Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: November 17, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. November 3, 2011 **
   b. November 10, 2011 *

IV. Guest Speaker: Michael Zabriskie, Director, Housing Information Office

V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy

VI. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications
   d. Elections
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
   g. Bylaw Review *
   h. Service Opportunities *
   i. Career Opportunities

VII. Fall 2011 Elections - Update

VIII. Second Reading of Board Resolution F-01-11: Creating Student Advisory Committees for the Rackham Associate Deans *

IX. International Student Concerns

X. Winter 2012 Logistics

XI. Visioning for Winter 2012

XII. Open Discussion

XIII. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
I. Attendance
   a. Present: Michael Benson, Mindy Waite, Kaitlin Flynn, Chris, Pat, Heidi, Rahul, Alex Toulouse, Eli Benchell Eisman, Marisol
   b. Absent: Josh Bow,
II. Introductions
III. Philip Hanlon (Provost)
   a. Phil Hanlon is the chief budget and academic affairs officer for Rackham and the University. He also works on the academic side of things. He gave a nice introduction on the academic trajectory of Michigan relative to the elite private schools and our resources. He feels that while we may have a resource disadvantage, we’re performing at a high level relative to these other schools.
   b. Budget wise, we’ve lost $166 million dollars in state appropriations. Phil feels that we’ve managed this better than other institutions, primarily because we’ve been stressed for 10 years (being in MI). We’re getting better at tightening our belts, sharing resources more efficiently and otherwise. In the past fiscal year we’ve lost a 15% drop from the state. Hopefully it’s the last large correction of state appropriation for the future. This should allow us to achieve at an even higher level.
   c. Opening up to the board, Heidi brings up a concern whereby as her role as the Graduate student council president in the Chemistry department she is concerned about the amount of students are accepted versus how many GSI positions are available for graduate students. This puts pressure on PIs to fund their students through grant money. The concern is the amount of people being admitted to the department is hindering research progress. Phil responds by asking questions regarding the admittance level of the program and the driving force behind the high level of admissions. Eli makes appoint that the attrition rate is very high, and 20% of students drop out by the time they reach candidacy, particularly in the chemistry department. This may be a way for the department to save face or money. Phil says that he’ll start by talking to Janet Weiss who works on reviewing programs, including chemistry. Heidi also worries about the GSI quality. Eli makes a comment about balancing work and research and the lack of balance affecting attrition.
   d. Eli’s principal concerns are how the $166 million dollars was cut during the loss of funds and how it relates to graduate students, research, infrastructure, etc. Phil responds that the state appropriation goes into the general fund at the university and it’s primary goal is to support the academic enterprise at Michigan. Tuition and fees comprise another part of this fund. The answer to his question is that by and large the operations of the University, much of which has been cut to offset the decline in general
fund dollars. Also these cuts were done to preserve tuition rates and faculty initiatives. The money that has been managed lately has been used to leverage our scale. We’ve saved by making better purchasing contracts, become more energy efficient, improving things building by building, exploring behavioral changes on campus, benefits, cost-shifting (employees now pay for 30% of co-premiums vs 10% 10 years ago), self insurance, moving to generic pharmaceuticals, stressing health of the campus and otherwise. Michael and Heidi ask questions regarding GSIs and insurance. There is a possibility that we could require students to have health insurance on campus. Many board members raise concerns.

e. Alex T asks about the energy saving initiatives. He’s wondering if people are looking at the effects of the energy saving changes. Particularly in Applied Physics, there have been issues about things not working properly and leaking pipes. Are these things affecting the savings at the University? Phil brings up the point that he agrees there’s an issue, but part of the problem is that there are only a few people doing a lot of work. There are some internal issues about how to delegate work orders and that leaves some things unfilled. Phil brings up that the other options were higher tuition, less financial aid, etc. Heidi also brings up a concern about the darkness of the hallways in the Chemistry buildings and questions the safety of walking around at night.

