RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
10/18/12
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:36 P.M.

a. CALL TO ORDER: 6:36pm

b. Present: Chris Tom, Matt Filter, Matt Waugh, Eli Benchell Eisman, Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Alex Toulouse, Alex Gutierrez, Anna Belak, Haven Allen, Dan Trubman, Phil Saccone, Evan Arthur

c. Absent:

d. Excused: Alex Emly,

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Motion by Matt W, seconded by Chris. Approved with one abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Minutes from 10/4/12- no quorum last week so approval moved to this week. Alex T motions to approve, seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

b. Minutes from 10/18/12-Motion by Haven, seconded by Brandon. Changes: to attendance. Kaitlin and Michael will fix this. Approved with one abstention.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Michael Benson. Michael thanks the DPC for the great debate watching party hosting. Michael met with the school of Public Health student organization and they are interested in getting involved with RSG and AAC. GPSASC will be meeting soon to discuss the separation from the undergrads but scheduling has been an issue. MSU COGS have asked if we’d like to participate in the Graduate Academic Conference. MSU is also interested in hosting a joint social event to see an early Tigers game in mid April. Asking the AAC and SLC respectively to make recommendations regarding these items. Michael appoints: Phil Sacone has been nominated to fill the Division I seat on the board. Motion by Kaitlin and seconded by Matt Filter.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. Newsletter went out last week and we’re trying not to spam people with email so if board members could spread the word on important topics, like Rackham being open late, etc, that would be great. Elections are coming up and as Elections Director Kaitlin will begin working on planning elections.

c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse. $22,000 in the account and the University has finished it’s transition from SOAS to Maize pages, so there are some glitches being worked out.
V. Accessibility of Technology Resolution—Preliminary Discussion
   a. Heidi introduces the history of this issue and summarizes Laura’s visit last week at our meeting. One issue that was brought up at the meeting with Laura was that office hours could be held only on Google Chat and that would be a serious issue for students who have accessibility issues. Heidi and Michael are considering a resolution to ban electronic-only office hours and communication of that sort. As this is an important resolution, it’s ideal that the board would give input to draft a solid resolution. Matt Filter asks about specifics. Michael says that it would ban the use of Google products specifically and exclusively until the accessibility issues have been worked out (including Google docs, etc). Dan asks to what extent of our graduate student population/ the student population in general would be affected by such resolutions. Heidi responds that it’s hard to tell exactly how many students identify as having disabilities/accessibility issues because many of them do not register with the Disability office. Much discussion ensues to catch board members up on what the issues are and how we could move forward.

VI. Election Forum—November 1 2012
   a. Survey for questions for the 6 debates will be going online soon; The Michigan Daily will be advertising that as well.
   b. Confirmation and commitments from proponents and opponents for many of the ballot issues. Mayoral and other city councilmen candidates will be present as well.

VII. Potential Event Co-sponsorship with the Michigan Graduate Consulting Club:
   a. Consulting club and Rackham are co-sponsoring an event to help students who are interested in consulting. They’re asking for a co-sponsorship that will not require anything monetarily from RSG. Motion by Haven and seconded by Pete to co-sponsor. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs: Rackham is now open late for studying! Also working on planning Lunch with the Deans. Conflict resolution and the bill of rights are longstanding items. Chris motions to approve the minutes and Haven seconds. Approved unanimously.
   b. Budgetary: been busy the last few weeks and minutes will be coming next week.
   c. Community Outreach and Social Action: H4H event this weekend that is totally full. Heidi is also working on a long term framework for people to volunteer at the Humane Society. Pete is also planning a few more Focus:HOPE events for the rest of the semester.
   d. Legislative Affairs: SAGE Fall summit email went out today for registration. Many great sessions are being planned. Alex T is going to be officially leading the Michigan delegation as Michael will be chairing. Also we will be sending a joint delegation to Lansing to testify on the education budget in early February.
   e. Student Life Committee: A few bar nights and happy hours being planned in the next couple months as well as a Pistons game. Motion to approve the minutes by Matt Waugh and seconded by Alex T. Approved with one abstention.
   f. Grad&Professional Student Assembly Steering Committee: postponed to next week.
IX. **Individual Projects—Update:** Evan is working on getting students better airfare discounts and will get back to us soon. Chris is also contacting the Human Rights commission of Ann Arbor to pursue his non-discrimination policy at the University.

X. **Open Discussion**

XI. **Adjournment** - Motion by Pete at 740pm.