I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Rackham Student Government General Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 7:15 p.m. at the Rackham Graduate Building.

RSG President Michael Benson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Guests:
∙ Dorothy Pirtle, Elections Director & Student, Division 3
∙ Marisol Ramos, School of Public Policy and School of Education (Division 3)
∙ Garret Goh, Student, Division 1

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Josh motions to approve the agenda. Ethan seconds the motion.

AYES: 15
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

III. OFFICER REPORTS

a) PRESIDENT

MICHAEL:
Academic Affairs will speak about the Town Hall, Division 1.

Student Life Committee tomorrow night at Grizzly Peak.

There’s a number of guest speakers set for the remainder of this term. Folks from the University’s IT will be coming in to speak about technology.

b) VICE PRESIDENT

MAYELA:
No report.

c) TREASURER

MICHAEL:
Mindy is not here today due to religious observations, but she did email a budget report. There’s a little over $20,000 in the account.

IV. ELECTIONS UPDATE

DOROTHY:
Has had 1 joint nomination for President/Vice President position. Hasn’t received any other statements from other candidates. If anyone’s interested in running for re-election, please email me.

Is organizing candidate information sessions. Split between Central and North campuses. Only one other person showed up at today’s information session; the rain may have discouraged attendance.

Plans to do a paperless process. Last time I was Elections Director, a lot of flyers were printed and is not sure how much of that was helpful or participation was generated.

MARISOL: What Divisions are open?
MICHAEL: All the Divisions have open seats. Half are elected each term. For those who have one-term seats, your term will

MAYELA: Deadline to file for candidacy is this Friday. Will an extension be necessary?
DOROTHY: Will make suggestions to amend the bylaws regarding the election timeline.
JOSH: Maybe extending the deadline for a week?
DOROTHY: That would be appropriate if the Board approves.

DOROTHY:
Wants to put together a candidate forum, or a party to encourage people to vote. Will also be at the SCOR Conference and will use that opportunity to encourage elections.

MICHAEL:
Student Judiciary can compel RSG to abide by its bylaws. Suggests that the Elections Committee convene and make a recommendation before the Board to approve.

Josh took an informal straw poll to see who would favor pushing back the deadline.
AYES: 13
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 2

MICHAEL:
Next week, we’ll discuss the issue Rackham is considering of changing the GPA system from a 9-point to a 4-point system.

V. DIVISION I TOWN HALL

TIEN:
21 individuals and 8 Representatives showed up. Audience was interactive. Division II Town Hall will be organized soon.

MICHAEL:
Reminder that Representatives need to participate in at least 2 non-meeting events. Each Rep please go to your corresponding town hall. Div II will be next Friday and Div III will be next Wednesday.

JOSH:
Div I got 83% of its Reps there. Will buy candy for the group who got the most attendance.

MICHAEL:
Please make sure your constituents go. It’s important we hear from them.

ETHAN:
Careful with segregating the Divisions when the only thing that’s changing is meeting location.

VI. GRAD STUDENT BILL OF RIGHTS

MICHAEL:
Which points do you think should be carried over to Michigan, and which ones should not be. Student Life will consider it tomorrow and then go to Academic Affairs, and then to Exec for approval.

Please take the draft home, look it over, and be ready to discuss items for potential adoption.

VII. RSG LOGISTICS

MICHAEL:
New website. Just found out that minutes and other links aren’t working, so he’ll work on it this weekend. Also, committee meeting minutes will be posted. Please log in.

MAYELA:
Thanks again to Kristy for hosting the Social Gathering! When an event is being hosted at someone’s home, if you can’t go, either RSVP no or let the host know.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TOWN HALL

JOSH:
Please go to Town Halls – please encourage others to go.

Josh motions to move next week’s meeting to 7:40pm-8:40pm. Alex E seconds the motion. Ethan offers friendly amendment to not purchase food for RSG meeting since food will be provided at Town Hall. Alex E seconds the motion.

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 5

Motion approved. Reminder email will be sent out. Meeting will begin at 7:40pm, and food will not be provided at the meeting.
GEO

ETHAN:
Will be meeting with GEO tomorrow about their budget. Will bring info to Academics and the Board.

b) BUDGET

MICHAEL:
Aware of at least 3 requests on the works. Another ad will be sent out to student body reminding them that we fund activities and programs.

c) COMMUNICATIONS

MAYELA:
No report.

d) ELECTIONS

MICHAEL:
Dorothy already spoke.

e) LEGISLATIVE

MICHAEL:
SAGE is coming up. At least one person from Michigan State University may be attending. MSU is attempting to take the lead of forming an alliance with MSU, Wayne State, and UM.

There will be a committee meeting next week.

MAYELA:
This week, I chose to resign from my position as Committee Co-Chair because of the time commitment.

Josh motions to appoint Mindy as Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee. Alex E seconds the motion.
AYES: 15
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0

f) STUDENT LIFE

LILY:
Concerned that Natalie’s emails haven’t been replied to.
MICHAEL: I already spoke with her.

MICHAEL:
Meeting tomorrow, 7pm, Grizzly Peak.

ALEX E:
March 22nd bar night – on Election Day.

LILY:
Is Spring Picnic still taking place?
MICHAEL: May still be taking place, but Rackham has expressed interest in withdrawing from co-sponsoring events. Funding from Rackham is undetermined.

g) I ALREADY GRADUATED DAY

MICHAEL:
Will take an executive decision of cancelling the event. New committee chair will be appointed in the summer.

IX. INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

PHIL:
Rob from GEO has gotten back to me.

KRISTY:
Still working on getting YMCA discounts for grad students.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

PHIL:
For the last couple of weeks, we’ve been sending out a lot of emails.
MICHAEL: Yes, because of more pressing issues.
PHIL: Suggest that emails go through graduate coordinators.

XI. ADJOURN

The Rackham Student Government General Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Mayela Montenegro, Vice President