Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: September 29, 2011
Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes **
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy
V. Student Group Funding
VI. Public Safety Preview
   a. Police
   b. Transportation
VII. Board Resolution F-01-11: Creating Student Advisory Committees for the Rackham Associate Deans **
VIII. Visioning for the Semester (breakout – part 2) *
IX. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs *
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications *
   d. Legislative Affairs * (2)
   e. Student Life
   f. Bylaw Review
   g. Service Opportunities
   h. Career Opportunities
X. Future Events Overview (Social, Academic, & Legislative)
XI. Open Discussion
XII. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Board Meeting
September 22th, 2011
Rackham Building, 915 E. Washington St

I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting Called to Order at 7:03pm.
   b. Motion to accept Anagha Kshirsagar’s resignation by Mindy Waite,
      Seconded by Nina white. Approved Unanimously.
   c. Members absent:
      i. Excused: Lily Mancour, Alex Toulouse, Rob Gillezeau, Grant Mandarino.
      iii. Quorum Present

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. Motion of August 17th by David Cottrell, Seconded by Tien-Huei Hsu.
      Approved 10-0-3
   b. Motion of Septembers 15th by David Cottrell, Seconded by Mindy Waite.
      Approved 11-0-2

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Lunch with the Deans went well.
      ii. We are looking at a resolution to create advisory positions for each
          of the Rackham Associate Deans.
      iii. Cheers to everyone that went to the Blue Lep Social Event.
      iv. Kristy Figel has been absent for three meetings, unless there is
          appeal from Kristy, there is a seat open in Division 3.
      v. There is also a seat open for Division 2,
      vi. We tend to like them to come to 3 board meetings first, however it
          does not have to be someone who ran in the election.
      vii. No Guest speaker today.
   b. Vice President
      i. Communications meeting at the end of the meeting. If you know
         anyone willing to design the HTML template, please come to the
         following meeting.
   c. Treasurer
      i. 10800 in the account but several things are coming out.
      ii. Please respond to the e-mail sent to the Budget committee by
          Friday.
      iii. There is a budget for the fall semester.
      iv. There is a motion to approve the Budget by Mindy Waite,
          Seconded by David Cottrell 14-0-1.
1. Move to amend the budget to add 60 dollars to communications for a banner by Joshua Bow, Seconded by Tien-Huei Hsu. Approved 11-1-1.
2. What is the Discretionary fund for? Essentially copying for the meetings.
3. Is the CONACO budget for food necessary? It seems that the board feels that this allotment is ok.

V. RSG Shirts
a. There are new numbers in the packet,
b. There prices are 30/50,
c. These are all hopefully ethically responsible.
d. We are aware of problems with American Apparel and Anvil.
e. These prices include taxes.
f. We cannot require people to have to pay in to the t-shirts and do they loose their effectiveness if not everyone has one.
g. Straw Poll: Front and back design vs Just a one side design – two sided? Which vender are we looking at – Canvas?
h. Which logo where? Block on the Front and circle on the back.
i. Motion to spend 10.22 per shirt on 50 shirts by Grant Mandarino and Patrick Rooney. Approved 9-3-3.
j. Motion to spend 12.34 per shirt by Grant Mandarino and Joshua Bow. Approved 11-2-2.
k. Motion to give executive power to Heidi Pedini on the design of the shirts by Joshua Bow, Seconded by Rahul Sakhamuri. Approve Unanimously.

VI. Committees
a. Academic Affairs
   i. Meeting bi weekly Mondays at Esspresso Royale.
   ii. Thanks for the showing up at the.
b. Budgetary
   i. No Report.
c. Communications
   i. Meet after this.
d. Legislative
   i. Motion to approve the Chairs by Grant Mandarino, Seconded by Marisol Ramos. Approved 11-0-3
   ii. Alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in the State Street Starbuck’s basement.
   iii. There is a lot going on.
e. Student Life
   i. Had the Blue Lep.
   ii. Other events Oktoberfest, and Apple Orchard.
   iii. Meeting on Tuesdays at 7pm -2.

f. Bylaw Review Committee
   i. Josh Bow steps down as chair for this committee.
   ii. Michael will serve as the chair for this committee in the interim.

g. COSAC
   i. Hasn’t met yet..
h. Career Opportunities
   i. Will be meeting next week
   ii. Motion to approve Minutes by Patrick Rooney, Seconded by Heidi Pedini. 12-0-1

VII. Visioning for the Semester (breakout)
   a. Talked about individual projects for various committees.

VIII. Future Events
   a. In contact with our partner at the Red Wings.
   b. Legislative Affair city council debate.
   c. Number of Social Events.

