Rackham Student Government Board Meeting: April 13, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

V. Funding Request – OMIS

VI. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications
   d. Elections
   e. Legislative
   f. Student Life

VII. Memorandum of Understanding with MSU COGS

VIII. University Committee Appointments: Advisory Committee on Recreational Sports

IX. Funding Report for Winter 2011

X. SAGE Resolution to Maintain the Graduate Student Federal Subsidized Loan Program

XI. Winter 2011 Elections Discussion

XII. Individual Projects – Update

XIII. Transition Documents for new and returning representatives

XIV. Spring / Summer Operations – Overview

XV. Open Discussion

XVI. Dissolution of the Winter 2011 RSG Board
I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Rackham Student Government General Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 7:15 p.m. at the Rackham Graduate Building.

RSG President Michael Benson called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Benson, Mayela Montenegro, Mindy Waite, Tien-Huei Hsu, Katherine Fisher, Yu Zhang, Chen Li, David Cottrell, Rahul Sakhamuri, Josh Bow, Lily Mancour, Eli Eisman, Alex Emly, Bob Nyambati, Alex Toulouse, Phil Esposito, Ethan Eagle

Guests:
∙ Anagha Kshirsagar, Representative-Elect
∙ Jill McDonough, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Rackham Graduate School

II. Approval of Agenda

No objections. Agenda approved.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes (March 16, March 23, March 30)

Josh motions to approve all the meeting minutes. Ethan seconds the motion.

AYES: 16
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 1
Motion passed.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a) PRESIDENT

MICHAEL:
This is the first meeting since SAGE trip. Legislative Committee will give update later on. In general, successful trip. Joined by 25 other grad and professional students from across the country. Issues we advocated on are in the packet.

This is our penultimate meeting for this term. Next week will be our final meeting, as well as for Yu, Chen, Ethan, Mayela – thanks for your service. We will be having an End-of-Term Dinner this year. Asks permission from the Board that unlike past years, RSG doesn’t fund this semester’s End-of-Term Dinner. No objections, so everyone will pay for their own meal.
First meeting of new board will be first week of May. Will meet biweekly during the summer. Wants authority to begin planning the Fall Welcome Picnic and would like approval to reserve the park. Would like the Board to continue the event.

MINDY: Is Rackham co-sponsoring the event?
MICHAEL: Still doesn’t have a commitment.

JOSH: You’re asking for $300 to pay for the park?
MICHAEL: Yes. We can get the money back if we cancel before July.

Lily motions for RSG to sponsor the Fall Welcome Picnic and pay a $300 deposit to reserve the park. Katherine seconds the motion.

AYES: 13
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 3

Motion passes. RSG will be sponsoring the Picnic and pay a $300 park deposit.

Spring/summer board will have more discussion on the Picnic.

b) VICE PRESIDENT

MAYELA:
No report.

c) TREASURER

MINDY:
$19,000 in budget.

V. GUEST SPEAKER: JILL MCDONOUGH

• Rackham Centennial Celebration will take place in 2012, during calendar year from Jan through Winter term, take break for summer and more events in the Fall. 100th anniversary of when grad school was established as a separate school.
  o Events outlined so far:
    ▪ Jan 24, 2012, with Jorge Chen – working on a film and hopefully film will be ready for screening in Jan, and if so, he’ll be showing the film. If film isn’t ready, it’ll just be him. He’s a Stanford-PhD and engineer and author of “PhD Comics”
    ▪ February – poster session of Michigan grad students in the world. Also looking at possibly inviting Reps from major foundations to do a panel presentation on what their foundations are working on, what types of world problems they’re trying to solve and how grad students may have a role in working on those problems
    ▪ March – bring alums from outside of academia or transitioning between academia and the outside world
    ▪ April – Jonathan Cole, former provost of Columbia University and sociology professor. Wrote book about the great research university, and will talk about research universities in the 21st century. Where they are now and where they’re headed. Hoping to have Pres. Coleman as a respondent.
    ▪ May – Dean Weiss will be going to Asia and visit with alumni there
August – Fall Welcome will have Centennial theme
October – funding available for Rackham programs for lectures or symposium with their own Rackham alumni
Close year with a concert in Rackham Auditorium with students from music and dance
  o Would like feedback from RSG on alumni panel. In the past, has brought alumni to campus and made them available for students, but I’m never quite sure if alumni who come are relevant. Would like to pose a general questions – if we were to do something would it be of interest, and what would you like alumni to talk about? The answers may help determine who Rackham will invite to come back and how to shape the event.
  ETHAN: Frustrating that many events are in Central Campus because it makes engineers feel marginalized. It would be nice to have an event on North Campus. In terms of a panel discussion, as a board we have trouble reaching out to every grad student, so similarly it would be interesting to look at division specific panels. It’d be hard to draw students to something.
  JOSH: Would like to think of the different roads you can go after your PhD (administration, research, industry, academia, etc) and where you can go.
  MICHAEL: A concern I’ve heard is that some depts. and programs focus solely on industry or on academia, so it would be nice to see those who paved the way to new fields and didn’t follow the normal track. Also agrees that some events should take place on Central and Medical campuses.
  ALEX E: Are you trying to have one big panel, or several sets of panels? As an engineer, wouldn’t be interested in hearing sociology experts for example. Maybe more of a seminar series to target each division, but still make it open to everyone.
  JOSH: Have smaller division-specific events and people who did unexpected and interesting things with their degrees.
  MICHAEL: Likes Alex’s idea of series and maybe extend it more broadly, so throughout the year there’s funding available for different programs to provide the series. Many programs may see the benefit and keep it going. Shouldn’t just focus on PhD graduates, but also pay attention to Masters. Should be open to the different types of Rackham students.
  JILL: Day of the week and time of day. Would like to expect a good audience by scheduling it at the appropriate date and time.
  • MINDY: Week after 5pm
  • TIEN: Week after 5pm
  • KATHERINE: Weekday evenings
  • YU: Weekday early evening
  • CHEN: Friday afternoon/evening
  • DAVID: Friday afternoon
  • RAHUL: Mon-Wed, after 5pm
  • JOSH: Week after 5pm
  • LILY: Fri afternoon or lunchtime
  • ELI: Evening
  • ETHAN: Mon or Fri
  • ALEX E: Mon-Thurs after 5pm
  • BOB: No comment
  • ALEX T: Early in the week, late afternoon
• PHIL: Anytime during the week, 3-5pm
• ANAGHA: Thurs evenings, 6pm
• MAYELA: During the week, around lunchtime
• MICHAEL: Mon-Fri, though Fri could be tough. Maybe after 4pm and before 6pm.

