a. CALL TO ORDER: 6:39 pm

b. Present: Eli Benchell Eisman, Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Alex Toulouse, Anna Belak, Dan Trubman, Phil Saccone, Brandon Filter, Lauren Knapp, Vanessa Cruz, Evan Arthur

c. Absent: Chris Tom Alex Emly, Alex Gutierrez, Heidi Pedini, Haven Allen, Matt Filter, Pete McGrath, Matt Waugh

d. Excused:

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. No quorum at the start of the meeting

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Motion by Vanessa and seconded by Alex T. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Michael Benson. Thanks for everyone helping out with the election forum, going forward we will advertise more to get students and the community engaged. National, state and local elections are over and SAGE is quite happy. Student government elections in three weeks. GPSASC will be meeting next week and organizing the ballot language for approval next week.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. Newsletter going out this week. Apportionments have happened given current enrollment and Division III now surpasses Division I in size. Another seat has been added to Division IV and will be a Winter seat.

c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse. $20,500 in the account. Funding announcement went out this week and funding requests are rolling in.

V. Martha Pollack, Vice Provost for Academic and Budgetary Affairs

a. Martha gives introductions and opens up the floor for questions. Dan asks about the sequestration issue and if Michigan would become a private school (there have been rumors). Martha answers that she just can’t believe that the sequestration and fiscal cliff would even happen. But the University has been planning for it, and the biggest impact will be in the Medical School and Health System. Most of the money that would be frozen would be in the research sector. Regarding tuition, on a per student basis, the U is getting less than half of what they were from the state as they were 10 years ago. More budget discussion ensues. President Coleman said that we will always be a public university and it is not just about money, but about commitment to a certain set of values and the U is
committed to that. Alex T asks hypothetically what it would mean to go private. Martha explains. Alex T asks about how the U is going to implement Coursera into the curriculum. Martha explains the background. She was very supportive in the beginning. Coursera is really an incredible resource and the U signed on really quickly. In April there were 4 schools: UM, Stanford, Penn and Princeton that had signed on. The U is very involved in the MOOCS—Massive Open Online Courses. Both creating and broadcasting classes for free globally. In return, the U gets to pursue it’s mission, learn more about using technology to engage students on campus, and so on. Can the U use this technology to be more efficient at some parts of our learning?

b. Michael asks a number of questions. Martha is supportive and would welcome a resolution on Assisted Technology in order to continue to press Google on these issues. Regarding the Urban Planning departmental dissatisfaction issue, the students really do need to go through their dean to make changes. Recently a slew of projects went through and were approved for classroom renovation. Regarding Master’s student funding, the funding for Rackham comes out of Rackham and the Provost does not allocate money in this way as far as need-based goes. All of the other funding (merit-based) are handled by the schools and colleges. The main challenge is that budgets are tight. Regarding the non-Rackham Master’s program issue, sometimes these changes are made to change academic degrees to professional degrees (as in the School of Information, for instance). It is somewhat expensive to be a part of Rackham and sometimes it does not make sense for certain degrees. It is very important that students who are feeling disadvantaged

c. Vanessa asks regarding strategic steps to address the retention rates of undergraduate and graduate students of color. She wants to know structurally what the University is doing to diversify the applicant pool. Martha says that with undergraduate recruitment they are very concerned with the lack of socioeconomic diversity. Some of these issues are financial aid related. So those are problems getting students in. Now about retention rates. There are efforts at the undergraduate level but at the graduate level it’s harder. Vanessa also asks re: undocumented students that are here as undergraduates. Martha says it is a very tangled issue as the U must follow legal guidelines and there is a working group. She stresses that this is a very serious issue. Eli asks if Martha knows what percentage of the UM budget comes from licenses from drugs and other inventions. Martha says it’s unfortunately a small portion of the budget.

VI. RSG Election- November 27, 28, 29

a. Elections are coming up and word-of-mouth advertising is going to be crucial for the elections.

VII. Election Forum Recap

VIII. Town Halls/ Lunches with the Deans

a. First LwtD event is next week on North campus.

IX. Committee Updates

a. Academic Affairs: met last week. Motion by Kaitlin and seconded by Eli. Approved unanimously.
b. **Budgetary**: minutes show groups and budget requests as well as allocations. Alex makes a motion to accept and approve all of the minutes. Seconded by Evan.

c. **Community Outreach and Social Action**:  
d. **Elections**:  
e. **Legislative Affairs**: Motion to allocate up to $30 for a gift certificate. It’s approved. Motion by Michael to approve the minutes and seconded by Alex T. Approved with two abstentions.

f. **Student Life Committee**:  
X. **Individual Projects—Update**:  
   XI. **Open Discussion**- Dan asks regarding an update on the SAGE committee after the call this week.  
   XII. **Adjournment**- 7:47pm motion by Alex T and seconded by Brandon.