Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: March 9, 2011
Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Mayela
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy

IV. Elections Update
   a. Candidate Recruitment
   b. Elections Advertising
   c. Ballot Question(s)

V. RSG Town Halls Update

VI. Graduate Student Bill of Rights

VII. RSG Logistics
   a. New RSG Website
   b. Social Gatherings

VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications
   d. Elections
   e. Legislative
   f. Student Life
   g. I Already Graduated Day

IX. Individual Projects

X. Open Discussion

XI. Adjournment
Rackham Student Government
Student Life Committee Bi Weekly Meeting

Venue: Grizzly Peak
Time: 7.30pm

Members present:
1. Rahul Sakhamuri
2. Michael Benson
3. Alex Emily
4. Alex Toulouse
5. Yu Zhang

Valentine’s Day Stop Light Party
- Michael called the Blue Leprechaun and was able to reserve only a portion of the bar.
- A budget of $100 was set for all the decorations and supplies for the event.
- Michael will send out the email for the event over the weekend (Feb12-13, 2011).
- Proposed to have heart shaped nametags.

The Blue Tractor bar night (last Saturday of the month) has been cancelled for February due to spring break.

Graduate Intramural Event
- Currently a league for graduate students is in place. RSG is looking for ways in which the league can be conducted in a more efficient manner.
- MB proposes that Alex E and Ethan and propose our plan of a league without any queues, time wastages, or fees to be paid.
- Ethan presents two options to the committee; no decision has been taken yet:
  - Option 1: RSG pays for a predetermined number of teams from its budget.
  - Option 2: Reserve a section of the Rec Sports building on specific days. Mail the student body telling them that a space has been set aside for them to play a particular sport on a particular day. This is a great way to meet people.

Yu’s International Students Individual Project
- Organized a Global Leadership Forum two weeks ago where leaders of international student organizations were invited and discussion was enabled on a variety of issues.
- This forum will be followed by a summit that will also have administrators from the University of Michigan to heed the student’s issues.
- The Integration of Global Students (IGS), where Yu is the only graduate student, organized the forum.
The IGS puts out a survey every year to get student life feedback from internationals. No questions are directed towards graduate students. Yu has brought about a significant change in that.

Yu seeks RSG’s help with this project of hers but is unsure of the nature of help that can be provided. Asks if Michael can help with advertising the event.

MB tells Yu that the RSG can help with co-sponsorship of the program; this will include organizing, advertising and sponsorship.

Game Night at Pinball Pete’s

- Alex E has repeatedly called the place but hasn’t been able to get hold of the manager of Pete’s.
- AE and MB figure out a time that is suitable for the both of them to go down there and speak with them directly.
- The date of the event will be changed, because it is on a meeting night.

The student life committee welcomes our special guest for the evening, Co-Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Mr. Josh Bow.

Salsa at Saava’s

Alex T proposes the idea of a Salsa night to the Saava’s management and they express interest in the event.

The event is proposed for a Thursday in March around 9pm, where we reserve the top portion of the restaurant and have the class there.

We would get student volunteers to teach the class as well as to DJ the music.

Meeting ends at 8.17pm.
Graduate Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities – UC Berkeley

Rights

1. **A graduate student has the right to be respected** as a person of merit and junior colleague upon gaining admission to a graduate program.
   a. Graduate students have the right to study and work in an environment free of exploitation, intimidation, harassment, and discrimination based on characteristics such as gender, race, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, religious or political affiliations, country of origin, and country of citizenship.
   b. Graduate students have a right to professionalism and reasonable confidentiality in their communications with professors.
   c. A graduate student’s performance or behavior should not be discussed by a professor with other students or staff without consent of the student.
   d. Discussion of the student’s performance among faculty should be of a professional nature, and should be limited to the student’s academic performance.

2. **Graduate students have a right to refuse** to perform tasks if those tasks are not closely related to their academic or professional development program.
   a. A student’s vulnerability in having a lesser status and authority in the academic unit or lesser experience in the academic field of study should not be exploited to the personal advantage of faculty members.
   b. Students should not be coerced into performing tasks in grievous excess of other students because of characteristics that are vulnerable to discrimination.

3. **Graduate students have a right to specific and concrete requirements** for achieving an advanced degree.
   a. These requirements should be communicated clearly to him or her upon entrance to the graduate program.
   b. Graduate students have the right to accurate information in selecting a major professor and in recommending other members of their committees. Graduate students have the right to change their major professors if necessary. If a graduate student’s major professor departs from the institution once the student’s work is under way, the program shall strive to provide the student with alternative supervision, external to the institution if necessary. If a degree program is to be discontinued, provisions shall be made for students already in the program to complete their course of study.
   c. No changes to degree requirements should affect students previously accepted into the graduate program or academic focus except at the option of the student.
   d. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students have a right to know the “normative time to degree” and the “average time to degree” within a specific graduate program.
   e. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students have a right to know a program’s and/or emphasis’ attrition rate if available and the predominant reasons for lack of program completion
except in instances where confidentiality is threatened. Student access to statistical information on graduate programs should not interfere with the privacy rights of other students.