  JILL: This is helpful because want to engage alumni in activity because will be using Centennial to raise money as well. Has an agenda with them and engage donors. Want to make sure that this will be an event that will be helpful to students and engaging alumni/donors. Not raising money for faculty or for building, so all the money raised will be for student support.

  JOSH: How about one-on-one contact with people from their former program? He's more willing to give money when being reached out to from someone from his undergrad program when it's the same major.

  JILL: Because there are so many programs under the umbrella, it's a bit difficult to do that. But, does try to put forward compelling stories on how student support has helped current students. Many Rackham students have gotten funding themselves, so trying to instill in the that not only is this an opportunity to pay back the institution that helped you, but this is also an opportunity for alumni to help others.

  MAYELA: Does Rackham compete with alumni’s specific departments
  JILL: Not competing, because message is framed to help all graduate students, with a wider scope. Please let Michael know if you have any suggestions or feedback on the alumni panel.

VI. FUNDING REQUEST - THAI STUDENT ASSOCIATION

[Kate, President of the Thai Student Association, ENTERS]

MINDY:
Event has already happened, but they did send the form prior to the event occurring. This is unusual and we probably won’t do post-event funding in the future, but this was an exception.

MICHAEL:
The student organization’s request is on the packet, and since the event has already happened, they’ve filled out an event evaluation report.

KATE:
I’m President of the Thai Student Association, requesting funds for event Thai Night. Event focused on culture for Thai students, mostly grad students. Worked together to create the event and was biggest event for their Assoc. Total 80 members, but about 60 grad students are members. Want to show culture to all interested people in the University and AA community, and not only grad students but also undergrads or professors. Event cost was about $6,000. Got funding from Thai Royal Embassy in D.C. and a local Thai restaurant and MSA. So requesting from RSG because of large number of grad student members. This will be an annual event.

MICHAEL: How many tickets sold and what was total income.
KATE: $3,300 total income and most attendees were UM students.

JOSH: total revenues was only $3,300. What other revenues did you have?
KATE: No, that was only revenue.
MAYELA: If RSG doesn’t fund the $850, how will you pay for that?
KATE: Students will cover it.

MICHAEL: MEU is on your flyer, so did they give you funding?
KATE: No, they helped with volunteers because it’s a small student group at EMU.

JOSH: Asked for office supplies $250, but didn’t specify. So what was that for?
KATE: Decorations.

MICHAEL: Didn’t specify for equipment, so what was this for?
KATE: Set up event in Mason Hall and Angell Hall, so had to rent table for dining. Had Thai food for event, so had to reserve tables, chairs, and everything.

ALEX E: How many grad students?
KATE: 150 grad students attended.

MINDY: Did you turn people away in the end?
KATE: Pre-sold tickets and yes, did turn people away from the event if they didn’t have tickets.

ELI: How were funds from Japanese national disaster collected?
KATE: Had photo booth and donations from that was for Japanese national disaster. Also had a booth from the Japanese Association. About $750 were collected.

[GUESTS EXIT]

MINDY:
They sent the form to Cherisse and then sent it to us. It’s not their fault! They did submit it on time, so it’s not their fault.

Josh motions to approve $600 for equipment, room rental. Lily seconds the motion.

Mindy motions to approve $850. Phil seconds the motion. David thirds.

