**School of Natural Resources Graduate Student Association**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 11/13/15 at 12pm**

**Items of Business:**

1. Professional Development
   * Resume, CV, Professional writing in Natural Resources
     + We’re thinking of having someone come and talk to us about Resume vs. CV and then editing and comparing. If you have any ideas, email SNR GSA ([snrgsa@unl.edu](mailto:snrgsa@unl.edu))
   * Host a Seminar on Imposter Symptom
     + Expand to Campus wide
     + Support network and tools to overcoming
     + Info hand out

**Fall Seminar Schedule**

* + November 18, 2015 - Tara Troy, Lehigh University (host Trenton Franz)
  + December 9, 2015 - Mary Bomberger Brown (host Johnica Morrow)

1. Volunteer Oportunities
   * Afterschool Program at Lakeview Elementary.
     + 1-1.5hour a week
     + Need 7-8 people
     + Lesson Plans wanted.
     + Email [snrgsa@unl.edu](mailto:snrgsa@unl.edu) if interested.
   * Clinton Boots for Winter
     + Give money or donations to Karen Jensen at the Hardin Hall Front Lobby Desk.
2. Social Ideas
   * Past Events: Board Games was really fun and we had a decent turn out.
   * New Ideas: Bowling Night?
   * Email the SNR GSA if interested in joining the social committee to plan socials and share events with the group: [snrgsa@unl.edu](mailto:snrgsa@unl.edu)
   * Look for events, scholarships, and publications on the bulletin board in the cubicle hallway. Email the SNR GSA if interested in contributing to the board : [snrgsa@unl.edu](mailto:snrgsa@unl.edu)
   * Find us on Facebook to learn more about social events at **UNL SNR GSA**

1. Travel Grants
   * SNR GSA has travel grants for conferences or research purposes available
   * $250.00, with 1 per semester.
   * Application is due December 4th.
2. Field Trips
   * Spring Field Trip –going to see the cranes
3. Fundraising
   * Ideas for Fundraising? Pint Glasses, SNR Polo shirts…
   * Pie a Professor/TA Fundraiser
     + We need to discuss details and how this will work
   * April 20th – Chipotle or Panera
   * Coffee and Tea at Hardin Hall (Down in the main Lobby)
   * Crazy Auction at the Elevator Speech Contest
     + We’ll get items donated to us from local businesses and have a silent auction to benefit the GSA at the poster session and Elevator Speech Contest in February.
4. Faculty Advisory Committee
   * Changes in teaching
     + Drs. Carroll, Hanson, and Snow will be assigning Mission Area Leaders to head up committees devoted to evaluating various facets of teaching within SNR.
     + Each of these committees will need representative graduate (and undergraduate) students to get our perspectives on these aspects.
     + Areas that will be examined include:
       1. Evaluating undergraduate teaching (potential changes to course evaluations, classroom observations, exit interviews for graduating students, etc.).
       2. Barriers to faculty investing in teaching (incentives, limitations, semester format, support for risk-taking, etc.).
       3. Curriculum--this is a big one, so it may be broken up into multiple committees--(evaluation of majors, capstone courses, common SNR core, course development, redundancy, etc.).
       4. Advising.
       5. Alternatives to classroom teaching (field and lab course challenges, internships, education abroad, online education and blended courses, multimedia room, etc.).
       6. Structuring Teaching Coordinator and Committee (organizational management, support for TC, coordination among majors, etc.).

* If you are interested in serving as a graduate student representative for a committee evaluating any of these topics, please speak with Johnica
* Dr. Carroll is disappointed with the low number of graduate students (and many of their advisors) who attended the fall kick-off event
  + Attending this event is important for getting all of the latest news, hearing about upcoming events, addressing changes within the school (which may have direct effects on graduate students), and becoming aware of opportunities (e.g. funding sources, job postings, collaborative projects, etc.).
  + Students (both new and returning) who do not attend next year’s fall introduction event will be receiving reprimanding e-mails from Dr. Carroll himself.
  + There is also talk of making attendance at this event a requirement for travel fund applications that go through any part of SNR.
  + Additionally, the FAC would like to see the SNR GSA’s orientation events co-occur with the fall introduction event next year.
* The FAC also discussed concerns/frustrations of the Community Engagement Committee regarding faculty/student participation.
* CASNR will soon be requiring engagement in science literacy in all of its departments. SNR faculty members are working on a document that addresses the mission, goals, and impacts of SNR Science Literacy to submit to upper administration.
* There is a mechanism for exempting non-student technicians from the 30-day-rule regarding out-of-state driver’s licenses. Ask Johnica for details if this includes you.
* The staff and faculty are talking about how to approach the posting of CVs on the SNR website. They are trying to determine whether faculty should upload their own CVs themselves, or if the SNR database system should create an AI-generated CV for faculty members instead. Remember graduate students can (and should) upload their CVs to the SNR website.
* There are some issues with new policies that affect international travel. This will be discussed among the faculty soon, so there’s not much else on that bit for the moment.
* Graduate student-led mentoring program is being proposed.
  + This would be a structured mentoring experience between existing graduate student volunteers and new graduate students. Pairs or teams of students would meet regularly (2-3 times a month) to discuss issues such as adjusting to graduate life, teaching/research expectations in SNR, professional development, etc. and to address any issues facing the mentees.
  + Topics for each meeting would be assigned, but conversations would be free-form. These meetings could potentially be integrated into a required new student introductory course that is being suggested for the SNR graduate program.
  + Mentors will report the progress of their mentees to a Mentor Coordinator appointed through the school.
  + If interested contact Johnica.

Upcoming Events:

1. Staff Appreciation Breakfast – TBA
   * More information on this to come
2. SNR bike ride on November 21
   * Email: [jacob.bruihler@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:jacob.bruihler@huskers.unl.edu)
   * Meet as a group at the Novartis Trailhead of the Mopac Trail at 84th and N. Hazelwood at 12pm