Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: September 22, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. August 17, 2011 **
   b. September 15, 2011 **

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

V. RSG Fall 2011 Budget

VI. RSG Shirts*

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Meeting Times for the Semester
   b. Academic Affairs
   c. Budgetary
   d. Communications
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
   g. Bylaw Review
   h. Service Opportunities
   i. Career Opportunities

VIII. Visioning for the Semester (breakout) ***

IX. Future Events Overview (Social, Academic, & Legislative)

X. Open Discussion

XI. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
I. Call to Order  
   a. Meeting Called to Order at 6:07pm.  
   b. Members absent:  
      ii. Quorum Present  
II. Approval of Agenda  
   a. Motion by Tien-Huei Hsu, Seconded Mindy Waite. Approved Unanimously.  
III. Approval of Previous Minutes  
   a. The last meeting did not have quorum so there were no minutes to approve.  
IV. Officer Reports  
   a. President  
      i. There are e-mail problems. Hopefully it will be resolved soon, in the meantime use rsgboard@umich.edu.  
      ii. Ann Arbor primaries were yesterday and all three incumbents won. We plan to work with the to best represent Graduate Students. There will be a council meeting tomorrow.  
      iii. The Fall picnic will be on September 2nd everyone is expected to attend.  
      iv. Committee Chair please add events to the calendar.  
   b. Vice President  
      i. SMART Goals will come back to the committees at the next Board meeting.  
   c. Treasurer  
      i. About $14940 in the bank.  
      ii. Chaired a number of committee meetings.  
V. Bylaw Review Committee  
   a. Has been created and shall be chaired by Joshua Bow.  
   b. Things to examine include Budgetary practices, Alcohol at RSG events, and constitutional independence from Rackham.  
VI. Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board  
   a. For disputes on continuous enrollment, there is a board that works to review disputes. The board that was created was never used. This means that the concerns and grievances were resolved before arriving at the board level. We need to appoint people to serve on this board. The appointment is for a year long term. Please read over the information in the agenda packet, and decide if you would want to apply.  
VII. Committees
a. Academic Affairs
   i. Motion to approve Meeting minutes by Tien-Huei Hsu, seconded by Kailtin Flynn. Approved 5-0-3.
   ii. Discussed Lunch with the Deans. There was no single day that all deans were available.
   iii. Discussed GEO updates.
   iv. Discussed departmental town halls concerning the GSRA unionization effort.
   v. Dean Weiss has asked that we sponsor a GSRA unionization town hall for all graduate students.

b. Budgetary
   i. Had a request from NIMSA for one hundred and ninety dollars. The committee agreed to fund one hundred dollars.

c. Legislative
   i. One two people were in attendance.
   ii. Discussed payments in lieu of taxes and their legality.
   iii. As part of the Budget Control Act, subsidized loans for graduate students have been cut.

d. Student Life
   i. Trying to get the pool event together.
   ii. Chaperones for the Tigers game have been decided.

e. Student Opportunities Committee
   i. Has a meeting with Ms. Shrivers.
   ii. Trying to come up with a plan for educational funding being cut severely.
   iii. One possible way would be to have graduate students with skills in a field to help with the Washtenaw education community.

VIII. Open Discussion
   a. Please start attending committee meetings.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Bow
Rackham Student Government
Vice President
Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting
9-15-11

I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting Called to Order at 7:05pm.
   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 by David Cottrell, Seconded by Tien-Huei Hsu. Approved 13-0-1

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. There will be a board social activity after the meeting. We will decide where to go in open discussion.
      ii. Asked for a motion to co-sponsor the viewing of the PhD comics movie. Made by Nina White, Seconded by Minday Waite. Approved Unanimously.
      iii. MERC met today and there will be a written report soon. The board should read it when forwarded to their inboxes.
      iv. The presidents of the graduate student governments as well as the presidents of the graduate employee unions from University of Michigan and Michigan State University have been requested to meet together. More information to come on this meeting.
      v. Hopefully there will be a guest speaker list soon. If there is someone specific that you would like to come talk to the board, e-mail Michael.
   b. Vice President
      i. Due to the fact no one volunteered to be in the elections committee, we are drafting the committee now.
      ii. The Elections Committee consists of Kaitlin Flynn, Rahul Sakhamuri, Marisol Ramos, and Will Hutchinson.
      iii. There is a motion to accept this as a committee. Made by Alex Emly, Seconded by Kaitlin Flynn. Approved Unanimously.
      iv. Discussion on the validity of co-chairs. Generally not encouraged, specific situations where it might be more acceptable.
      v. Motion to accept chair nominations by David Cottrell, Seconded by Eli Eismann, approved 13-0-1
   c. Treasurer
i. About $11669 in the bank.
ii. Budget has been sent out, look it over and there will be a vote on it next week.
iii. Working closely with the Academic Affairs committee to manage Lunch with the deans.