IX. Open Discussion
   a. Alcohol at RSG events.
      i. We cannot buy alcohol.
   b. Anne Fitzpatrick absences are now excused.

X. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Bow
Rackham Student Government
Vice President
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
September 26th, 2011
Espresso Royale, 322 S. State St

I. Roll call of members
Present: Eli Eisman, Mindy Waite, Michael Benson, Tien-Huei Hsu, Kaitlin Flynn
Absent (excused):
Absent (unexcused): David Cottrell, Anne Fitzpatrick, Grant Mandarino
Called to order: 6:11pm

II. Special Business

• Committee member expectations

Committee members are responsible for informing the chair if they are not going to be present at a meeting. Accumulation of 3 unexcused absences will result in removal of the individual from the committee. There are unlimited excused absences. To have an absence excused, it must be reasonable. The chair will determine what is considered a reasonable excuse. These expectations will be enforced starting at our next meeting.

• Town Hall Review and future plans (Michael Benson, Tien)

Moderators please send Tien a summary of the session and a list of questions that students asked during the event.

The AAC is responsible for forming advisory boards to each Rackham Dean of Divisions I through IV. There will be 5 to 10 people on each advisory board and the board will be comprised of volunteers from the student body at large. Associate Deans will chair their respective committees. These advisory boards will provide the Deans feedback about things that are happening around campus, make them more aware of student concerns (“extra eyes and ears”).

Michael will write the resolution but Tien and Eli will be sponsoring.

• Graduate Student Bill of Rights

We will meet next week to discuss this document. Michael suggests that we need to look at the format of the document more carefully. Once we have a revised version we will put a notice in newsletter to solicit feedback from the student body. We will invite them to join our discussion at the general board meeting if they have feedback or to email in advance. The document will be passed on to the Student life committee to look at prior to the general board meeting.

• Symposium (MI and MSU collaboration)

Conference call has not occurred yet. Waiting on MSU response.
• Enhancing classrooms  
   No new updates.

• Updating course records  
   The Rackham exec board will potentially be taking this up. Michael will provide an update on this issue at our next committee meeting.

• Rollover classes  
   Right now you can rollover one class, we’re hoping to increase the number of classes one can rollover to the next semester. More information will be provided in two weeks.

• Monthly event (@ art museum, planetarium etc)  
   This event will be in collaboration with COSAC. Eli will contact the Ann Arbor Art museum for availability for an event and contact Student Life to determine the social schedule for the semester. Event will be open to all graduate students. Dress will be smart casual.

• Masters study space  
   Michael will talk to Paul Courant regarding this issue.

III. Open Discussion

V. Next meeting  
   October 10th 2011, 6pm (Chaired by Mindy)

VI. Adjournment: 6:45pm
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Communications Committee Meeting
September 22th, 2011
Rackham Building, 915 E. Washington St

Members present: Josh Bow, Tien Hui-Hsu, Eli Eisman, Mindy Waite, Michael Benson, Rahul Sakhamuri, Kaitlin Flynn