ALEX E.: Feels that if we keep all these rules.
MINDY: If we would’ve gotten it, we would’ve asked to clarify.
MICHAEL: Per our bylaws, we ask them to submit a request 3 weeks in advance.
ALEX E. Feels that we shouldn’t set a precedent where organizations can just wait around.

Mayela motions to close debate. Lily seconds the motion.

MICHAEL:
Each person who made a proposal, defend your motion for 30 seconds.

JOSH: Yields time to the Chair
MINDY: Impressed with their commitment.

Option 1: $850
Option 2: $750
Option 3: $600
Option 4: Abstain
Roll Call Vote:
Josh: $750
David: $850
Eli: $750
Alex E: $750
Phil: $850
Katherine: $850
Tien: $850
Chen: $850
Lily: $850
Mayela: $850
Robert: $850
Rahul: $850
Alex T: $850
Mindy: $850
Yu: $850
Michael: $750

Option 1: 12 votes  Option 2: 4 votes
Option 1 passed, funding the Thai Student Association with $850 for their event Thai Night 2011.

JOSH: When will be funding according to the bylaws guidelines.
MICHAEL: We will be sending an email to the entire student body announcing that we have funds and clearly announcing the guidelines.
RAHUL: Agrees that it should there are strict guidelines, but when they come to present there’s a human element. We want to help students. Suggests that if a student organization doesn’t follow the guidelines, than they shouldn’t come to the Board in the first place.
ALEX T: We have money, and so we shouldn’t deny students funding over technicalities.
MICHAEL: If we are going to have rules, it should be enforced. To ensure that it’s equal for everyone.
ELI: People should be aware of our guidelines and we need to follow them.

MICHAEL:
Wants Mindy to execute her executive authority and reject applications if it doesn’t comply with the rules. If applications don’t comply with the rules, then we shouldn’t be considering them.

VII: HOUSING

MICHAEL:
Next week we’ll discuss housing and may have a guest speaker about GradCare – health insurance. Likely that Dean Weiss may be visiting the Academic Affairs Committee in the next few weeks.

VIII: INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

MICHAEL:
Please email the Board, or Exec, with an update.

Thanks to Chen for her service, since this is her last RSG meeting.

IX: OPEN DISCUSSION
RAHUL:
Student Life IS thinking of having a reception on the roof of the building, black tie, a few speeches, and then head out as a big group together.

MICHAEL:
Committee Chairs please email the Board with your updates. By next meeting, will have details on the End-of-Term dinner.

X. ADJOURN

The Rackham Student Government General Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Mayela Montenegro, Vice President
RSG Student Life Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday 3/24/2011

Members Present: Alex Emly, Rahul Sakamuri, Alex Toulouse, with special guest appearance by Josh Bow

April Events

- 4/4 Monday – March Madness NCAA Watch Party
  - (Already put into action, Alex T called BWW and reserved two tables for 40)
- 4/19 Tuesday – Blue Lep Bar Night
  - Action Item: Check with Michael about switching the Tuesday we already have reserved to the last day of classes
- 4/23 Saturday – Movie Night: Something family friendly
  - Action Item: Rahul is contacting Chrysler Auditorium about showing a movie on Saturday night.
  - Up or Toy Story 3 were offered as ideas
- 4/29 Saturday – Alley Bar Bar Night
  - Action Item: Someone needs to talk to Alley Bar, though it should be easy to set up. This has not yet been determined
  - Have icebreakers but as chill as possible – ie the bingo game that lots of organizations do to start things up where you try to find someone who has done something and get them to sign it.
    - We wouldn’t time this because the whole point would be to meet people
    - Prize for someone who gets the most/raffle of some sort (See TShirts below)
  - Possibly theme the bar night to inspire conversation starters

Intramurals Update:

- Alex E has contacted the dept of Rec Sports about having a volleyball league during the summer.
- We would have all sign-ups done online
- Reserve courts for one day for a few hours at Elbell fields (2 courts there, 16 people could play at one time, limit game times to keep things moving)
- Softball was nixed as an idea because of lack of parks with multiple diamonds plus softball games are significantly longer than volleyball

RSG T-Shirts

- Action Item: Rahul is going to email Jorge Cham to see if he’d be down for designing an RSG shirt
- Possibly have a slogan/design contest?
- Kick off the shirt for the Fall ’10 semester
- Can use shirt for giveaways for prizes/contests and then also allow people to purchase it themselves somewhere – need to talk to other printers

Graduate Housing Debacle

- Topic was slightly discussed, however the members present were unsure as to what sort of tone we wanted a resolution to take, so little progress was made
Misc

- Camping Trip for the Summer
  - RSG would:
    - Spread the news that we’re going to X place on X date
    - Pay for campsite
    - Possibly provide canoe/misc equipment rentals(?)
    - Icebreaker-esque activities?
  - Grad students could drive themselves, spend the night and mingle
- “Rahul’s Stupid Idea“: An idea to have an RSG formal dinner/rooftop party for all the reps as a RSG bonding event. This idea was received with nods of agreement/”sure, why not?” by the other three RSG members present
- Rahul also is buying the members present dinner in September after bailing all summer at his internship in Boston.

