

RPIRG Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2009; 3:30 PM
John Archer Library

Present: Vicky, Robbi, Clint, Brennan, Ali, Kaylene, Mike, Alix

3. The board met new members, Mike, Ali and Kaylene

4. Orientation: RPIRGs role, values, mission statement, goals, etc. were explained and discussed.

5. Vicky found a few minor errors to be corrected from the minutes for October 9, 2009. Minutes were approved.

6. Events

6.1. **Film Screening:** The event went well. Attendance could have been better, about 15 people were present. We believe that 3:30 was probably not the best time to screen a film, because it does not accommodate the schedules of employees or students.

6.2. **Newsletter:** RPIRG is launching a monthly e-newsletter, using the software program Constant Contact. We would like to publish something from the RPIRG board in every issue. We will also publish campus events, news on behalf of other student groups on campus, jokes, stories, essays, etc. The first issue will be available November 17, and for the first three issues, we will be accepting suggestions for the name of the newsletter. This newsletter might be a potential area for a small committee in the future.

6.3. **Guest Speaker:** We discussed who we might like to see as a guest speaker this year at the University. Charlotte and Vicky have been in touch with several agencies, who will let us know who will be speaking in our area. Margaret Atwood is a popular choice. The cost is \$30,000, and will require a lot of planning and fundraising in advance. The group felt that since January is quickly approaching, and is a stressful month for students, October might be a better time. We would also like to plan a week of events following up to our guest speaker.

6.4. Note about the RPIRG **website:** The website is currently in bad shape, due to some technical malfunctions, and problems with our web host. We have someone who is willing to do the maintenance for a good price, once the website is back up. Ali said he knows someone who might be willing to do it for free- good news!

7. Board Responsibility and Portfolio updates

7.1. **Applications** and Assessment committee: Three new applications were reviewed at the last meeting, and they were all approved. We now have four working groups!

BIRT- we accept the recommendations. Next meeting we will set up a small committee for working group liaison!

7.2. **FCAC** Update: All nine members seem very good for the positions. Their role is to review funding decisions we have made. Their positions have no terms, the intention is to develop an institutional memory for RPIRG, since board members seem to prefer shorter terms. The next FCAC meeting is on November 23 at 10am.

7.3. Board **elections** in the fall: Robbi, Brennan and Alix committed to staying on the board until this September, when new board elections will be held, with 2 year terms.

7.5. **Floating Funds**: We discussed what should be done with the floating funds from previous funding rounds. It was agreed that the money should be saved to support more working groups and project/ events in the future. Our first priority should be student funding.

7.6. **Policy Committee**: will be discussed next meeting.

8.1 **Mentoring and Succession Planning**: A supper and orientation has been planned after the next board meeting

8.2. (I wasn't sure if this time worked for everyone. Some of us had already left at this point!)

9. Next Meeting: The next board meeting is scheduled for November 18, at 3:30. We will be discussing current and future committees. After the meeting board members will be invited to supper at the Owl. This will be a good opportunity to further orient new members, and for everyone to get to know each other better!