Members absent: Heidi Pedini

Starting: 8:27pm

1. Josh gives overview of the meeting: Newsletters, committee appointments, RSG branding
2. Newsletter:
   a. Board took a poll and voted to hire someone to design HTML template for the newsletter. Alex T has already designed the template, but our real issue is to have someone that is motivated to actually compile the newsletter. We could pay them, but the board already voted against this.
      i. Perhaps we can have multiple board members volunteer to do this, but what should our expectations be.
      ii. Eli asks about the specifics of the template, is it easily copy/pasted? Michael points out that the newsletter should only be stubs of articles with links that drive people to the website.
      iii. Josh proposes that we have one person in charge of the newsletter. Michael votes for Mindy. Heidi may be interested as well.
   b. Mindy suggests that we do the newsletter biweekly
      i. Committee members approve. Mindy will facilitate gathering blurbs from committee chairs
   c. For the $15 gift cards, there will be a trivia question and Rahul will distribute gift cards (potentially at the next student life events)
      i. Logistics: poll, people can only win once in a semester. Michael will compile the results.
      ii. First Espresso Royale question of the week: What age is Rackham turning this week?
         1. Based on how many people respond, ER may continue to contribute
3. Committee Appointments:
   a. Continuous enrollment dispute resolution board, Rackham academic integrity board, Provosts budgetary advisory committee. 3 spots available on Provost committee.
      i. Michael will send out applications to the student body. Deadlines to submit will be next Thursday. After CC meeting next week, we’ll pick which people we appoint to the committees.
4. RSG branding
a. Josh believes that it is highly important for us to develop a cohesive brand that is constant and consistent with our mission and goals.
b. Josh would like us to develop an RSG brand, something that you see and you know what it is. We need to brand ‘RSG’ and will be able to do that through Facebook and Twitter. Gift certificates will be available to drive traffic to our sites.
c. We need a better logo. A tighter, cooler logo. Like MSA logo. We’d like to tie it to something all of the students have in common. Would like to develop brand before developing the banner.
d. Josh proposes we draw up a vision of what the brand should be

5. Should we advertise for students and their projects?
   a. Advertising for individuals could be burdensome and create a lot of issues. Michael proposes making a site
   b. Could we advertise at football games?? Very likely!! It would be awesome if we could get out on the field.

6. Meeting adjourned, meeting next week
7. Adjourned 8:48pm
I. Roll call (8:15pm): Patrick Rooney (co-chair), Nina White, Michael Benson, Denise Lillvis
Absent: Samantha Zhang, Elaina Zverina, Jia Sun, Carolyn Da Wang, Alex Emly, Kristy Figel, Rob Gillezeau

II. Speakers and events
   - We need to get moving on planning the October event. Patrick will contact Leah Nichols about possibilities for the science policy panel. Skip Simms from A2Spark is another possibility. However, someone from Data Driven Detroit is also very appealing. They do private research for the city of Detroit. A friend of Nina's is starting to work for them, and she'll ask her about possibly getting a higher-up in to talk.
   - Other speaker possibilities for further on: a director (or higher-up) from NSF (who fund a lot of private consultants), DARPA, NIH, CDC; Kathleen Sebelius, Stephen Rapundolo
   - Other areas (specifically for the humanities): publishing, journalism, graphic arts (Pixar e.g.), the DSO (or Cleveland orchestra), museums, Google (who is local)
   - Patrick will make up a list, and we will consult the board about ranking possibilities

III. Survey
   - We made a few tweaks to Samantha's possible questions
     - We'll have three open ended questions: (1) What kind of career events are you interested in attending, (2) What specific speakers would be interested in coming to campus (3) What industries, professions and organizations would you like to hear from
     - Under career plans, the options should be academia, industry, public sector (government or public service), entrepreneurial, other
     - Instead of schools, we should have programs or areas of study (i.e. We're not including medical and law schools)
   - Nina will come up with a draft Thursday night, using Google Docs

IV. Odds and ends
   - The meeting with the Alumni Association president is still forthcoming.
   - We would like the Chinese Business Challenge to be put in the newsletter, but if that's not happening, we can send out an email under the purview of CoNACO

V. Adjournment: 9pm
CoNACO event possibilities

- Science policy panel
- Someone from Data Driven Detroit (who do social demographic research in Detroit)
- Skip Simms from Ann Arbor Spark
- Terry Cross, who works in Venture Capital
- Someone from NSF (who do fund outside of academia)
- Someone from DARPA
- Someone from NIH
- Someone from CDC
- Kathleen Sebelius
- Stephen Rapundolo from Mich Bio
- Someone in publishing or journalism
- Someone in the graphic arts (e.g. Pixar)
- Someone from DSO or Cleveland orchestra
- Someone affiliated with a museum (UMMA e.g.)
- Someone from Google
- Erik Gordon, prof in the b-school who has talked about using your Ph.D. outside of academia
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Community Outreach and Social Action Committee Meeting
September 26th, 2011
Espresso Royale, 322 S. State St