Next Meeting Topics:

- Update on intramurals
- Update on finances, especially for summer events
- Discuss housing resolution (hopefully Housing will be presenting for RSG before the next student life meeting)
- Confirm April events
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Student Life Committee Meeting
7:50pm, April 7th, 2011
STARBUCKS ON MAIN STREET ANN ARBOR

Members Present: Alex Emily, Rahul Sakhamuri, Josh Bow, and Michael Benson
Special Guest at our meeting- Jenny Lin

Start Time: 7.50PM

Josh begins the meeting by introducing some of the other avenues that the Student Life Committee needs to work on. These include: the graduate student bill of rights, the housing bill, etc

Rahul- Introduces the idea of an event on the roof of Rackham. This would be a BYOB Wine and cheese thank you to all the old members and welcoming the new ones representatives.

The idea goes through a round of brainstorming.

Michael- Sums up the new idea that has been proposed by the committee. This is to have a graduate student formal in the Union. The aim is to have this as a part of the Rackham Centennial Celebrations. We sell tickets for this event.

The committee then discusses dome of the plans for the summer term. These include:

1. Intramural- Alex E is waiting to hear from the director of Intramural Sports. He wants to be contacted in May. The committee is figuring out the mechanism of whether to charge the students a fee or not.
2. Fall Picnic planning
3. We need to spread the word on available RSG Funding for graduate student groups and have them register with us.
4. Rent Dominics for a few hours and have a graduate student social
5. Socks off Party- To signal the end of the winter and the arrival of spring/summer. We encourage students to bring in some of their winter wear that they don’t need and donate them for charity. A student social follows this.
6. Begin planning for I already graduated day. Josh suggests that we have this event in the Fall and during elections. He proposes that we have computers there and encourage the students to vote.

Alex E talks about the need to have a fewer number of events but make them quality events. Michael disagrees, says that the board is large and should be allowed to conduct multiple events.
Jenny brings up the idea of having a Grad Student Bar in Ann Arbor. This is met with enthusiasm. She then talks about the problems that international students face in not having their local drivers license accepted at bars in Ann Arbor. Michael informs the committee that they are currently working on putting a hologram in the M Card. The new card will also say if you are a graduate or undergraduate student, if you are over or under 21, allow you to vote and help with certain privileges at Wayne County Airport. This is a long-term plan.

Michael reiterates that this government needs to increase its presence on campus. He hope to have an event where we celebrate being a graduate student.

Alex E then talks about the fact that we need to being working on events for graduate students with families. A few of the events are as follows:

1. Movie Night at Chrysler Center
2. Easter Egg Hunt, etc
3. Send out a survey asking the graduate student body on the kind of events that they want us to conduct.
4. Rent Fuller Pool and have a family friendly event. Entry of $1 per person.

The committee then suggested that we expedite the process of getting smart polos for the entire board. This would help with visibility and branding.

**Meeting Closed at 8.45PM**
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
Communications Committee Meeting  
8:15pm, March 23rd, 2011  
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING

Members Present: Mayela Montenegro, Alex Toulouse, Alex Emly, Chen Li, Rahul Sakhamuri

Thanks to Rahul for setting up the Facebook account and inviting us to be administrators of the RSG Facebook account.

For the future, we’d like the newsletter to be embedded on the body of the email, not sent out as an email attachment since many may not read the attachment.

It was proposed that instead of a long newsletter, we just send out a weekly email alert with the events for the week and any other important announcement. Alex T. will bring a draft to next week’s Communications Committee meeting so we can discuss it.

RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
Communications Committee Meeting  
8:20pm, March 30th, 2011  
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING

Members Present: Mayela Montenegro, Alex Toulouse, Alex Emly, Josh Bow

Alex Toulouse brought a draft for the proposed weekly email alert with RSG announcements. All present liked the draft.

However, group decided it would be best to hire someone who can be in charge of the RSG website and design email communications. Group decided to bring this up on an RSG Board Meeting to consider hiring a webmaster.

Weekly email will be held off until RSG decides whether or not to hire a webmaster, so the weekly emails can be sent out on a consistent basis. Consensus is that one we launch the weekly email, it should be consistently be sent out every week so our constituents do not become disappointed with the inconsistency and be deterred from reading it.
I. Roll call of members at 6:20pm
   Michael Benson, Tien-Huei Hsu, Bob Nyambati, Mindy Waite, Katherine Fisher, Mayela Montenegro, David Cottrell

II. Special Business

   * Graduate Student Bill of Rights
     Progress has been made. Have made some ideas of edits for the Rights Sections 1-3. Will start working on a Google doc on these.

   * Transitioning to next semester
     Josh begins new role as VP, Tuesday, May 3rd. Committee elections will be held in the 2nd week of May. Discuss how we can set up a meeting to get to know one another and our issues of interest before forming groups/electing Chairs.

