RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
10/9/13
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
7:08 P.M.

a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:08pm

b. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Phil Saccone, David Malewski, Michael Lang, Julian Bahr, Chuky Mbagwu, Alex Gutierrez, Michael Benson, Mike Hand, Chris Tom, Michael Benson, David Barton, Ryne Peterson, Ryan Roberts, Ram Balachandran

c. Absent: Yiting Zhang

d. Excused: Michael Benson, Brooke Horton, Erin Sullivan, Ben Sweeney

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Motion by ML and seconded by RR to approve the agenda with the amendment to include item VII. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 10/2/13

a. Date is wrong on top, Kaitlin will fix. Motion by Dave and seconded by ML. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone: the executive branch has been busy this week with coordinating events and putting together the newsletter. Had a meeting today with Greg Merrit about Munger and he’s looking for project leader to help with operations and programming for the new Munger residence. Greg is also looking to put together a group of transdisciplinary students to work together to bring down the cost. Phil also received over 100 applications for various university committees and has appointed students to the various committees.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn: Newsletter in progress thanks to Julian, set to go out tomorrow. Event report has been made by MH and is easily accessible as a Google form. If you host an event or help out significantly at an event, please fill it out when you are done. This will help us maintain institutional memory as time goes on.

c. Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu
   i. Finance Update: budget applications coming in.
   ii. Receipts: turn in receipts if you have any and make sure to keep track

V. Executive Order: Creation of RSG Communications Secretary and Special Advisor to the RSG Executive Officers

a. Phil is creating two cabinet-level positions which will be non-voting at executive meetings. The first position is as Communications Secretary, who will be tasked
with maintaining the day to day communications via the newsletter and twitter/facebook. This person will have oversight by the VP. Phil is creating this position and nominating Julian to this role. Phil will be creating an executive order for this position. The next position is Special Advisor to the RSG executive. This position is an important advisor position for past executives from RSG and is a way to maintain institutional memory and keep the connections that have been cultivated over our years of service. Phil will be appointing Michael Benson to this position.

VI. Appointment of the Elections Director + Approval of election dates

- Motion by MH for elections dates are November 20-23 seconded by Ram. CSG will be holding elections November 20 + 21. Discussion ensues about what the dates should be.
- Phil appoints Dave Malewski to this position. Roll call vote: 11-0-2 and it’s approved.

VII. Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities - First Reads

- Preliminary feedback from the Dean suggests that the Bill of Rights in it’s current form will not pass through the Rackham Executive Board as it is somewhat aggressive in tone and that in general Rackham is not inclined to make broad policy decisions that apply to all programs. They did suggest that putting it into a ‘Best Practices’ format. We have decided to put forth the document as a Bill of Rights first. Motion by CT and seconded by Chuky to bring this business before the board.
- Discussion: MH: what is difference between old and new versions? KF: updated to tone down language, update preamble. PS: also expanded student responsibilities sections. JB: it goes beyond Rights as it has a Responsibilities section. This makes it more of a Best Practices document as it is and Rights suggest something inalienable. JB would suggest that we separate the two or re-brand this as a BP guide. ML seconds. MH: can we restructure it as rights and use the responsibilities as a ‘whereas’ clause? PS: to Julian’s point, he agrees that there are parts that fit rights and parts that fit responsibilities. He feels that there should be a differences between accountability vs suggestions (rights vs best practices). In actuality the current document is probably more of a hybrid. CT: a lot of the material in it is adapted from both a Bill of Rights (from UW) and Best Practices (from UCSD). ML: if it’s not a bill of rights, we should not call it a bill of rights. It is the title and we should label it what it is because it could cause confusion and disagreement among the bodies that will be approving it. DM echoes and says that we should make sure to not trample on sovereignty of programs. PS: he understands these concerns, we aren’t stipulating what you need to do but all we are saying is that these conversations need to be had. JB: agree with all of the content in the document but if we’re going to have two documents we should separate the Rights and Responsibilities. Rights should be actionable. RR seconds. Ram makes the point about Right #8, if we make it actionable we cannot enforce it as it violates first amendment rights. Motion to table discussion until next week by CT, seconded by RB, approved unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
a. Legislative Affairs:
   i. Leasing forum: final details being worked out and will be settled by tomorrow.
   ii. Leasing survey: put together last year that CSG was charged with submitting to the student body but RSG will be taking it back and it will have to be sent out after the forum.
   iii. SAGE update: best practices/President’s meeting on Sunday. Questionnaire to fill out regarding best practices has been sent out to LAC members. Putative delegation for the fall summit: Phil Saccone, Chuky Mbagwu, Michael Benson and David Barton. The purpose of the meeting is to set the agenda for the Spring days on the hill. They will be gone for 4 days. Motion by ML and seconded by MH. Approved with one abstention.

b. COSAC/Student Life:
   i. Upcoming events: Saturday Penn State away game watch at BWW. We need a few people from the board to show up Saturday at 4 to help save tables. We really need people to show up and help out to save tables, especially if you’re on the student life committee.
   ii. Minutes: motion by MH seconded by ML to receive and approve the minutes, approved with one abstention.
   iii. MH has met with the registrar to streamline course evaluations with a search function.
   iv. RSG Rep participation:

c. Academic Affairs:
   i. Instructor evaluations course resolution coming soon.
   ii. Lunch with the Deans: planning these to find rooms, and dates for the deans.

d. Budgetary:
   i. Minutes from previous meeting. Motion by Chuky and seconded by DM to receive and approve the minutes.

IX. Open Discussion: PS: if we want to put a survey question on the ballot, that needs to be approved 14 days prior to the election. Discussion ensues about what we have done in the past. MH suggests some question that gets to the issues of transparency and lack of attention that graduate student needs are getting. If anyone has questions in mind they should send them to Phil for board approval. AAC will be meeting with the academic affairs advisory council of SACUA next week. Email Chris if you have anything to add.

X. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by CT and seconded by ML adjourned 8:10pm.