V. Committee Logistics
a. Chairs please e-mail the board when your committee will be meeting.
b. There is an expectation that times and locations will be regular.
c. There are a number of appointments that the communications committee needs to advertise and appoint to. Details to come.

VI. Spring/Summer Updates & Committee reports
a. Executive Committee
   i. The board spent a significant portion of the budget.
   ii. The committee oversaw a number of projects.
b. Academic Affairs
   i. Worked on the Graduate Student Bill of Rights and planned the town halls, which will be taking place next week.
   ii. Motion to approve minutes by Tien-Huei Hsu, Seconded by Alex Emly, approved 12-0-2.
   iii. Town halls are next week, please attend your town hall.
   iv. Some people have been asked to speak on behalf of RSG at the Town hall, there will be guidelines of what to talk about, and backups have been chosen for each of the speakers.
c. Budgetary
   i. There was one request from an organization. Treasurer’s authority, it was denied. There was no appeal.
d. Communications
   i. Discussed the re-branding of RSG and worked on getting a weekly newsletter.
   ii. We believe an editor for hire may be necessary to get the newsletter of the ground and consistent.
   iii. There is a meeting next Thursday after the board meeting.
   iv. There was a straw poll taken and the board would rather hire a designer to design the basic format in HTML that is usable and workable.
e. Legislative
   i. Working to organize a candidates’ forum for local government and discussed how the university can give back to the community in the form of Payments in lieu of taxes.
f. Student Life
   i. Held events, including a bar night, a day in Gallup Park, a Tigers game, and a Fall Picnic.
   ii. Event Ideas are in the minutes.
   iii. Motion to approve committee minutes by Rahul Sakhamuri, Seconded by Tien-Huei Hsu, approved 12-0-2.
g. Bylaw Review Committee
i. Interest and time were both lacking and didn’t meet.

h. COSAC
i. Was created of the summer, met with Washtenaw intermediate school district and Circle K.
i. Career Opportunities
   i. Formed at the end of the summer.
   ii. Planning three events this semester. A Rackham survey will be sent to discern areas students would like to hear from.

VII. RSG Bradning
a. Motion to postpone discussion of t-shirts, made by Joshua Bow, Seconded by Mindy Waite. Approved 10-2-2.
b. When coming to RSG events, please represent RSG and not other organizations. Also, please come with a better attitude.

VIII. Visioning for Semester
a. Tabled, please do at home for next week.

IX. Future Events
a. Tabled.

X. Open Discussion
a. Social activity will take place at Ashely’s bar.

XI. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Bow
Rackham Student Government
Vice President
I. Roll call (4:10pm): Patrick Rooney (co-chair), Elaina Zverina (co-chair), Carolyn Da Wang (co-chair), Jia Sun, Samantha Liang Zhang, Michael Benson
Special cameo appearance: Eli Eisman
Excused absences: Nina White, Alex Emly
Unexcused absences: Kristy Figel, Rob Gillezeau

II. Budget
- It was decided that 3 speakers was an appropriate goal for this semester (one each for the months of October, November, December)
- We can get at least two local speakers, but we'll allow for one non-local speaker
- If expected attendance is 100 per event, $500 for food per event seems like a decent number
- For the non-local speaker, we need travel and hotel allowances: $500 for, say, a ticket from California, $150 for two night in a hotel
- So total would be $2150
- Before leaving, Michael indicated we could probably get $3000 for the semester, although that seems too much for only three speakers

III. Possible speakers
- Eli has suggested looking at Ann Arbor Spark, which encourages entrepreneurship in the A2 area. Skip Simms from A2spark gave a talk at Bio-interface, so we could ask him to talk again.
- Leah Nichols is a current grad student who has worked in DC in public policy / science policy. Gave a good talk at Bio-interface.
- Terry Cross works in VC (venture capital). He is not a former grad student, but is experienced (= old) and knows what it takes to get things going in the private sector. Pretty no-nonsense, and won't spin fairy tales.
- Erik Gordon is a prof in the B-school who has given talks regarding using your Ph.D. in the business world. Possibly too academic for our purposes though?
- It was decided to invite Leah Nichols for the October event slot

IV. Recruitment / Rackham survey
- Need to circulate email to recruit students to join committee
- Michael has thrown out the number 30-50 grad student members, although there were some concerns too many member would cause headaches.
- Also, circulating a survey to Rackham students soliciting ideas for events would be a great idea. It was agreed however that we should emphasize areas/types of speakers, and not names, since we don't want people just throwing out names of famous people.