I. Convene - 5.40p
II. Member roll call
   a. Present: Tien-Huei Hsu, Mindy Waite, Michael Benson, Eli Benchell Eismann
   b. Absent: Anne Fitzpatrick, Serge Farinas, David Cotrell, Nina Waite, Josh Bow

III. Logistics and committee member responsibilities
   a. Meetings will be held biweekly at the Espresso Royale at 322 South State street at 6.00 (not Michigan time)
   b. Members are expected to be present at all meetings, unless prior notification is given to the committee chair.
   c. Members are allowed 1 (one) unexcused absence with no penalty. Should a committee member accrue an additional 3 (three) unexcused absences in the course of a semester, the remainder of the committee will vote in a simple majority to strip of the individual of their committee membership.

IV. Putative Events for the Fall Semester 2011
   a. Graduate Student Classroom outreach
      i. Eli is still spearheading this, but will drop the priority of the event in favor of the Community of Scholars museum events to be coordinated with the Academic Affairs and Student Life committees as well as the Wolverines for Life events
   b. A2 Parks Clean up
      i. Jeremy Sobczak is the Natural Area Preservation outreach assistant and COSAC contact
      ii. Nina’s camping, but seemed excited to do this.
   c. Wolverines for Life
      i. Be a Hero at the Big House - Wednesday, 16 November 2011.
      ii. This should be an easy event and our top priority. We need to start on this now.
   d. International Graduate Student Peer Mentorship
      i. This may overlap with programs already in place, let’s look into what resources are already available.
   e. Homeless shelter/ soup kitchen/ food pantry volunteering
      i. Tien knows people and will get in touch with them
      ii. Can we tie food donations into regular events?

V. Open Discussion
   a. Can we develop a page of resources listing community service around town
   b. Where the shit is everybody?

VI. Adjourn - 5.59p
I. Roll call of members
   1. Present: Michael Benson, Christine Andres, Kathy Valle, Denise Lillvis, Marisol Ramos
   2. Absent:
   3. Called to order: 7:11pm

II. Special Business
   1. Denise will help to update committee Website, Michael will add ownership
   2. Christine will serve as vice chair for the committee
   3. Committee Bylaws to be developed this semester
   4. Michael will serve as sole Chair.

III. Local Affairs
   1. Kathy will be the Local Legislative Affairs Liaison
   2. City Council Debate: Thursday, October 27th (pending) @ Rackam
      • Ann Arbor Observer Editor and Chief to be asked to be nonpartisan Moderator
      • Second options include individuals at the Ann Arbor Chronicle, Provost or Dean Weiss
      • AA Chronicle will help set the format with back and forth debate and constructive interactions
      • Advertise with The Daily, emails, online ads, AA Chronicle
   3. New Student High- Rise
      • Michael will send link to AA Chronicle Article
      • Ann Arbor Planning commission will join Legislative Affairs Committee meeting in ~3weeks to discus
   4. City Appointments
      • Advertise positions to students by email drafted by chair in ~ 2 weeks

IV. State Affairs
   1. Marisol will be the State Legislative Affairs Liaison
   2. Lansing Trip
   3. MSU-COGS

V. Federal Affairs
   1. Everyone will help serve as Liaison
   2. NAGPS involvement: broad organization of Graduate Students
      • Conference in Cincinnati, Should we send delegates? Check website for more information
   3. SAGE: organization of Graduate students from top tier Universities
      • SAGE conference calls are 1st Sunday of the month 6pm ET, Michael will add all to list
      • In DC in end of October to Lobby
      • Develop a Platform- What should we highlight
      • Checking Library of Congress website for any bills of interest
4. SAGE Fall Summit
   • In December – Email chair if you are interested in attending
5. Subsidized Loans for Grad Students and Forgiving Student Debt
   • Move-on.org for info on potential forgiveness of student debt to stimulate the economy

VI. Other

VII. Next Meeting: **Wednesday, September 28th**, State Street Starbucks

VIII. Adjournment: 7:55pm
I. Roll call of members
   1. Present: Michael Benson, Christine Andres, Kathy Valle, Denise Lillvis, Alex Toulouse, Nina White
   2. Absent: Marisol Ramos,
   3. Called to order: 7:09

