new students
    - Carpool- meet at 5:45 in the lobby of Hardin Hall
* Report from the Social Chair- Adam Yarina
  + Thirsty Thursday
  + Picnic soon
  + Ed Harvey BBQ maybe on April 8th?
  + Waffle Cone Wednesday
  + Emails to follow with more details