III. Other issues

   Gentleman interested in the dissertation awards is curious how this issue is progressing. The Academic Committee has made a decision regarding this issue and will respond to Terrance regarding our decision.

IV. Next meeting: April 13th, 2011 (8:15 pm)

V. Adjournment at 7:04pm

Minutes taken by Treasurer Mindy Waite
Memorandum

To: Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, President, University of Michigan
   Dr. LouAnna K. Simon, President, Michigan State University
   Dr. Phillip Hanlon, Provost, University of Michigan
   Dr. Kim Wilcox, Provost, Michigan State University
   Dr. Fred Poston, Vice-President for Finance & Operations, Michigan State University
   Dr. Stephen Forrest, Vice-President for Research, University of Michigan
   Dr. Ian Gray, Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Michigan State University
   Dr. Janet Weiss, Dean, Rackham Graduate School and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, University of Michigan
   Dr. Denise Maybank, Vice-President for Student Affairs, Michigan State University
   E. Royster Harper, Vice-President for Student Affairs, University of Michigan
   Mark Burnham, Vice-President for Governmental Affairs, Michigan State University
   Cynthia H. Wilbanks, Vice-President for Vice President for Government Relations, University of Michigan
   Bill Beekman, Secretary, Michigan State University Board of Trustees
   Council of Graduate Students
   Rackham Student Government

CC: Dr. MaryLee Davis, Advisor, Council of Graduate Students
    Dr. Karen Komparens, Dean, Michigan State University Graduate School

From: Michael Benson, President, Rackham Student Government
      Stefan Fletcher, President, Council of Graduate Students

Date: April 13th, 2011

Re: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MSU Council of Graduate Students (COGS) and the University of Michigan Rackham Student Government (RSG)
The following is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Michigan State University (MSU) Council of Graduate Students (COGS) and the University of Michigan (U-M) Rackham Graduate Student Government (RSG). COGS and RSG, as the representative graduate and professional student governance organizations at Michigan’s two Tier One American Association of Universities (AAU) institutions, agree to use their best endeavors to collaborate, as appropriate, with one another to provide enhanced opportunities and services to graduate and professional students attending their respective universities. COGS and RSG reaffirm their commitment to promoting the value of graduate and professional students to the academic, cultural, and social climate of their respective universities. Further, COGS and RSG will strive to collaborate in the undertaking of joint activities and initiatives where the purposes of both institutions graduate and professional students will be served.

To that end, COGS and RSG agree in principle to collaborate, as appropriate, in the following areas:

A. A JOINT, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

On an annual basis for the past three (3) years, COGS has hosted a Graduate Academic Conference (GAC) at MSU. The conference attracts students from every College at MSU and has over one hundred presenters per year. It has been a long-term, organizational goal of COGS to make this conference into a multi-university conference, and partnering with RSG to permit U-M students to attend would be a wonderful way to engage in this concept. The first U-M/MSU GAC will be held between February and April 2012 in East Lansing, Michigan. If this concept proves successful, the GAC would rotate each year between U-M and MSU. COGS and RSG would also look for other suitable universities to try and partner with on the GAC.

B. COLLABORATING ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Advocating for graduate and professional education at the federal and state level is a joint goal of both organizations. Federally, both COGS and RSG are members of the Student Advocate for Graduate Education (SAGE), an organization of 16 institutions representing Tier One research universities. COGS & RSG agree, where applicable, to support the SAGE initiative as a viable and effective method of advocating for graduate and professional students at the federal level.

COGS & RSG shall each appoint a governmental affairs liaison to work collaboratively with each other, and each campus’ Office of Governmental Affairs, to coordinate joint information sharing, advocacy, and education pertaining to graduate and professional students at MSU and U-M. The COGS and RSG governmental affairs liaisons shall look at opportunities where joint
initiatives and programming may be undertaken in this area, focusing on initiatives with the state government.

An initial conference call between the COGS & RSG Presidents & Governmental Affairs Liaisons shall occur no later than June 30, 2011 to provide further direction in this area. Future coordinating conference calls shall occur at regular intervals between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

C. SOCIAL EVENTS & ACTIVIES

Both COGS & RSG recognize the importance of graduate student life and wellness to their respective institutions. To this end, COGS & RSG agree to undertake joint programming endeavors providing students of each institution to engage in activities and events with each other.

To capitalize on the longstanding rivalry that exists between MSU and U-M, joint events shall center around athletics events and other major “rivalry” events at each institution. No less than one (1) joint event shall be planned per academic semester.

D. GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATION

COGS & RSG serve to advocate for graduate and professional students at each respective institution. Given the importance of graduate and professional students to the academic reputation, research, teaching, and other facets of both MSU and U-M, both COGS & RSG believe that graduate and professional students should have an opportunity to voice their ideas, concerns, and suggestions at the highest levels of institutional governance, through the representative leadership of the graduate-professional students.

