RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
March 8, 2012
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:30 P.M.

Attendance: Eli Benchell Eisman, Tien-Huei Hsu, Chris Thom, Anna Wagner, Heidi Pedini-Alvey, Patrick Rooney, Haven Allen, Dan, Andrew Crawford, Lauren Knapp, Alex Toulouse, Michael Benson, Kaitlin Flynn

Absent (excused): Alex Emly, Nina White, Ben Curtiss-Lusher, Pete McGrath

Absent (unexcused):

1. Call to Order: 6:38pm
2. Approval of Agenda: moved by Eli and seconded by Lauren. Approved unanimously
3. Approval of Previous Minutes: motion to approve the minutes by Chris and seconded by Andrew.
4. Board meeting seat changes. Tien resigns, Chris resigns. Heidi makes a motion to appoint Tien to Chris’ half term seat and Chris to Tien’s full term seat. Seconded by Andrew and approved with 3 abstentions.
5. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael Benson:
      i. welcome to Shreya to visiting. Michael mentions that the GSRA bill has been pushed through the state House and Senate. The government has stripped the original bill and stuck it into a bill that has immediate effect. This means that once signed, the bill will become effective immediately. We have indications from the Governor’s spokesperson that he will likely sign the bill tomorrow. There are a number of efforts to go up against the bill.
      ii. SAGE conference delegation: 5 people applied for 5 spots to go to the SAGE delegation. Michael nominates Christine Andres (non board member Legislative chair), Chris Thom, Alex Toulouse, Kaitlin Flynn and Michael Benson to go to the conference. Dan asks if any Master’s students are going. Michael explains that no Master’s students on the board or the committee applied. Motion to approve by Haven, seconded by Lauren. Approved with 4 abstentions.
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Kaitlin Flynn.
      i. We cancelled the NCRC tour due to lack of board member availability. A number of other issues will be addressed during committee reports, stay tuned.
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Alex Toulouse
      i. About $26,000 in the account. Budgetary committee meeting next week for a request over $700. Elections are March 21 and 22, along with CSG elections. Alex brings up the issue with an elections director. Alex believes it’s wasteful to spend 5% of the budget on an outside
elections director. Alex asks for a nomination to be the elections director. Moved by Tien, seconded by Haven. Dan mentions that we didn’t elect one last semester and if that practice is working perhaps we should implement that in the bylaws. Haven asks about the specific duties for the elections director. Alex describes the process for advertising and doing the elections. Motion is approved with 1 abstention. Michael mentions that we need to approve the new elections deadline: invitation to run out today, interest and platform due next Friday, ballot goes out on the following Monday, election would be Tuesday and Wednesday. Haven asks how many vacancies are open for the Winter term. Michael predicts 2-3 in Division 1 and 3, 4 vacancies in division 2, division 4 will have one seat up. Motion to approve new elections schedule moved by Kaitlin and seconded by Heidi. Approved with 3 abstentions.

6. Graduate Academic Conference Transportation- $592. Kaitlin makes a motion to use Getaway trails to transport 60 students to the GAC at the cost of $592. Seconded by Chris. The students attending are in multiple programs and outlined on page 13. Questions: what busses do we normally use from sporting events? Kaitlin answers both Indian and Getaway trails. Dan, do students get credit? Michael says no. Kaitlin indicates that there was a campus wide email. Heidi mentions that she has a number of qualms regarding Getaway trails, including drivers deviating from protocol, texting while driving, and other unsafe behavior. Michael mentions that we have filed a formal complaint. He also mentions that we might be able to get specific drivers. Heidi makes an amendment to Kaitlin’s motion with the caveat that we specifically request better drivers than we’ve had in the best. Approved unanimously.

7. Town Hall Budget Request of an additional $300. Tien describes the issue of having requested less budget than needed for the Lunch with the Deans event. At a rate of $6 per person for lunch and budgeting for 150 students. Tien moves to increase the budget by $300 from the unallocated reserves. Heidi asks if JG has gluten-free items. Dan asks if we have institutional memory from this event in previous semesters and if we should consider our position on providing food for our own events considering we dissuade student groups from requesting money for food from our events. Kaitlin explains the previous history and intention of the event, to bring students into contact with their deans. We will set a higher cap, with slots proportionate to the amount of students per division. Approved with one abstention.