f. Chris asks about the current programs to recruit good faculty and future plans to move forward after weathering the current budget storm. Phil mentions that there have been 2 batches of faculty expansion and positions allocated to departments. This is part of a deliberate attempt to grow the faculty relative to student size. In re: the plans to move forward, Phil says that there are a lot of things on Rackham’s mind as we approach the bicentennial. We’re thinking about assets and academic performance and the mission of the University. The mission: to serve the state and the world through scholarship and to lead. What makes our University stand out? Disciplinary breadth and high quality programs (95 of our programs are ranked in the top 10, we rank 4th to Berkeley, Harvard and Stanford.) We also have functional breadth—involved in many different things at a very large scale. Particularly related to research, health center, service learning, global outreach etc. To address the other side of the mission: leadership. How is leadership changing in the world and what world are our graduates entering now? There’s much more volatility, complexity, and uncertainty in today’s world. 80% of jobs and wealth created in the next 10 years will be in China or India. This changes our education because we need to train students to work globally. Beyond our initial initiatives, we need to give our students the skills and experience to work in new conditions. The University wants to accelerate the experience based learning for undergraduates. Phil and Mary Sue Coleman are creating a third century initiative to be used for leadership development and otherwise. Phil mentions another thing he’ll be stressing is to make headway on addressing complex world issues.
(meaning complex discipline issues) and the initiative will give the University the means to accelerate the best ideas.

g. Marisol brings up that in her intro to higher education class she noticed that social science departments have had some severe budget cuts. She wonders **what changes we can anticipate to social science department budgets**. Phil says that the objective is to have the funding that goes to schools and colleges scale to the initiatives and production of each school and college.

h. Michael mentions that Master’s students are concerned about the funding of primarily PhDs, and there are less funding lines available for Master’s students. **What can and could be done to increase the availability of funding for masters students?** Phil says that 14.5 cents of every undergrad tuition dollar goes into financial aid for undergraduates. To make a similar deal for Master’s students, we’d likely need to do the same thing with their tuition. Another issue is that many of these students pay for 4 semesters but then still don’t get jobs.

i. Eli also wants to bring up that the University has brought up environmental changes recently and asks if the **University has considered bringing in local foods and farming to bring low cost and fresh vegetables** into the purchasing section.

IV. Budgetary committee

a. Movement by Mindy to remove Will Hutchison from the committee due to non attendance. Vote is 9 in favor, 1 abstention.

V. Michael officer report

a. On December 17 we will be having our end of term dinner. Some people may not be able to make it due to exams

b. Next week’s guest speaker will be the director of housing to discuss undergrads moving into Northwood and other housing issues. Limit to 20 minutes of speaking. Following guest speakers will be about budget.

c. Josh unfortunately dropped the ball on the elections director hiring. So now Michael will be taking over to make the elections happen next Wednesday and Thursday. The election will be administered by the executives. Also, division II has grown enough so that they now get 9 seats on the board. Michael asks the board whether we should add the extra seat to be elected in the Fall and Winter. The board votes 5-3-2 so the seat will be in the fall.

d. People can self-elect themselves to run through Monday. Then the execs will meet and decide if there are enough people to run and fill the seats, otherwise we might move the election to the end of November.

e. There is a suggestion by Eli to have a quick social event and encourage people to vote. There is a motion to confirm the exec decision and it passed unanimously.

VI. Eli

a. Event this Sunday at the park, meeting at 8:30am, bussing at 8:45am. For future events, magic bus needs 2 week advance to come.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22pm
I. Roll call of members
Present: Michael Benson, Eli Eisman, Tien-Huei Hsu, David Cottrell, Kaitin Flynn
Absent (excused): Mindy Waite
Absent (unexcused): Grant Mandarin
Called to order: 6:05 pm

II. Special Business

Grad Student Bill of Rights
BOR will be ready to be submitted for board review this week after addition on preamble and changes with regard to formatting.
Michael will do preamble and the formatting and include it in this week’s agenda.
We expect a first reading on Nov 17th and approval by board the week after Thanksgiving. After which it will be sent to Deans (including Dean Weiss) for approval. They will define the framework in which the BOR can be enforced.
Upon their review, BOR will be sent back to the board.

