February 26, 2018

2:00 pm, 3117 Skinner Building

Members in attendance: Nora, Becca, Skye, Gareth, and Savannah

**Agenda**

* Introductions
* Chair’s report
* Officer reports
* Old business
* New business
* For the good of the order

**Chair’s report (Nora)**

* Advisor check-in
	+ An official meeting with Dr. Jessica (“Jess”) Enoch of the English Department has not occurred at this point. However, Jess is excited and willing to support despite her being on a research sabbatical this semester.
	+ Faculty members willing to support – where and how do we want to use their help/resources? Lots of avenues for support
* On the calendar
	+ The goal of this meeting is to brainstorm and schedule events.
* Big vision
	+ Do we, as individual members, have any “big picture” ideas for our local RSA chapter?

**Officer reports (Office Holders)**

* Vice Chair/Treasurer (Hagar/[Becca])
	+ Currently, the chapter’s account holds $388.26, which has mostly accrued from optional (but generous!) member dues. These dues – varying from $1-$10 – are not expected of new members, but very much appreciated as they help facilitate events and Chelóna RSA efforts.
	+ No fundraisers for the chapter have been planned at this point.
* Publicity Chair/Webmaster (Becca)
	+ Meeting minutes, upcoming events, and member-contributed content are posted on the chapter’s blog. Great resource for existing and potential members.
	+ Please help keep this web and outreach tool functional for all members by sending relevant information/content to Becca.
* Secretary/RSA Liaison (Kim)
	+ Nothing to report.
* Comm Rep (Gareth)
	+ Nothing to report.
* English Rep (Savannah)
	+ Brief mentions: The rhetoric listserv has helped members in the English department stay informed on current happenings. Also, English department members reported having a good time at the MilkBoy Arthouse happy hour, as well as the desire to socially engage with Communications department members.

**Old Business (Becca)**

* Chelóna RSA Amendments (2017-2018)
	+ Proposed amendments mostly attempted to fix errors and combine select offices. Noteworthy amendments that passed in fall 2017 via member votes are as follows:
		- Vice-Chair and Treasurer offices were combined.
		- Webmaster and Publicity Chair offices were combined.
		- Some committees were disbanded due to a lack of interest. These included the Rhetorical and Community Activism committee and the Funding committee.
			* These committees can be reinstated at any point, should interest and time in pursuing them be proposed.
	+ These updated amendments can also be found on the blog.
* Chelóna RSA member t-shirts are still available, though in limited sizes.
	+ Small (3 left)
	+ Medium (3 left)
	+ Large (3 left)

Should anyone be interested in purchasing a $15.00 shirt, please contact Becca.

**New Business (Nora)**

* A “Terps and Friends @ RSA” social event was proposed for the RSA 18th Biennial Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota (May 31-June 3, 2018).
	+ At some point during the RSA Conference, this would serve as a socializing time and place for Maryland folks in attendance.
	+ There are Communications folks going; Savannah will ask around in the English department to see if members are planning on attending. It was noted that English folks typically attend the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in lieu of the RSA Conference.
	+ Nora plans to look into venue options after the conference releases the official schedule.
		- Those in attendance agreed that a Friday night event might work.
		- Becca noted that social media communications would also attend and promote this event announcement.
* New members
	+ Skye identified as a new member – yay!
	+ Ideas about culture, time, and resources for the organization
		- Talk to fellow members or folks in your classes. What do we want RSA to be here at UMD? What kind of a resource do we, as a group, want to be for UMD?
	+ Importance of being part of a local chapter – camaraderie, service, etc.
	+ Open Houses for prospective students are coming up.
		- Should we make efforts during these couple of days to advertise our local RSA chapter to potential students?
			* Nora and Becca may create a poster or display for the Communications open house events.
			* Savannah will look into doing the same for the English open house.
* Possible scholars panel
	+ Jess Enoch and Becca discussed a possible spring panel during their meeting last fall.
		- This panel would feature a UMD professor and a student (one who has entered a paper into a competition, perhaps).
		- Do we think this is something we would want to pursue this spring? Maybe in April when students are wrapping up seminar paper?
			* Becca noted that this kind of event is not difficult to put together in terms of logistics.
				+ Becca and Gareth both mentioned that they have experience coordinating similar events.
* Book launch party
	+ Dr. Damien Pfister, of the Communications department, recently co-edited a book on digital and ancient rhetorics. Perhaps we host or co-host a book launch?
		- Pfister has agree to give away a free copy at such a social/promotional event.
		- Maybe an English faculty member could write a review or introduction on the book?
		- One venue option discussed included Busboys and Poets (either location in Hyattsville or Takoma Park)
			* On a side note, Gareth has opened his home for future casual Chelóna RSA get-togethers.
		- What dates would work best for folks? It was suggested that someone look at the evening seminar class schedules for both the Communications and English departments to find an agreeable weekday.
		- Nora to report back on this event.
* Undergraduate Research Network
	+ Spread the word to undergrads you think might be interested.
	+ See Nora for more information.
		- This would occur during the RSA 2018 convention – Saturday, June 2.
		- An undergraduate rhetorician would be paired with a faculty mentor from a different academic institution and peers for a workshop-type discussion of their work.
		- Applications are due by March 22, 2018.
		- All that is needed in the application is a paper title, 250-word abstract for a conference-quality paper, and an email explaining why they want to participate.
		- Students will know application status in early April.
		- Accepted applicants will need to send their final papers to their faculty mentor and small group members by May 1, 2018.
		- Students would be responsible for $50 registration fee and travel costs to and from Minneapolis.

**New Business**

* Long term goals
	+ In the past, we have facilitated a Terps Talk Politics symposium. Would we like to revive this mini conference on political rhetoric?
		- General interest by the members in attendance was expressed.
	+ Archival Conference
		- This would be a plenary-style conference on archival research.
		- In the past, we have helped finance participating scholars in their traveling to archives via grant money.
		- Associated possibilities with this conference could be that we host a webinar workshop or live stream the discussions.
			* Should we provide useful documents on how to access and use local archives for the participating, out-of-town scholars?
	+ What is Chelóna’s thing?
		- As we all know, Penn State is known for its “Camp Rhetoric.” What could be our thing?
		- Having a distinctive and longstanding event can help us plan over a more extended period of time. That is, we wouldn’t be rushing around to plan and execute an event with a month’s notice.
		- Call for members to consider our “thing” and report back with suggestions.

Notes submitted by Savannah Moix-Rogers.