8. Resolution W-12-01: Sexual Practices (first reading): Chris moves to adopt this resolution. Seconded by Alex T. Haven asks if we can be clear on the ambiguity of the term ‘sexual practice’. Haven asks if we are voting essentially for the ability for polyamorous marriages or relationships. But, he brings up the point that we can’t accept or approve illegal actions (such as polygamous marriages). Chris answers that we of course have to consult with the authorities and don’t intend to change the law on this regard. Chris mentions too that the term ‘sexual practice’ is intentionally ambiguous and there has been a lot of discussion on this item with various LGBT offices on campus. Heidi clarifies that cheating in a marriage is a felonious offense in Michigan. Haven suggests that specifically defining this term might make for more
9. RSG Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs: Tien motions to approve the minutes. Moved by Haven, seconded by Eli. The nondiscrimination policy and the Graduate Student Bill of Rights has gotten out of committee and are ready for board updates. Today AAC had a meeting with GEO and SAGU and talked about how to provide fair and unbiased information to the student body. AAC is going to send out a very brief email about the updates at the legislative level. Additionally the AAC is hoping to send out a survey email that will address issues related to all organizations.
   b. Budgetary: meeting on Tuesday.
   c. Communications: newsletter going out next week, also looking for someone to take over the newsletter as Chris is moving on up in candidacy. Michael also mentions that the website redo is going to take place and in the future we can have chairs access and update their pages as needed. We could also hire someone to be the web director. Finally, send Michael your pictures for the website. And the suggestion box is working well and we will type up suggestions for the board soon.
   d. Elections: already discussed. Final numbers on Rep seats: 2 seats in div 1 full term, 3 seats up for reelection, 2 half seats, 1 full seat. 2 full term seats in division 3. 1 full term seat in division 4 will be up.
   e. Legislative Affairs: SAGE white papers included in the packet. Many things will be voted on at the next meeting.
   f. Student Life: March madness event at Bdubs for the final. St Patty’s day event going on next Thursday. SLC minutes moved for approval by Anna and seconded by Tien.
   g. Bylaw Review: small subgroup of board members meeting regarding budgetary items. After they meet, the full committee will meet and the bylaws will be cranked out shortly after.
   h. COSAC: terrific event at Rick’s. $540 was raised at Ricks. Habitat workday scheduled for April 28, could be May 5. DP day is at the end of March and Eli clarity. Haven is still concerned about polyamorous issues coming up. Chris feels like we wouldn’t gain anything by defining the term. Haven asks if it would be a roll call vote and if it would be publicized, and if we would stand behind it as a board. Dan asks if there are examples where someone has been discriminated against under the current language and is not protected. Chris mentions that the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom posts incident reports of alleged incidents. Haven asks if anyone has been dismissed from the University. Kaitlin asks Haven is concerned about his vote becoming public. Michael mentions that there are representatives of their intent based on Robert’s Rules. Pat asks if there are suggestions for the board soon.
is emailing out to interested students. Transportation and food is provided by DP.

10. Guest Speaker/Discussion: Shreya Singh, CSG student body Treasurer: Shreya has been a representative for two years on CSG. She is running for CSG president and Ethan Hahn is her vice presidential candidate who is involved with the LGBT commission. Michael asks how Shreya feels about the graduate student initiative and how CSG can work with us to serve graduate student issues. Shreya is also interested in working on housing issues and those can be undergraduate and graduate issues. Michael mentions that Legislative affairs committee will be hosting forums to meet and discuss the leasing ordinances in Ann Arbor. Michael also mentions that at our peer institutions, undergraduate and graduate student governments are separate and we might consider splitting from RSG in the future. Eli asks if RSG would split from CSG and if that would affect their working relationship with us. Heidi brings up that CSG takes $7.19 from each graduate student and professional schools and how we don’t necessarily get benefits from how CSG uses that money. Heidi gives the advice for planning things and serving graduate issues. Eli asks if CSG has a position on the housing budget appropriating money to local and sustainable food. Shreya answers that they haven’t worked directly with that issue but they hosted their first farmer’s market in the Union. Haven asks if she was elected if she would support appropriating funds back to us. Shreya answers that there is a compile code that the CSG budget needs to operate on and these issues would need to go through the general CSG board and RSG and be voted on by the entire student body. Anna asks if graduate students come through the CSG budget system to ask for funds and Shreya says that to her knowledge only law students have come forward. Anna mentions that she didn’t know that and making this issue clearer would serve us better.

11. Open discussion: Haven asks about adding each rep on the website. Haven also asks where we are at with the 4.0 grade point scale. The dean is looking into allowing particular groups to sit out, but it’s also being put forth to the Rackham Executive Board for discussion soon. Michael also mentions that if anyone has anything to put as a ballot question there will be time to do that next week. Haven asks if we could put either the CSG or the sexual practice issue as a ballot question. Dan mentions that it might be prudent to put it on the ballot anyway.

12. Adjournment: motion to adjourn by Chris and seconded by Alex T. Adjourned at 8:05pm.