To permit this, COGS & RSG agree to the extent possible, to advocate for appropriate and proportional mechanisms to allow for graduate and professional student leaders to have a forum with senior university leaders to discuss and work collaboratively on matters of concern to each respective entity.

E. CONCLUSION

In sum, COGS & RSG look forward to working collaboratively throughout the course of the 2011-2012 academic year and hope to create a sustainable working partnership that is beneficial to MSU and U-M graduate and professional students. At the end of this agreement, COGS & RSG will evaluate the progress that has been made in relation to inter-institutional cooperation, and determine the institutional viability of furthering this MOU.

COGS & RSG ask for the support of the leadership of each institution to help realize the initiatives outlined in this MOU.
Resolution to Sign on to the **Coalition Letter:**
To Maintain the Graduate Student Federal Subsidized Loan Program

Author(s): Alberto M. Ortega Hinojosa
Adopted [insert date]

**WHEREAS** Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) is a national graduate student coalition comprised of graduate student representatives from public universities, members of both the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU); and

**WHEREAS** SAGE serves as an advocate and a network for graduate students at public institutions aiming to empower graduate students to meet the challenges of graduate education and to form partnerships across universities; and

**WHEREAS** the administration in its Fiscal Year 2012 budget is proposing to eliminate the graduate student subsidized student federal loan program in order to fully fund the Federal Pell Grant at $5,550; and

**WHEREAS** the elimination of the federal subsidized student loans for graduate students would be detrimental to graduate students at all of the SAGE member institutions and individuals wanting to obtain a graduate education by increasing the debt burden on graduate students and reducing access to graduate education; and

**WHEREAS** the “**Coalition Letter**” to congress opposing the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy of Federal Stafford loans for Graduate and Professional students states that the:

*Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that by 2018 more jobs will require people with advanced degrees; specifically, an 18% increase in jobs requiring a master’s degree and a 17% increase in jobs requiring doctoral degrees. Graduate and professional education provides students with advanced knowledge and specialized skills beyond the foundational knowledge and work skills acquired in undergraduate education. Our nation’s future prosperity and leadership in the global economy will depend in part on highly trained individuals; and

**WHEREAS** the **Coalition Letter** further states:
*The Administration in its FY2012 Budget has proposed eliminating the in-school interest subsidy on Stafford loans for graduate and professional students as part of its proposal to find savings for the Pell Grant over the next 10 years. We are committed to finding ways to addressing the growing costs of the Pell Grant and maintaining the maximum grant of $5,550, but we strongly believe that taking benefits away from graduate and professional students to help undergraduate students will have a negative impact on the nation in the short-and-long term. We are concerned that this proposal will discourage talented undergraduate students from pursuing advanced graduate studies because of the significant additional costs of borrowing and has the potential to delay completion at the very time that we need more students to undertake and complete advanced degrees as part of our national innovation strategy. Moreover, eliminating the subsidy would have a*
disproportionate impact on minority, socioeconomically-disadvantaged students, and first generation students, especially for those who already carry undergraduate debt when they begin graduate school. On average, the cumulative loan debt of master’s students is over $50,000 while those with doctoral degrees graduate with about $77,000 in debt. Approximately 67% of Ph.D. students and 73% of master’s students graduate with debt. The average graduating educational debt for medical and dental student ranges between $160,000 and $186,500, with over 87 percent of graduates reporting indebtedness.

WHEREAS the **Coalition Letter** finally states:

_We believe it is important that Congress take steps to reduce federal spending and address the nation’s growing debt. But we need to do this in a prudent way that allocates spending in a manner that gives us the best chance of improving our future. Increasing the costs of graduate education will harm our nation’s ability to cultivate and develop highly skilled individuals who would be leaders in business, government, medicine, science, and technology; therefore_

BE IT RESOLVED that Student Advocates for Graduate Education is in agreement with the **Coalition Letter** and agrees to be a signatory to this letter (or a revised version of this letter as long as it maintains the same message) to Senate and House Leaders, Appropriations Committee Leaders, and Education Committee Leaders.
## Interest on Graduate Student Loan Over Length of Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yearly Loan</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>Typical Six Year PhD Degree</th>
<th>Typical Five Year PhD Degree</th>
<th>Typical Medical Degree</th>
<th>Typical Law Degree</th>
<th>Typical Masters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>End of Year 1</td>
<td>End of Year 2</td>
<td>End of Year 3</td>
<td>End of Year 4</td>
<td>End of Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
<td>$1,068</td>
<td>$1,141</td>
<td>$1,218</td>
<td>$1,301</td>
<td>$1,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
<td>$1,068</td>
<td>$1,141</td>
<td>$1,218</td>
<td>$1,301</td>
<td>$1,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>$1,068</td>
<td>$1,141</td>
<td>$1,218</td>
<td>$1,301</td>
<td>$1,389</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Loan        | $1,000        | $2,000        | $3,000        | $4,000        | $5,000        | $6,000        |

