

YOUR RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Est. 1952



Mission

- The Rackham Student Government strives to improve the graduate student experience at the University of Michigan through academic programs, extracurricular engagement, and beyond.



Who We Are

- ▣ 1871 Students in Division 1, Biological & Health Sciences
- ▣ 3161 Students in Division 2, Physical Sciences & Engineering
- ▣ 1932 Students in Division 3, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- ▣ 957 Students in Division 4, Humanities & the Arts

Who We Are – Legislative Branch

- ▣ The Board
 - 1 *elected* representative for each 400 students or major fraction thereof within each division.
 - Associate representatives *appointed* by the Board after attending 3 consecutive board meetings
 - 7 standing committees
 - ▣ Academic Affairs
 - ▣ Budgetary
 - ▣ Elections
 - ▣ Communications
 - ▣ **Community Outreach & Social Action**
 - ▣ Legislative Affairs
 - ▣ Student Life

Biological & Health Science Representatives

- ▣ Eli Eisman – eleisman@umich.edu
 - Biological Chemistry PhD Candidate
- ▣ Lauren Knapp – knlauren@umich.edu
 - School of Natural Resources & the Environment MS Candidate
- ▣ Chris Tom – ctchem@umich.edu
 - Biological Chemistry PhD Pre-Candidate
- ▣ Matthew Waugh – mwaugh@umich.edu
 - Biological Chemistry PhD Candidate
- ▣ 1 Vacant Seat

Physical Sciences & Engineering Representatives

- ▣ Alex Emly – aemly@umich.edu
 - Materials Science & Engineering PhD Candidate
- ▣ Anna Wagner – awags@umich.edu
 - Chemistry PhD Candidate
- ▣ Andrew Crawford – mccarlen@umich.edu
 - Chemistry PhD Candidate
- ▣ Heidi Alvey – pedini@umich.edu
 - Chemistry PhD Candidate
- ▣ Brandon Erickson – bmse@umich.edu
 - Physics PhD Candidate
- ▣ Anna Belak – aabelak@umich.edu
 - Materials Science Engineering – PhD Candidate
- ▣ Bernardo Orvananos – orvanano@umich.edu
 - Materials Science Engineering – PhD Candidate
- ▣ Evan Arthur – evanarth@umich.edu
- ▣ 1 Vacancy

Social and Behavioral Sciences Representatives

- ▣ Haven Allen – haven@umich.edu
 - Public Policy Masters Candidate
- ▣ Ben Curtiss-Lusher – benlush@umich.edu
 - Public Policy Masters Candidate
- ▣ Daniel Trubman – dtrubman@umich.edu
 - Public Policy Masters Candidate
- ▣ Vanessa Cruz – vcj@umich.edu
 - Education & Political Science PhD Candidate
- ▣ Matthew Filter – mfilter@umich.edu
 - Public Policy Masters Candidate

Humanities and the Arts Representatives

- ▣ Peter McGrath – pcmcg@umich.edu
 - Urban Planning Masters Candidate

- ▣ 1 Vacant Seat

Who We Are – Executive Branch

- ▣ Graduate Student Body President
 - Elected annually in March with the Vice President
 - **Michael Benson** – rsg-president@umich.edu

- ▣ Graduate Student Body Vice President
 - Elected annually in March with the President
 - **Kaitlin Flynn** – rsg-vicepresident@umich.edu

- ▣ Graduate Student Body Treasurer
 - Appointed by the President in November
 - **Alex Toulouse** – rsgtreasurer@umich.edu

Who We Are – Judicial Branch

- ▣ RSG utilizes the Central Student Judiciary (CSJ) for its judicial needs. CSJ is the highest adjudicating student body at the University of Michigan, often hearing cases involving election disputes, CSG constitutional issues, and reviews of decisions made by student groups on Campus. Although CSJ requires potential parties to make a good faith effort to handle conflicts within their own organization, the Court is available for both arbitration and to hear challenges to a student group's decisions.

What We Do

- ▣ Social Events
 - Regular graduate student bar nights
 - Pinball Pete's
 - Ice Skating at Yost
 - Fall Welcome Picnic
 - Detroit Red Wings Games
 - Detroit Pistons Games
 - Detroit Tigers Games
 - And much more!

What We Do

- ▣ Community Service & Social Outreach
 - 2011 - 2012 Activities
 - Ann Arbor Park Cleanup
 - Detroit Partnership Day
 - Graduate Students take over Rick's on South U. (Raised over \$500 for Habitat for Humanity)
 - Habitat for Humanity Build Day - April 2012
 - Future Plans
 - Washtenaw Intermediate School District - Mentoring
 - Food Gatherers
 - And Much More!

What We Do

- ▣ Funding
 - Each graduate student pays a \$1.50 student government fee during terms of enrollment (\$3/year)
 - We provide a significant portion of our income to student organizations to host events and programs of graduate student interest
 - Groups can apply for funding by visiting rsg.umich.edu

What We Do

- ▣ Advocacy – Student Affairs
 - Work with City of Ann Arbor on issues affecting Graduate Students (leasing ordinance)
 - Working to Register Graduate Student Organizations separately from the undergraduate process.
 - Partner with the Law School and other graduate professional student bodies to advocate for common desires.

What We Do

- ▣ Advocacy – Academic Affairs
 - Work with the Graduate School to make the Continuous Enrollment Policy work for students
 - Created the Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board
 - Propose a *Graduate Student Bill of Rights & Responsibilities*
 - Propose additions to the University's Non-discrimination clause to include *sexual practices*.
 - Push Graduate Student Priorities within the Graduate School, individual programs, and the University as a whole.

What We Do

- ▣ Advocacy– Local & State Level
 - RSG's Board has adopted a neutral position on the recent efforts to form a GSRA union. President Benson traveled to the state capitol to encourage dialogue on the issue during a recent hearing of the State Senate's Government Operations committee.
 - RSG is a founding member of the *Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students (MAGPS)*
 - President Benson signed a memorandum of understanding with Stephen Fletcher, President of Michigan State University's Council of Graduate and Professional Students to coordinate our combined state-level advocacy activities.

What We Do

- ▣ Advocacy - Federal
 - RSG is a founding member of the *Student Advocates for Graduate Education* (SAGE): SAGE serves as an advocate and a network for graduate students at public institutions aiming to empower graduate students to meet the challenges of graduate education and to form partnerships across universities.
 - Five members of the graduate student body participated in SAGE's spring advocacy conference which included over 120 meetings with members of Congress, congressional staff, members of the executive branch, and coalition partners.



- ▣ Federal Action Items
 - Restoring the tax-exempt status of graduate scholarships and fellowships
 - Allowing for the forgiveness of some student loans for graduate students who pursue careers in government, the nonprofit sector or other areas of public service.
 - Expand federal research funding to the humanities, the social sciences, education, and the arts.
 - Treat Public Issued Federal Student Loans the Same as Other Types of Private Debt in Bankruptcy.
 - Increasing the number of H1-B visas and removing unnecessary and burdensome restrictions associated with F-1 visas.
 - Promoting Campus Safety through the Cleary Act
 - Promoting Open Access to Research

Get Involved!

- ❑ Any member of the University community can join the RSG Board as an associate representative AND/OR as a member of one of our committees.
- ❑ Email rsg-exec@umich.edu for more information and/or visit our website to get in touch directly with our committee chairs.

Contact Us

- ❑ Email: rsg-exec@umich.edu
- ❑ Web: <http://rsg.umich.edu>
- ❑ Twitter: @RackhamStudGovt
- ❑ Facebook: Rackham Student Government
- ❑ On Campus Office Hours: Visit the Website

