Notes for SNR-GSA Meeting on March 11,2011.

* Crystal Bergman
  + Meeting started at 12:05pm, Friday March 11, 2011
  + Break Room
    - Thank you to those who helped clean the break room
    - Quite a big difference
      * The freezer, fridge and microwave have been cleaned, the cabinets have been organized and signs have been put up telling people to please keep it this way
      * Now the only thing we have to do is maintain it
* Brittany Potter
  + Travel Grants
    - Applications for grants are due by March 18th
    - If there are any questions please contact Brittney Potter or Sharmistha
  + Bulletin Board
    - The board has not been updated in some time
    - Would like to update it, post pictures of the SNR-GSA committee and some of our outreach activities
  + Photo Exhibit at Severe Weather Symposium
    - Good opportunity to advertise SNR-GSA and draw new people in
    - Ideas for outreach are welcome
* Atefeh Hosseini
  + Not much has changed with the Treasury since the last meeting
  + $1451.55
* Crystal Bergman
  + For Sarah Becker - Nothing new to report from Safety and Facilities
  + For Joana Chan – Please see e-mail that went out earlier in the week from her regarding GSA activities and nominations for awards
* Becky Puta
  + Put up a sign on the snack cart downstairs asking people to pay for what they take and it has been quite effective
  + The last bake sale took in around $40, with everything selling out
    - The next bake sale will be held at the Severe Weather Symposium all day from 9am to 4pm (April 9th)
    - Email Becky Puta if you would like to participate
  + SNR T-Shirts
    - Designs for the shirts are due next Monday by 12 noon
    - Shirts can be sold in the Nebraska Maps & More store at 10% commission for the store
    - It would be a good idea to gauge interest in how many people would like to purchase the shirts before going ahead with the designs
    - Cost to have the shirts made will range from $7.50 to $8.50, although discounts are available for orders over $100.
* Eric Hunt
  + Graduate Committee meeting
    - The previous meeting discussed admissions
    - The next meeting hopes to focus on the TA Rights and Responsibilities form, progress is being made
  + Emailed Mark Pegg regarding Comprehensive Exams for Masters students
    - Masters students are required to take Comprehensive Exams
    - The format of the exam is up to the discretion of the advisory committee
      * Can be written, oral or in the form of a proposal
    - Students must be able to record the date they complete their Comprehensive Exam
* Brittany Potter
  + Outreach at McPhee
    - The last science club visit happens next Tuesday, March 15th
      * Volunteers will leave Hardin Hall at 3:15pm and return around 5:15pm
    - Judges are needed for the McPhee Science Fair next Thursday, March 17th
      * The science fair will be held from 1pm to 2:30pm, volunteers will leave Hardin Hall at 12:40pm
      * UNL IDs are needed to enter the school.
      * Brittney is willing to drive, although a second car may be needed.
        + Dorian also volunteered to drive
    - After the science fair, outreach will no longer be done at McPhee elementary due to construction at the school next fall
      * The incoming Outreach Chair will have the option to pursue outreach opportunities at other schools, either elementary, junior high school, high school or adult education
      * The degree of commitment will be largely up to the incoming Outreach Chair
* Crystal Bergman
  + The end of semester BBQ at Ed Harvey’s will take place the same day as the last SNR-GSA meeting for the semester, April 8th
    - It will be a potluck, with Ed Harvey providing the BBQ trappings and everyone else bringing side dishes
* Adam Yarina
  + Social gathering at his and Brittney Potter’s apartment tomorrow at 6pm
  + Free pizza will be provided courtesy of the SNR-GSA
  + Plans discussed for an outdoor picnic at Pioneer’s Park towards the end of April
* Crystal Bergman
  + Elections will be held for next year’s Executive Committee at the next and last SNR-GSA meeting (April 8th)
    - To run for a position, someone must be nominated either by themselves or someone else, whereupon the SNRGSA will vote (all graduate students welcome to attend April’s meeting to vote)
    - Positions will be Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
    - Outreach Chair, Fundraising Chair, Social Chair, Safety and Facilities Rep, UNLGSA Rep, and SNR Grad Committee Rep will be appointed by the new chair with Executive Committee’s approval
  + Each student currently in a position discussed their responsibilities and the time commitment required for the position
* \*Jim Brandle had to leave at this point, but wanted to mention to make sure that we only nominate people that have actually agreed to fill the position\*