| Interest on Loan | $68 | $209 | $427 | $728 | $1,117 | $1,601 |

| Increased Cost | 6.80% | 10.43% | 14.23% | 18.20% | 22.35% | 26.69% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yearly Loan</th>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>End of Year 1</th>
<th>End of Year 2</th>
<th>End of Year 3</th>
<th>End of Year 4</th>
<th>End of Year 5</th>
<th>End of Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
<td>$9,078</td>
<td>$9,695</td>
<td>$10,355</td>
<td>$11,059</td>
<td>$11,811</td>
<td>$12,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,500</td>
<td>6.80%</td>
<td>$9,078</td>
<td>$9,695</td>
<td>$10,355</td>
<td>$11,059</td>
<td>$11,811</td>
<td>$12,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$9,695</td>
<td>$10,355</td>
<td>$11,059</td>
<td>$11,811</td>
<td>$12,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8,500</td>
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<td>$10,355</td>
<td>$11,059</td>
<td>$11,811</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$9,078</td>
<td>$9,695</td>
<td>$10,355</td>
<td>$11,059</td>
<td>$11,811</td>
<td>$12,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Loan        | $8,500        | $17,000       | $25,500       | $34,000       | $42,500       | $51,000       |

| Debt        | $9,078        | $18,773       | $29,128       | $40,187       | $51,997       | $64,611       |

| Interest on Loan | $578 | $1,773 | $3,628 | $6,187 | $9,497 | $13,611 |

| Increased Cost | 6.80% | 10.43% | 14.23% | 18.20% | 22.35% | 26.69% |
Organization Name: OMIS - Organization of Microbiology and Immunology Students

SOAS Account #: U031486

Registered with MSA? Yes No

Primary Contact Name: Jon Giebel
Title: Graduate Student
Email: jgiebel@umich.edu
Phone: 734-615-3707

Secondary Contact Name: Sara Bondi Cassidy
Title: Graduate Student
Email: skbc@umich.edu
Phone: 734-763-5639

Please check any of the following that describe your organization:

- Academic/Professional x
- Creative Arts/Expression (Visual, Performance, and/or Exhibition)
- Community Service
- Cultural/Ethnic
- Environmental
- Graduate x
- Honorary
- International
- Political
- Publications/Journalism
- Religious
- Science/Technical x
- Social Justice

Describe the overall purpose/mission of your organization and the planned initiatives and activities intended to uphold said objective(s).

The Organization of Microbiology and Immunology Students (OMIS) is a graduate student group made up of pre-candidate and candidate doctoral students in the department of Microbiology and Immunology or students working in labs that are affiliated with this department. The goal of OMIS is to provide a support network for the graduate students in our department. OMIS aims to provide peer mentoring to young students, community outreach opportunities through fundraising, and increased departmental unity through group activities and team building exercises. OMIS also represents graduate student interests and opinions by placing its members on faculty committees that dictate departmental policies such as in student recruiting and graduation requirements.

# of active student members: 47
# of graduate student members: 47
Average attendance at group meetings (Board, committee, event planning, etc.): 30
Average attendance at similar events: 30
Average graduate student attendance at similar events: 30

How often does your group meet? Official meetings are once per semester. Meet for individual projects/activities take place as needed, approximately 3-5 times per semester.

Does your group charge dues to members? No

Do all of your activities/events take place on campus? If yes, where do you prefer to hold your programs? If not, where else do they take place? Yes, 5623 Medical Science II

Does your group engage in political activity, i.e., electoral, partisan, etc.? If so, describe this activity. No

Does your group engage in lobbying efforts? If so, describe these efforts. No

Does your group work with any University department or other student organizations in any capacity? If so, please describe this collaboration. No

Is your group affiliated with a national, parent, and/or umbrella organization? If so, please describe this relationship and how it plays a role in your organization's functioning.

No
Event Description

Event name: 3rd Annual Microbiology and Immunology Student Symposium
Event date(s): 5/19/2011
Event location: 5330 Medical Science I

1. Briefly describe this event. What is its overall purpose?
   This event will feature two outside speakers chosen by the students to present their research on the general topic of the role of the microbiota in human disease. The speakers are Dr. Dennis Kasper from Harvard Medical School and Dr. Ruth Ley from Cornell University. The talks will be open to the entire University of Michigan community. Graduate students for the Microbiology and Immunology department primarily, but also from other interested departments, will have a chance to meet with the speakers individually for scientific mentoring or networking purposes.

2. Describe how this event will affect our campus and the graduate student body.
   This event will provide the University of Michigan scientific community an opportunity to hear the latest findings from two experts in the human microbiota field, a subject that is the research interest of many labs on our campus. This event is also a great opportunity for graduate students to receive mentoring from faculty outside the University of Michigan. It also gives graduate students the opportunity to network with faculty from other universities and potentially set up post-doc opportunities.