UM/MSU Symposium Collaboration
Kaitlin is our UM representative; Mike Zeig is our Michigan State contact. (This information is accurate as of Oct 27th)
MSU is looking to include UMichigan and Wayne State this year. This symposium will be interdisciplinary and consist of both oral and poster sessions. Abstracts will be screened by MSU faculty. There will be award money for outstanding presentations. Students will be judged based on their ability to explain their research to the judges who will not necessarily be in their field of study.
In the past this has been a one day event, usually held on a Friday- to not conflict with March Madness. The tentative date is March 31st (which is a Saturday).
In 2010, attendance was 100 to 150 students. One difficulty they experienced was advertising the event: their student government does not have access to the grad student email list. However, students would leave after their presentation, so attendance was low. This year we’re expecting around 200 students, or one busload of students from UofM to participate. It will be held in E. Lansing.

Things we will have to pay for include:
- Transportation
- Prize money donated by the Deans. If U of M students win then our Dean will have to fund rewards.

Considerations include:
- Should we set a loose cap on # of people going? Estimated one bus load.
How will be advertise for the event? Advertise through separate email and through grad coordinators?
To encourage participation, we could think about paying for posters?
Ensure that UM students have equal opportunity to do oral presentations

Graduate Student IP Rights
We discussed Eugene’s situation (6th year), which was brought up in board meeting during his guest visit. Essential problem is that there are gray areas with regard to intellectual property rights of GSRAs. We need to make those less ambiguous going forward. IP issues handled by OTT. OTT (director) will be coming to RSG board (1st week of December). Michael asks us to table this issue until the guests come to the board meeting and both sides of issue can be discussed.

Town Halls for Winter 2012
We will be joined by Dean Janet Weiss and John Godfried Assistant Dean of International Issues (who will meet principally with international students). We expect Town Halls to occur between Feb and March of 2012.

Considerations going forward:
- Do we have 4 separate townhalls? Or 2 or 3? We could have a TH for Sci and Engin and another TH for Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Maybe put question in newsletter?

Action Item: Talk to people from programs & office hours regarding optimal town hall format, times and day of the week.

Master’s Students study space
Paul Courant joining us in January 2012.
Eli will follow up on this. Michael will email Eli contact information and keep him posted.

III. Open Discussion
The following question will be included in this election’s ballot:
1. Do you support a change from a 9.0 to 4.0 GPA scale?

V. Next meeting
November 21st 2011, 6pm

VI. Adjournment
We adjourned at 6:44 pm.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Bylaw Review Committee Meeting
November 17th, 2011
Rackham Graduate School, 915 E. Washington St.

I. Roll call of members
Present: Michael Benson, Heidi Pedini, Kaitin Flynn, Mindy Waite
Absent (excused): Josh Bow
Called to order: 6:05 pm

II. Reviewing the Bylaws

The committee reviewed the bylaws and focused on articles 2 and 3. A number of changes were discussed and will be reviewed further discussed at the committee’s next meeting.

III. Next meeting
November 30th 2011, 6pm

IV. Adjournment
We adjourned at 6:52 pm.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting
November, 9 2011
Espresso Royal, South University

I. Roll call of members
   1. Present: Michael Benson, Christine Andres, Nina White, Denise Lillvis
   2. Absent: Marisol Ramos, Alex Toulouse
   3. Called to order: 6:15

II. Special Business
   1. Consider running for RSG rep. (seriously, do it!)

III. Local Affairs
   1. Ann Arbor City Council Election roundup
      • Suggest methodology to remove registered voters who have since moved out of the state, especially concerning students who register while living in the dorms. A suggested idea is to register to vote in MI, after a time period you need to reregister?

