RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
7/17/13
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
DUDERSTADT CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM 4 (ROOM 1116)
7:09 P.M.

a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:09pm

b. Present: Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, David Malewski, David Barton, Mike Hand, Michael Lang, Ram Balachandran, Brooke Horton, Julian Bahr

c. Absent:

d. Excused: Chris Tom, President Phil Saccone

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. ML motions, seconded by DM. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 6/19/13

a. MH brings up that a link to the FB page should have been emailed out. Kaitlin will get on that. MB is listed as attended when he wasn’t present but excused.

b. MH motions to approve with above amendments. Approved with 1 abstention.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone: Out for the weekend, bachelor party. Best wishes to Phil.

Discussion:

DM has question about what the background check entails. MB explains that all new faculty will receive the checks, it won’t be fingerprints or pictures. A question is raised about who this check information goes to and whether it is stored. Kaitlin explains that much of it will be based on self-reported information. Ram has concerns about how to protect the information once it is given up. MB says it is protected by FERPA(?) i.e. the University cannot legally release it under some of those statutes. Brooke asks why this is being initiated or pushed forward, Kaitlin responds that partially as a result of a child pornography scandal somewhere on campus(?). DM has concerns about who the determining factor about “guilt”, and what is the protocol for international students? MB says that for PhD students there is a funding guarantee, but if this background check becomes a contingency factor then it nullifies that guarantee. Kaitlin says that Janet is well aware of this. She emphasizes that is in the nascent stages and these concerns will be addressed. Brooke raises the point that the checks must be done on all students (including undergrads) unless it is limited to GSI status, MB responds that all individuals that receive a paycheck will be included in the background check (and
this includes undergrads on work study, GSIs, GSRAs, etc.). Brooke says it may make sense to put some of this into the hiring process of GSRAs/GSIs instead of the grad school application process, Kaitlin agrees that there must be a better way to integrate this.

There will be a new graduate student housing called Munger building. There was very little consultation with the graduate body regarding the housing or other decisions. At first glance, it appears to consist of 7 bedroom shared apartment layouts with very high rates for rent (current housing stipends were not taken into consideration). Kaitlin will draft a letter of discontent, a sense of the student body, with the biggest issue being the unaffordability. Unfortunately much of this is already set in stone and the resolution is to emphasize not to make similar future decisions without graduate student input.

b. **Vice President Kaitlin Flynn:** Kaitlin has been assisting Phil with the above duties. She will draft the resolution. Working with the communications committee on various action items and also getting the T-shirts done. Planning a happy hour.

c. **Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu:** Ad hoc Budget Comm meeting last week, closed the Vaughan Symposium funding application. Awarded them $800, consistent with past 2 years’ funding level. State of the treasury is unchanged since last time.

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. **Legislative Affairs:** Come to the next LAC meeting if interested in pushing for keeping student loan rates low. There are many moves being made on this at the federal level.

b. **Academic Affairs:** Hasn’t met in some time, but they are meeting with Dean Weiss and overall pushing forward on action items from last week. Flowchart is still in work and going through iterations given suggestions from last meeting. Ram raises concerns that we must vote on the resolution this week to get it into the packet, Kaitlin responds that it is moving to an online packet and thus our deadline is now pushed back further in August.

c. **Communications:** Julian is a superstar, and he’s on top of the newsletter. MB says the website will be beta released on Aug 2nd to the Board. We will test it and give feedback to Benson. No specific feature requests! (jk, not really) But definitely send in suggestions to RSG exec. Potentially putting a photo and biography section, MB can collect information about that later/soon. No minutes for this meeting (simple mixup).

d. **Student Life:** Issues with the timing of the happy hour at Charlie’s. Could either be from 4-6pm or 6-7(?!) which are very limited timing; alternative is to choose a different bar. Bill’s Beer Garden was a good event last time, the only limitation is that there is not abundant food options. ML brings up Seva’s as a good option. Kaitlin will call back Charlie’s and get more info. Cedar Point trip is this weekend, no need for chaperones. Fall Picnic planning is underway, mandatory
attendance if Board memebers are around. MH motions to approve minutes, MB seconds. Approved unanimously.

e. **Budgetary:** CM motions to approve the minutes, MB seconds. Approved unanimously. Ram reminds us to publicize this in the newsletter; Julian will take care of it. MB explains why RSG uses a reimbursed funding model as opposed to a forward funded model. Historically we’ve allocated money that is not fully utilized.

VI. **Open Discussion:** Ram suggests a push for likes on our Facebook page by prize incentives, etc. ML and Student Life committee are really pushing for a Rackham 5K-type event. If interested, come to next SLC/COSAC meeting. Brooke mentions that some people would have liked to hear/see an email about the Cedar Point trip earlier.

VII. **Adjournment:** Motion by ML seconded by MB. Adjourned at 7:57pm.