II. Special Business
   1. Michael will give access to the web page. Denise will help update
   2. Rsg-sage@umich.edu group email list - Christine to send email with last week mins, please respond to all
   3. Board approved committee leadership from last meeting

III. Local Affairs
   1. City Council Debate: Thursday, October 27th (pending) @ Rackam
      • Need a moderator still: Ann Arbor Chronicle, Provost or Dean Weiss
      • AA Chronicle will help set the format with back and forth debate and constructive interactions
      • Advertise with The Daily, emails, online ads, AA Chronicle
   2. League of women’s voters debate on October 5th and televised

IV. Federal Affairs
   1. SAGE Fall Summit – December 1-4
      • Michael, Christine, Nina and Alex nominated to attend
      • Recommend to the board to reallocate funds to allow 4 to attend
      • Michael will add to members to SAGE email list
      • SAGE call this Sunday at 6pm, Chair will email call in number
      • 5-5:10 ET call on Saturday
      • Develop a Platform- What should we highlight
      • Next meeting: write up report on bill influencing grad students. Email bill once you decide on one. Library of Congress: http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php
      • Late March to early April: DC SAGE trip

V. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12th, State Street Starbucks

VI. Adjournment: 7:40
Rackham Student Government
Board Goals Fall 2011

**Academic Affairs:**
- Modernizing Rackham’s GPA system from a 9.0 scale to a 4.0 scale
- Upgrading LS&A classroom equipment for graduate student instructors and students
- Finalizing the graduate student Bill of Rights
- PhD candidate course registration policy
- Faculty reviews by students
- Study space for masters students
- Increasing or supplementing ITS printing allocation for Rackham students

**Student Life Policy:**
- Northwood housing
- Housing on central campus for graduate students
- Graduate student safety on campus
- Graduate student safety in Ann Arbor

**Legislative/External Affairs:**
- Restore federal funding for graduate subsidized loans

**Social:**
- Detroit Lions game—there's been tons of interest from the student body
- Community service oriented events
- Career related events
- Pinball Pete’s event
- Apple picking
- Online student group registry

**Financial Affairs:**
- No taxes on student stipends

**General:**
- Newsletter
A RESOLUTION CREATING STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR THE RACKHAM ASSOCIATE 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 will transmit to the RSG Board an annual report of his / her committee’s discussions by the first day of June in each calendar year.

AUTHORS

Tien-Huei Tsu
Representative, Division 1
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Eli Benchell Eisman
Representative, Division 1

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
ARTICLE IX

A. Resolution Types.

1. A sense of the Board (SB) shall be an official statement on behalf of the student body as articulated by the Board.

2. A Board Resolution (BR) shall be an official policy declaration of the student body as articulated by the Board. Board resolutions shall be binding on all officers, members, and committees of RSG for matters pertaining to RSG internal business. In the case where the subject of a BR is external to RSG, The President shall transmit the approved BR to the Dean for her review and approval.

B. Format.

1. Every RSG resolution shall contain the following:
   i. A title.
   ii. A unique resolution number, assigned by the Vice President in his/her role as the chair of the ComCom
   iii. A set of descriptive clauses, explaining the rationale for the resolution and providing support for any operative clauses contained within the resolution.
   iv. A minimum of one operative clause directing action in the case of a BR or stating an opinion in the case of a SB.
      1. The first operative clause in a BR shall have a format “Therefore be it resolved by the Rackham Student Government on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school that”
      2. The first operative clause in a SR shall have a format “Therefore, on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school and articulated by its elected representatives, it is the sense of the Board that”
   v. The signature upon final vote by at least one executive officer attesting to the vote count and that the process to consider a resolution as outlined in this article and in Roberts Rules of Order was followed.
vi. The signature of the President or the Vice President approving the final passage of the resolution. The Officer not chairing shall have the authority to approve or veto.

C. Voting

1. All voting members of the Board shall be able to vote on RSG Resolutions.
2. The President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The president may vote when not chairing.
3. The Vice President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The vice president may vote when not chairing.
4. The Treasurer, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The Treasurer may vote when not chairing.