IV. Federal Affairs
   1. SAGE fall summit:
      • Approval for Michael, Christine, Nina and Alex to attend SAGE, Register if you haven’t!
      • Hotel rooms booked, Christine to book flights tomorrow
      • Agenda will be sent out to all of committee and opportunities to skype for those who wish who will remain in AA.
      • Michael is putting together a platform based on bills presented
   2. New SAGE Initiative (Quality)
      • SAGE representatives went to DC to meet with partners and brought up the idea of pushing for quality
      • Think About: Research bills that will accomplish this, or ideas where higher efficiency could be achieved in higher education. Ex reducing overhead for grants
      • Think about how to write a survey to include in a future newsletter.
      • ISR peeps to be invited to the next meeting (Michael)
      • Duderstadt is leading a committee to define the role Public University and Higher Education. He will hopefully come and provide more information on this topic in a future meeting.

V. State Level
   1. House bill 4470 and 4471: Bill to cut back on Insurance coverage for domestic partnership
   2. House bill 5040: a bill to protect the right of a student to assert conscientious objection to providing certain counseling or other services
   3. Requirements for immunizations of entering college students and possible next step to require insurance, could drop premiums for uninsured students by $1000 as risks decrease. This could help balance increasing premiums. To be determined how many students are uninsured come December. Possible opportunity to reach out to School of Public Health.
VI. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 23rd, 6:30 Chipotle
VII. Adjournment: 6:50
Present: Alex Toulouse, Mindy Waite
At the Red Wings Game: Rahul Sakhamuri, Michael Benson, Heidi Pedini

I. Meeting Start: 7:20 pm

II. Trivia Night
   a. Plan to push this event back to the beginning of next semester

III. Karaoke Night
   a. Need to find out if we able to order appetizers, and if/how much it would cost for an exclusive event
   b. Alex E. waiting to hear back from Circus by Wed otherwise Mindy will contact.
   c. Date would be Thurs Dec. 1st or Dec. 8th.

IV. Heat Game
   a. Need to contact Natalie to get update and determine if we need to get money back.

V. Bicycle Initiative
   a. Named TruMich
   b. Petitioning for free bike-share program on campus: https://www.msa.umich.edu/upetition/p/free-bike-share/
   c. Agree to advertise their survey on Bike-riding preferences. Will contact and ask for blurb for the newsletter.

VI. Sexual Assault Safety Event
   a. Decided to co-sponsor with Rackham. Will need to email event to listserv.

VII. Meeting End: 7:40 pm
A RESOLUTION CREATING STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR THE RACKHAM ASSOCIAITE DEANS

WHEREAS, The Rackham Student Government (RSG) serves as the conduit between the graduate student body and the university at large, including the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Students; AND

WHEREAS, RSG recently hosted a set of four lunches with the deans for the student body; AND

WHEREAS, It became apparent during these lunches that regular contact between Rackham’s associate deans for programs and initiatives and students in their divisions would be mutually beneficial; AND

WHEREAS, RSG appoints graduate students to a number of school and university wide committees and workgroup; AND

WHEREAS, The associate deans for programs and initiatives have each voiced support for the creation of a student advisory panel; NOW ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT

RESOLVED, That a student advisory committee for the associate dean be created for each of the Rackham Graduate School’s four associate deans; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That each associate dean shall serve as the chairperson of his or her advisory committee; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That each committee shall meet at least once in the Fall semester and once in the Winter semester, at times and locations determined by the chair; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the membership of the advisory boards shall be appointed by the RSG Board for a term of one year; AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, That the chair of each committee may appoint additional members to the committee for a specified term; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the size of each committee will be determined by the chair and communicated to the RSG Board on an annual basis; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That vacancies will be filled by the RSG Board under the advice of appropriate advisory committee’s chair; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, That the chair of each advisory committee or their designee will transmit to board a report of his or her committee’s discussion on or before the last day of the fall and winter terms.

AUTHORS

______________________________                          __________________________
Tien-Huei Hsu        Eli Benchell Eisman
Representative, Division 1       Representative, Division 1
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

ATTEST

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at the top of this resolution is accurate.

____________________________________
Joshua Bow
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

I, Michael Benson, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto this resolution on this the _______ day of _______, 2011.

____________________________________
Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Student Government