4. **Graduate students have the right to an objective evaluation, regular feedback, and guidance** concerning their academic performance and progress towards an advanced degree.
   a. Graduate students should be given a fair opportunity to correct or remedy deficiencies in their academic performance.
   b. Graduate students have a right to professional training. This should include but not be limited to information about professional associations and conferences, mock interviews, job opportunities and publishing articles in journals.
   c. Teaching assistants and teaching associates have a right to appropriate teacher training.
      a. All graduate programs and/or emphases should implement a structured training program for their teaching assistants and teaching associates.
      b. All graduate programs and/or emphases should outline the expectations of a graduate student teacher, and the ways in which those expectations can be achieved, for their teaching assistants and teaching associates.
   d. Evaluations should be factual, specific, and should be shared with the student within a reasonable period of time. The following should be available to the student in writing: annual progress reports, split decisions on qualifying examinations, and unusual or additional program requirements.
   e. The reasons for unsatisfactory performance on programmatic examinations should be stated clearly to the student in a written evaluation.
   f. Graduate students have the right to partial access to their academic file, excluding the full letter of recommendation.
   g. Any intent to dismiss a student from a graduate program for academic reasons must be preceded by specific, written performance information well in advance of actual dismissal. Only the Dean of the Graduate Division can dismiss a student from a graduate program for academic reasons.
   h. Any intent to discontinue an advisor/chair/mentor relationship with a graduate student must be preceded by a warning within a reasonable period of time.

5. Graduate students have a right to co-authorship in publications involving significant contribution of ideas or research work from the student. The student should receive first authorship for publications which are comprised primarily of the creative research and writing

6. **Graduate students have a right to be informed** of financial and resource support.
   a. Departments should provide an accurate description of availability and the likelihood of ongoing financial and resource support within their programs.
   b. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students should be provided a thorough description of the requirements and qualifications necessary for academic employment, training, and financial support within their departments and at the university.
   c. All policies concerning support of graduate students should be implemented in a consistent and understandable way.
d. Graduate students who also hold positions as employees of the university deserve to be protected by the same rights as other university employees.
e. Graduate students reserve the right to form and maintain a union.
f. Graduate students should be provided with appropriate office, study, and lab space.
g. Graduate students have a right to the access of the simple implements commensurate with the responsibilities (e.g. telephone).

7. Given that Graduate students have the same rights and obligations as all citizens, they are free as other citizens to express their views and to participate in the political processes of the academic community and the community at large.
   a. The graduate student population reserves the right to form and maintain a governing body that is free from coercion.
   b. Graduate students should have representatives on all campus-wide administrative committees that affect graduate students, with voting privileges where appropriate according to the guidelines of shared governance.
   c. The graduate student body should be given charges to these committees once a year and be informed when new committees are formed.
   d. All departments and graduate programs should include graduate student representatives in the decision-making process where appropriate.

8. **Graduate students have a right to arbitration** if their rights are infringed.
   a. Students with grievances should be given the opportunity for arbitration before actions are taken against them.
   b. Arbitration should occur before a body, at least half of which should consist of their graduate student peers.
   c. Students deserve to defend themselves at the hearings if reasonably possible. When a formal hearing is required, a graduate student has a right to the following minimum procedural standards to assure a fair hearing:
      i. The opportunity for a prompt and fair hearing, upon the request of the student at which the University shall bear the burden of proof, and at which the student shall have the opportunity to present documents and witnesses and to confront and cross-examine witnesses presented by the University. No inference, however, shall be drawn from the silence of the accused.
      ii. A record of the hearing; an expeditious written decision based upon the preponderance of evidence, which shall be accompanied by a written summary of the findings of fact.
      iii. An appeal.
   d. Official grievance procedures and informal complaint procedures should be clearly defined at the Graduate Division and at the department or graduate program level. These procedures should be presented to graduate students at the time of entry.
9. To be informed of policies and procedures for procuring on-campus housing, including information on availability, expected time on wait list, limitations on stay (including restrictions, if any, imposed by academic policies), and restrictions on eligibility.

10. To have access to basic outpatient health care services on any University of California campus, under conditions that apply to students registered on that campus.

11. Graduate students have a right to be informed of these rights upon enrollment, and to be free of reprisals for exercising these rights.

Responsibilities

1. **Graduate students have a responsibility to conduct themselves**, in all educational activities, in a manner befitting academic colleagues.
   a. Graduate students’ behavior should be professional and a credit to themselves, their academic unit, and the University.

2. **Graduate students have a responsibility to devote an appropriate amount of time and energy toward the advanced degree** within “normative time,” except when special circumstances apply.

3. **Graduate students have a responsibility to uphold ethical norms in research and scholarship** and provide accurate and honest reporting of research results, research methodology, and scholarship.

4. **Graduate students have a responsibility to participate in the campus community** to the extent that each is able, and should leave the campus enriched in whatever ways possible.
   a. To contribute to the academic development and the social environment of the department or program in which he or she is pursuing the advanced degree.
   b. To contribute to administration of the graduate program, student government, and/or the University.

5. **Graduate students have the responsibility to take the initiative in asking questions** that promote their understanding of the academic requirements and the financial particulars of their specific graduate program.

6. **Graduate students have a responsibility to understand their role** in the development of the relationship between faculty mentor and graduate student.
   a. To have an awareness of time constraints and other demands imposed on faculty members and program staff.
   b. To communicate regularly with faculty mentors and advisors, especially in matters related to research and progress within the graduate program.
7. Graduate students have a responsibility to uphold the public service aspects of the mission of a public university, as a level appropriate to the ability and graduate program.