RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
7/31/13
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
DUDERSTADT CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM 4 (ROOM 1116)
7:07 P.M.

a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:09pm

b. Present: Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, David Malewski, David Barton, Michael Lang, Ram Balachandran, Yiting Zhang, Alex Gutierrez, Chris Tom, Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu, Michael Benson, Julian Bahr

c. Absent:
d. Excused: Chris Tom, President Phil Saccone

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. ML motions to approve, Chris 2nds. Approved unanimously.

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

a. Change in the minutes, MB was present. DM motions to approve with changes, Chris seconds. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone: Unable to attend meeting due to an emergency. Will send out his officer report separately.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn: There will be a forum regarding Munger graduate housing on Friday. RSG has 3 spots reserved there: Phil, David B., and Julian. DM is also attending.

Exec met with Dean Weiss and discussed the Grad Student Bill of Rights and actions moving forward with it. MB mentions that 2 resolutions from last term were also discussed. Some items regarding course evaluations were brought up. MB explains why current evaluation feedback is limited, Janet is excited about it and supports us moving forward with that.

Happy hour was yesterday, things went smoothly. Thanks all for attending. Phil and Kaitlin were able to sit down and talk with an RSG rep that also sits on CSG to discuss crossover initiatives.

Still planning on writing a letter of discontent/sense of the student body regarding the Munger housing. Will wait until after the Friday meeting.
Julian expresses concerns about lack of advertisement of Friday meeting. MB says it’s likely it will be well attended, and that the email was sent to various email lists/departments.

c. **Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu:** Minimal update here. No additional funding applications. Happy hour event took place yesterday, stayed within budget.

V. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. **Legislative Affairs:** Janet sent out an email to board. SAGE coalition and CGS has taken a stance to regularize the student loan system. Currently, it’s possible to have different interest rates for undergrad and grad student loans. BAD for financial planning. SAGE voted about a month ago and came up with a script that we encourage people to contact their congress-people regarding regularizing these financial disparities.

Roll call vote. MB reads the script to Board. MB motions to approve the script and adopt the Position Statement as RSG’s stance on the issue, Chris seconds.

Discussion: Julian asks about the benefits of this, and why there is the rate disparity against the grads’ favors. MB responds that it saves students money and encourages them to pursue grad degrees. The reasons for the higher grad rates are primarily financially motivated. Perhaps there is also a lack of understanding of the importance of grad education… Ram asks whether we have data for the numbers of students defaulting on undergrad vs. grad loans, etc. MB says we do, will be happy to show at an LAC meeting.

Approved by a vote of 11-0-1.

b. **Academic Affairs:** Discussed some of the items that Kaitlin brought up with Dean Weiss. Conflict resolution was a key topic. Looking to get more information on that; Phil will meet with Darlene Johnson. Discussed the possibility of an RSG career fair to reach students outside of the established career fairs (Ford and College of Engineering). Chris motions to approve minutes, Alex seconds. Approved unanimously.

c. **Communications:** Making good progress on our communications goals for the summer. Props to Julian on the continuing work on the newsletter. MB is still progressing on the website, projects that he will have the prototype for the Board to beta test by the weekend after next. Each committee will have its own page, and there is a place to store the minutes for each meeting. Additionally, Board member bios will be included with a picture. Plan on getting the beta version out soon, there will be a bug reporting system… don’t overload Benson with bugs! :) MB raises a question: we currently have listservs for each Division, new listserv system is more complex but more powerful. Can differentiate by division, program, and also add individuals. Are there other categories that may be useful?
Take some time to think about it and get back to MB. No minutes for this meeting.

d. **Student Life:** Meeting held on Monday. Holding a Pool event on (Aug. 17), so that is a go. Fall picnic was discussed in detail (takes place on Aug. 30). Attendance is mandatory for all Board members that are in town. DM was able to attend Cedar Point, says all but 2 tickets were sold. Event went smoothly, good turnout from international students. An RSG fitness event/5K event has been tossed around in the SLC committee. Phil spoke with Natalie – it is an ambitious project and we are aiming for implementation by Winter term (to allow for adequate planning). MB motions to approve minutes, Yiting seconded. Approved unanimously.

e. **Budgetary:** No meeting held (ad hoc basis).

VI. **Open Discussion:**

VII. **Adjournment:** Motion by MB seconded by Julian. Adjourned at 7:42pm.