* Crystal Bergman
  + “I will be here all of next year so I will be available for help and support,” for whoever decides to take over Chair of SNR-GSA
  + Chair position involves organizing monthly SNR-GSA meetings and the SNR Open House events
* Adam Behmer (currently Co-Chair)
  + Assists the Chair with anything they need help with
* Crystal Bergman
  + Secretary position (currently held by Andrea Coop)
    - Takes notes of each meeting and types them up so they can be emailed out to the SNR graduate student listserv
    - Must be able to make most meetings
* Atefeh Hosseini (currently Treasurer)
  + Not a very time-consuming position
  + Great opportunity to gain lots of knowledge about UNL and the SNR department and meet new people
  + Must be organized, especially regarding receipts and reimbursement forms for SNR-GSA related expenses
* Crystal Bergman
  + Other positions are standing Committee Chairs
    - Outreach Chair, Social Chair, Fundraising Chair
* Brittany Potter (currently Outreach Chair)
  + This position will be different in the next school year due to planned construction at McPhee
  + However, it’s very important to keep this position alive, as it’s a great way to reach out to underprivileged children and help the community
  + The time commitment is ultimately up to the Outreach Chair
    - Outreach activities can be done every week or as little as once a month, for example
  + As Outreach Chair I have tried hard to keep previously used supplies and activities around for re-use
  + I also plan on organizing the supply room to make it easier for future Outreach Chairs
  + Anyone who is interested in taking over the position should come talk to me personally
  + I will do my best to advertise the outreach program to anyone who may be interested as I think this is very important
* Becky Puta (Fundraising Chair)
  + Position is not as time consuming as others like the Outreach Chair
  + Responsibilities involve maintaining the fruit and snack cart in the Hardin Hall 1st floor lobby
    - e.g. Making sure things are well stocked and that the cash jar is emptied on a regular basis
  + Also responsible for organizing bake sales, and approximately two are held per semester
* Crystal Bergman
  + All of these committee chair positions are very important
    - The Social Chair is important for getting new students involved and helping them feel welcome, especially if they’re from out of state or out of the country
    - The Outreach Chair is hugely important, it shows that SNR and UNL are dedicated to helping the community and giving back
    - The Fundraising Chair is important because without it we would not have the money for outreach supplies and social gatherings
  + Representative Positions
    - All of these are also important as they are the liaisons between SNR and the rest of the UNL community (the UNL-GSA, Graduate Committee and others)
    - UNL-GSA Representative (currently held by Joana Chan)
      * Attends UNL-GSA meetings that are held once per month and reports back to the SNR-GSA
* Eric Hunt
  + Graduate Committee Representative (currently held by Eric Hunt)
    - This position is really important, as you help form the collective voice for graduate students
    - The Graduate Committee decides how things are changed for graduate students, for better or worse
      * They decide what new courses to implement, minimum requirements for stipends, graduate student rights and benefits and a host of other graduate student issues
    - This position is not a huge time commitment, although you must be able to make it to every Graduate Committee meeting, which are held once a month
* Crystal Bergman
  + Executive Board positions are held for an entire year, from April to April
    - If you run, be sure you can fulfill the position for an entire school year
  + Once new members are elected at the final SNR-GSA meeting in April they effectively take over responsibility
  + “I hope that those of you who will be here all of next year will consider running.”
  + It’s very important that we have a good turnout for our last SNR-GSA meeting on April 8th
* Brittany Potter
  + It’s important to remind people that anyone can show up to SNR-GSA meetings and that anyone can run or volunteer for a position
    - It’s not necessary to “join” the SNR-GSA as everyone in SNR is automatically a part of it
* Crystal Bergman
  + When I send emails out about the April 8th meeting I’ll stress that point
  + Those of you already in Executive or Committee positions, think about who would be good to take your place, and approach them
  + I would not have gotten involved as Chair if I wasn’t approached to do it
  + Are there any questions or anything else that anyone wants to discuss?
  + Meeting adjourned.