a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:12pm

b. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Phil Saccone, David Malewski, Michael Lang, Yiting Zhang, Julian Bahr, Chuky Mbagwu, Alex Guiterrez, Michael Benson

c. Absent:

d. Excused, Chris Tom

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Motion to approve by MB and seconded by ML, 8-1-0 approved.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 7/31/13

a. Motion to approve by MB with the amendment to change the location from Duderstadt to Rackham. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone: Thanks to Kaitlin for filling in for Phil at short notice the last two meetings. Phil has sent out an executive report summary to inform us what he’s been up to. He and MH met with Paula Wishart to talk about career services and things for graduate students. They went in with the objective of trying to pitch the idea of a graduate student career fair. Paula feels that with the breadth and depth of the graduate school it would be hard to get representatives from PhD-hiring companies to come to campus. Paula is more useful for career preparation for graduate students. Overall both parties agreed that the communication of Rackham’s career services should be increased to get more participants.

i. CSG Commission on Graduate Student Engagement: This is a committee set up by CSG that we are looking to get representation on from RSG. This will help us begin to fully integrate CSG with RSG’s concerns. Kaitlin will be applying to be the commission chair. Phil also mentions that any board members interested in serving on the commission should join as well.

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. T-shirts for the board have been ordered and paid for per the design that was approved by the board a few weeks ago.

c. Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu: 3 event requests have been submitted and we will need to act on one of them sooner rather than later. Chuky is trying to settle out the rest of the finances before the Fall begins. ~$20,000 in the account with ~$9,000 yet to be settled.
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Academic Affairs:
   i. Conflict Resolution Flowchart: Phil has updated the conflict resolution flowchart after his meeting with Darlene Ray Johnson. Discussion ensues about how to make it most effective and clear. Kaitlin mentions that some wording needs clarifying and formatting to remove shadows also should take place. Motion by MB to approve the flowchart per the boards edits and seconded by MH. Approved unanimously.
   ii. Bill of Rights and Guide to Best Practices: Dean Weiss doesn’t feel like in its current form that the Bill of Rights document is going to pass the Rackham Executive Board. Phil would like to create a document in parallel to have a plan B that focuses on the best practices. The plan for the Bill of Rights is to clean up the language to be more businesslike and less activist-like. Then we will present the document to the REB. This is important because we’d like to have the discussion on the issues that REB members may find contentious. The other continued issue that we face is that Rackham is so diverse that may not be a “one size fits all” kind of document. Michael suggests that we wait until we have a full board before we approve the revised Bill of Rights document. More comments from the board to clarify the intent of each document and the process. Kaitlin motions to submit and approve the minutes from the Academic affairs committee meeting and this motion is seconded by MB. Approved with one abstention.

b. Budgetary: No meeting has taken place.

c. COSAC/Student Life: Munger building update: Phil is meeting with Greg Merrit tomorrow to discuss the negative reception on the focus group for the graduate student dorm. RSG voiced some displeasure but for the most part it was other students who wildly objected. The bottom line is that it’s going to be a very expensive and unusual situation with high rent and no one at the focus group said that they would be interested in living there. We will also be drafting a sense of the board resolution soon to officially voice our displeasure. Brooke mentions that we should include the comments from the Facebook post. Phil also thinks it would be a good idea to host a forum to get more student responses. MB mentions that we should certainly have a public hearing to go along with our sense of the board resolution. MB moves that we hold a public hearing during the first month of board meetings of the school year to allow students to speak their minds on the issue and get more feedback as well as direct the Student Life committee to draft the resolution. Motion and seconded by MH. Approved unanimously.
   i. Fall Picnic: we have a bounce house, sandwiches, a DJ, and games for Friday August 30. Mandatory that all board members come for the picnic. The picnic is from 5-8. There will be three volunteer shifts spanning the picnic. Phil will send out a Doodle for people to sign up for shifts.
   ii. Canoe event: Canoeing from Argo to Gallup and doing a river clean up as a volunteer effort. The event will run from 5-7pm or so. MB motions to
submit and approve the minutes and the motion is seconded by Chuky. It’s approved unanimously.

d. **Communications:** New website and email system are coming online shortly in 4 phases. The first one will go up this weekend in Beta version with committee and Rep information and new features will launch over the next month. The basic information (minutes and others) will be updated prior to the start of the school year. The email list will also be coming online. Motion to approve and receive the minutes from the Communications committee meeting by Kaitlin and seconded by MB. Approved unanimously.

e. **Legislative Affairs:** Meeting last week had people selecting Congressional members to make phone calls to for the SAGE calls on graduate student loan rates. Motion by MB to receive and approve the minutes from last meeting and seconded by ML. Minutes approved unanimously. Editorial amendments for the attendance will take place. The SAGE fall summit is coming up. The sharing of best practices is a key component of the fall summit and MB has sent out the questions that we use to collect best practices information for editing prior to being sent out to the entire coalition.

VI. **Open Discussion:** Fall Semester Meeting format: We have gotten feedback in the past that the time commitment has been overwhelming during the fall semester. One solution we have come up with is to move to a biweekly board meeting format with the alternate weeks holding committee meetings in the same locations. Round robin discussion on this idea. ML suggests that we still hold weekly board meeting because of turnaround times. MH suggests that we meet biweekly but with more responsiveness to committee-related email. Yiting mentions that we should make sure to include enough time for our visiting speakers. MB is unsure that our idea will work given history of the organization and the pace of the Fall schedule. Kaitlin mentions that this was mainly her idea and that there were plenty of meetings last year that went up to three hours. Additionally we had a representative resign over the time commitment and her frustration with the board meeting length. Kaitlin says she’s not 100% sure this will work but it could be worth a shot. Alex feels like weekly meetings are helpful and even though his commute takes him a while he feels it’s worth it to get through all of the issues that RSG needs to take care of. Chuky feels that a weekly board meeting will probably be most useful for the progress of our initiatives. Informal poll: 9-1-1 would try it. Please fill out the poll for the board meeting time Kaitlin sent out.

VII. **Adjournment:** Motion by MB and seconded by MH, adjourned at 8:38pm.