3. Describe how this event will include other groups or departments.
   All departments will be invited to hear from these invited speakers and to send their graduate students for one-on-one meetings, or group lunch meetings with the speakers. Specifically, Immunology, Cell & Developmental Biology, Cellular & Molecular Biology, Human Genetics, Cancer Biology and Molecular & Cellular Pathology departments may be interested in these speakers.

4. With which other groups or departments are you sponsoring this event, if any?
   The Microbiology and Immunology department is providing funding for this event.

5. If your organization is traveling, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community.
   Not traveling.

6. If your organization is purchasing food, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Also, what is the approximate food cost/attendee?
   Refreshments such as coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided before and during the talks. This is customary for this type of event. We will also be holding a group lunch with 10-15 graduate students and the speakers. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with and get advice from the visitors in a low-pressure setting. Additionally, 10-12 graduate students will be able to go out to dinner with the speakers following the symposium.

7. If your organization is bringing a speaker, performer, DJ, photographer (or any other paid individual for services rendered), explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Please explain how the amount he or she will be paid was
determined based on similar services. Additionally, attach a short biography to the end of this application.

Both speakers will receive a standard $300 honorarium for coming to speak to us. This amount is paid to all speakers that visit our department.

8. If your organization is applying for capital goods (anything that can be reused after the event has taken place), explain why such goods are integral to the event.
N/A

9. Who is eligible to participate? (Keep in mind the more diverse the graduate student participation, the more likely RSG will fund)
   All graduate students, faculty, staff, and undergraduates are welcome to attend the lectures. Individual meetings and lunch/dinner meetings will be primarily for graduate students only (from all departments).

10. How many participants do you expect? Stamps Auditorium has a capacity of 450 people.
   125

11. Are your date and location confirmed?
   Yes, 5/19/2011  5330 Medical Science I

12. Will you charge admission? No
   If so, how much per person?

13. Will this be donated to charity?  N/A
   If yes, what percentage will be donated?

14. How do you intend to advertise, in particular to graduate students?
   This event will be advertised by emailing departments with potential interest, as listed above. This event will be advertised on the Basic Science Seminar Calendar, organized by Kathryn Ridner and available to all interested graduate students. Finally, this event will be advertised on posters hung up around the medical campus.

15. To what other funding bodies have you applied and/or have received funds from? Please note each funding body here, the amount for which you applied, the amount that was granted, and to what purpose you intend to put those allocated funds. Requests of funding for the majority of events cost solely to RSG will rarely be fully funded, please seek out additional funding sources as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Granted</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro and Immuno Dept.</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>All costs, primarily food and drink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. If RSG does not fully fund your event in the amount requested, how do you intend to cover those costs? Will the event still be held?
   The event will still be held. The size of the event will be scaled down and additional departmental funds will be requested.
Event Budget

List all expenses. Please use the notes section below each category to explain costs in greater detail. Be sure to cover ALL costs, not just those you are asking RSG for funding for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from RSG</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advertising &amp; Publicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Posters/fliers</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Office supplies (please specify):</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Printing &amp; Publications</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities &amp; Equipment Rental</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Equipment (please specify):</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Room rental</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker honorarium</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker travel</td>
<td>$1394</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker lodging</td>
<td>$548</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lodging</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vehicle Rental</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gas</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Goods</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• T-shirts</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food:</strong></td>
<td>$1580</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other:</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$4,222</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please remember to attach a mock-up version of the flier, publication, or t-shirt design with the RSG logo or “Sponsored by the Rackham Student Government” statement to your application.
Biographies:

Dr. Ruth Ley:
Ruth Ley earned a B.A. in Integrative Biology from the University of California Berkeley. Her graduate training was at the University of Colorado Boulder with Steven Schmidt. Dr. Ley was an NRC Post-Doctoral Research Associate with Norman Pace at the University of Colorado, Boulder from 2001-2004. Her post-doctoral training continued with Jeffrey Gordon at Washington University School of Medicine’s Center for Genome Science from 2004-2007. She was an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Developmental Biology at Washington University School of Medicine from 2007-2008 and joined the Cornell faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2008.

Dr. Dennis Kasper:
An infection occurs when a potentially virulent organism comes into contact with a susceptible host. Dr. Kasper’s group is studying the molecular basis for bacterial pathogenesis from both the host’s and the organism’s perspective. Studies are aimed at the molecular, chemical, and genetic basis for the interactions of the immune system with bacteria and with important bacterial components, particularly capsular polysaccharides and surface or secreted proteins. How the immune system responds to bacterial components is a major focus of the laboratory. The overall goal is to develop an understanding of host-organism interactions that will lead to new preventive or therapeutic interventions.
2nd Annual
Microbiology
and Immunology
Department Graduate
Student Symposium

Wednesday March 11th, 2010

Schedule of Events

12 pm Welcome BSRB Auditorium

12:10 pm Dr. John Mansfield
University of Wisconsin-Madison

1:10 pm Dr. Jon Yewdell
NIH

2:15 pm Careers in Science BSRB Auditorium

3 pm Poster Session BSRB Seminar Rooms

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