RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
10/23/13
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
7:07 P.M.

a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:07pm

b. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Phil Saccone, David Malewski, Julian Bahr, Michael Benson, Mike Hand, Chris Tom, Michael Benson, David Barton, Ryan Roberts, Yiting Zhang, Erin Sullivan, Ram Balachandran

c. Absent: Krithika

d. Excused:

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Motion by MB and seconded by DM, approved with one abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 10/16/13

a. MB moves to postpone approval of the minutes until next week when MB will have time to complete them. Seconded by KF. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone: Welcome and thank you all for attending. Lots of events going on in the next few weeks, including lunch with the deans and all members are required to attend one or both events. Next Wednesday will be the lease-signing forum which is mandatory for all representatives. Board meeting will not happen next week, but the lease-signing forum will be happening. SAGE fall summit is coming up next weekend and it should be a great meeting. Kaitlin and Phil have been involved in conversations about career development and professional development tools. Phil is also going to be meeting with the president of GEO to discuss how our groups can work together. November 4, Laura Patterson will be here to visit the board and discuss disability accessibility for the Google suite of products. On December 4 the provost will be visiting the board.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn: Apologies for not being able to be here last week. Kaitlin will be gone for the next three weeks out of the country. The communications committee will be taking care of the communications business while she is gone. Kaitlin is also taking over the reigns to complete the website and is meeting with the developer on Friday.

c. Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu:

V. Guest Speaker: Ben Alterman, Program for Survivors of Sexual Abuse
a. Ben is a CSG representative for Rackham and is here to present his cause and ask for RSG’s support. A resolution will be presented to the board at a later date. Ben starts by giving background on the issue of survivors of sexual abuse. He shares numbers and statistics suggesting that with current trends, up to 20% of the Rackham student population could be survivors of sexual assault or abuse, both male and female. Ben feels that there are a number of campaigns and initiatives to create safe spaces for female survivors. But he feels that a considerable effort must be made to create similar spaces for male survivors of sexual assault. One way to do this is through the MaleSurvivor project. A wide array of groups and departments on campus are coming together to raise awareness and create a safe space for male survivors on campus. The project is funded on pilot grants for the next semester to create a space on campus facilitated by licensed therapists for male survivors to come together and share their experiences. He is asking for our support with this program. Ben is also asking for short-term support for a panel and documentary screening to happen on November 21.

b. Questions from the board: MB: why November 21, and what support are you looking for from RSG? BA: November 21 was chosen for the speaker’s availability. A lot of what we can do to help with this event is to support the event and promote it as much as possible. KF: can you explain how SAPAC does not provide for this community? Where would this space be located? BA: SAPAC has a peer-led support group that is run by undergraduates and does not have a consistent attendance and the environment fluctuates. This also is difficult because commonly men begin to deal with these issues at an older age and they may feel uncomfortable coming into these situations. CAPS in the past has led these groups but they have been somewhat unsuccessful. BA: location cannot be disclosed as it could affect confidentiality but it will be located on campus and under liability. CT: are you hoping that the resolution that passed in CSG would be similar to RSG? BA: somewhat, but we will not be asking for money but the resolved clauses will likely be similar. Tabled discussion until further information is provided.

VI. Elections Committee Appointments
a. Elections coming up November 20-23. The elections committee needs to be appointed. The committee slate is Benson, Phil, David Barton, Kirithika, motion by Julian and seconded by MH. Approved with 4 abstentions.

VII. Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities
a. Debate for 10 minutes or so to discuss the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The general strategy is to approach this by either presenting the document as a bill of rights or as a best practices document. There is something to be said for certain right we believe are inalienable and to push for recognition of that. But we also want to work with the administration and not fight them too much on issues. The current plan is to tweak the current Bill of Rights to fit a less aggressive tone. The other document, the best practices document, will start being created and then we will begin to lobby for votes and discuss with faculty members. Without getting into strategy we just want to debate the document itself.
b. Comments from the board: RR: regarding point 16, guarantees the right to join open organizations. What about those organizations that are exclusionary or the number of organizations? Why is that important? BS: I’ve known students who’s mentors say that they are not allowed to join clubs. RR and BS agree: The language needs to be clarified. Brooke: how will we enforce these across a wide range of programs? She feels that a best practices document is more appropriate and realistic given our goals. MB: the administration still supports the idea in theory but the document and the specifics need to be worked out if we are to change from the approved version from March 2012. MB thinks it makes sense to continue to pursue this on two fronts. BP guide is the pragmatic approach but it makes sense to follow along with our other SAGE institutions and put together at minimum a draft for proposed enforcement plans. PS: there’s nothing lost to approach members of the REB with a Bill of Rights type of document and see what they say. There are more things in the BOR that are enforceable than those that are not enforceable. JB just to be clear one of these pie in the sky one pragmatic. PS shouldn’t be so clear the difference, we need to have two options at once in case one doesn’t have enough support. MH agrees, don’t want the perfect to be enemy of the good. Ram: what is the motivation behind right 8 (protecting faculty from discussing students’ progress with other students). KF explains, Ram understands but also doesn’t want to restrict the faculty member’s ability to speak. PS: the Supreme Court already protects against some of these issues. CT: points out contentious issue with the language. MB: gives further legislative background. Ram: if these issues are already protected by the federal court, he doesn’t see the need for proposing a restriction on the faculty and worries that might be harmful in the future for student-faculty relations. PS: agrees language is unclear. DB: feels that some of this is unreasonable as we won’t be able to police all discussion. Some of this needs to be more concrete and clarified. JB: doesn’t feel this needs to be more specific as we can leave it vague and up for interpretation by the governing bodies. PS: clarifies two documents again. KF: vague rights were vague when we initially planned to have a separate committee enforcing these rights. CT: we can replace BOR with something that is less confrontational in title. BH: there should be some sort of agency that can and will enforce these rights. RR: questions the logic behind releasing rights and responsibilities at the same time. He also feels that the language is way more important than the spirit of the document.

VIII. Potential Ballot Questions
   a. We have an opportunity to poll the student body in a way that we wouldn’t ordinarily. If there are questions that are better suited for surveying at this level during elections. We are past the deadline for binding questions.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   a. Legislative Affairs: committee had a good meeting this evening. Leasing forum is next week and all board members are required to attend. We really need help to continue to advertise. Another email will be going out shortly that will be a reminder for the event and including a link to a google form. The amphitheatre
can hold 220 people. Please continue to get the word out. Also in the process of getting information about how the sequester has affected the university and the Budget Control Act.

b. **COSAC/Student Life:** minutes next week. Halloween event coming up Sunday, pistons ticket sales and other events coming down the pipeline.

c. **Academic Affairs:** Lunch with the Deans next Tuesday and Thursday. Publications going out here. Course bank evaluation going back to AAC for edits next week.

d. **Budgetary:** skip

X. **Open Discussion:** none

XI. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by MH and seconded by MB.