D. Student Body Input

1. Upon a motion, second, and majority vote by the Board any resolution may be postponed to a time certain to allow for formal input from the student body.
2. Unless waved by a 2/3rds majority of the Board, a vote to adopt a BR will be out of order unless a public hearing on the BR has been advertised and conducted.

E. Public Hearings

1. Board resolutions serve as official statements of policy and as such require input from the student body.
2. Prior to the second reading of a BR, notice shall be posted to the RSG website as well as to the student body via each department / program’s graduate coordinators, and via an email to the graduate student body that a resolution shall be coming to a vote. The notice shall include the title of the resolution, a short description of the resolution including objective pros and cons, and the date / location of the meeting where the Board will consider the resolution.

F. Executive Veto

1. Resolutions not approved by the President or Vice President within 1 week of passage by the Board shall be in full force and approved.
2. Resolutions vetoed by the President or Vice President shall be presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The resolution shall be accompanied by a memo indicating the rationale for the veto. Upon a
motion, second, and 2/3rds majority vote of the Board, the veto shall be overridden and the resolution shall be in full force.

G. Publication
1. Upon the final adoption and approval of a resolution, a signed version of shall be posted to the RSG website and included in the Board’s minutes.
2. Copies of the approved resolution should also be transmitted to the Michigan Daily, the Michigan Voice, MSA, and members of the Student Body (upon request).
In campus firefighting, Ann Arbor Fire Department, ‘U’ share a complex relationship

By Lauren Davies
For the Daily  On  February 7th, 2010

Correction Appended: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated the reason for the creation of a fire station on North Campus. It was created to better serve the area.

While Ann Arbor firefighters of Local 693 respond to fire emergencies on campus, the University doesn’t plan to extend further financial support to the department, which is facing severe budget cuts.

Last month, Ann Arbor firefighters postponed potential layoffs by taking a 4-percent pay cut. However, the city is now considering laying off 19 firefighters when a new contract is set in July. The changes have the potential to impact fire safety on campus, and the fire department may turn to the University for support.

Though Local 693 is strapped for funds, University officials say they will not create a firefighting unit on campus even though the University has its own police force.

According to University Police spokeswoman Diane Brown, the University created the Department of Public Safety because city police were struggling to respond quickly to campus calls. In addition, DPS officers are trained specially to respond to campus-specific crimes like residence hall incidents and large University events.

Unlike DPS officers, University officials don’t believe firefighters need specialized training to serve campus. Brown said the five fire stations in Ann Arbor are located close to the University and have had no recent history of delayed response to calls.

Matt Schroeder, president of Local 693’s union, said instead of creating a separate fire team, the University and the Ann Arbor Fire Department "work in cooperation."

According to Brown, the University created and maintains Ann Arbor
Fire Station 5, located on North Campus, to better serve the area.

In 2004, the University also purchased a $300,000 fire truck for Local 693, according to University spokesman Rick Fitzgerald.

In addition, the fire department also receives money from the state government, though the funding is decreasing and the payments haven’t been made in full for several years, according to Schroeder.

Because the department is under financial pressures, Schroeder said the union would like to partner with the University in a "cooperative agreement" to improve safety.

At a meeting with the University Board of Regents in September, the union expressed concern that layoffs could impact student safety. The presentation was part of what Schroeder called an "ongoing conversation" about how the University and fire department interact.

Though an official request has not been made, Schroeder said the union would like to see the University pay for a percentage of the fire department's workforce.

Fitzgerald said he is aware of staffing concerns but did not know of any monetary requests. He said that a request for funds must come from the city, not the union, in order for it to be considered.

But cooperation between the University and Local 693 extends beyond monetary support.

Brown said the University tries to reduce the need for firefighters responding to non-fire emergencies on campus by providing services usually expected of a fire department.

DPS, for example, monitors buildings to reduce fire hazards. Brown said in addition the University created its own unit — part of the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health department — to respond to the University’s hazardous materials emergencies.

Brown said that firefighters are also invited to tour new and renovated campus buildings before they open to the public so they can become familiar with the layout. She cited firefighters’ examination of the University of Michigan Museum of Art before it opened last year.

Brown and Fitzgerald agreed that the University and the Ann Arbor Fire Department have a good relationship. Fitzgerald said the University is "very supportive and appreciative" of Local 693.