V. Alumni association
- Everyone agrees that meeting the alumni president will be vital for recruiting interesting speakers. There appears to be a semesterly-type event for undergrads to come meet alumni. It would be great to get in on a similar thing for grad students.

VI. Adjournment: 9:15pm
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**Budget Requests**

**Legislative**

* SAGE Fall Summit (2 - 3 Delegates)
  
  Airfare: $463 / person * 3 = $1389
  
  Hotel: $210/night * 3 nights = $630
  
  Food: $50/person/day * 3 people * 4 days = $600
  
  **Total:** $2,794

MSU Collaboration

  Travel: 10 trips max * $6 gas / trip : $60 (to Lansing)
  
  * City Council Candidates' Debate
    
    Advertising (posters): $30 (black and white)
    
    Projector / AV: $60
    
    * Committee Discretionary
      
      $25 - For logistics such as copying & snacks at a couple of meetings over the semester.
      
      **Total:** $2,794

**Student Life**

Apple Orchard Event - Oct. 9th $600

Heat Game - December $800

RSG Trivia Night $300

Grad Welcome Blue Lep Night – Sept 20 x

Trip to Ceder Point x

Ice Skating $800

RSG October Fest x

**Total:** $2,500

**COSAC**

Youth Education Outreach $125

Washtenaw area parks cleanup $125

International student Peer-mentoring $125

**Total:** $375
Communications

Embroidered polos .......................................................... $450
Total ................................................................. $450

Academic Affairs

Town Hall Food .......................................................... $700
Total ................................................................. $700

Budget

Funding Requests ......................................................... $6,000
Total ................................................................. $6,000

CONACO

Local speakers
Food for two speakers ........................................... $1,000
(anticipated attendance: 100 per)

Non-local speaker
Food ................................................................. $500
Flight ................................................................. $500
Lodging ................................................................. $150
Total ................................................................. $2,150

Bylaws

Food for 1 meeting ....................................................... $100
Total ................................................................. $100

Assumed Semester Total ........................................... $22,881
Total Requests ........................................................ $15,169
Reserve ................................................................. $3,000
Monies Left ............................................................ $4,712
### RSG T-shirt options

#### American Apparel
30/50
- A) 1 color front/1 color back logo: $15.52 / $11.25
- B) 1 color front logo only: $13.22 / $10.15
- C) 2 color front/2 color back logo: $18.63 / $14.07

#### Anvil Organics
30/50
- A) 1 color front/1 color back logo: $15.58 / $12.02
- B) 1 color front logo only: $13.28 / $10.22
- C) 2 color front/2 color back logo: $18.69 / $14.14

#### Canvas 30/50
- A) 1 color front/1 color back logo: $13.79 / $10.22
- B) 1 color front logo only: $11.50 / $8.42
- C) 2 color front/2 color back logo: $16.90 / $12.34

### Company backgrounds:

- **Anvil Organics** shirts are made in South America and under strict company policies and regulations to promote workplace safety and fairness. They also provide development programs for employees and are environmentally responsible.
- **American Apparel** shirts are made in LA and are sweat-shop free. Their workers are paid high wages and have fair hours.
- **Canvas** shirts are 40% made in LA and international factories meet strict standards for wage, discrimination, forced labor, child labor and hourly laws.

President Benson’s Address to the Fall 2011 Rackham Orientation

Dean Weiss, thank you for that kind introduction. Good morning everyone! My name is Michael Benson and I am a fifth year PhD candidate studying radar remote sensing in the University’s Radiation Laboratory. It wasn’t too long ago that I was sitting out there feeling a little overwhelmed. Its natural and it will pass.

As the president of the Rackham student body I have the special joy and privilege of welcoming you on behalf of the thousands of current students to the Maize and Blue, to the University of Michigan, to tradition, to community, and specifically to Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Welcome.

Today, you start a new adventure; an adventure that will include hard work, new friends, expanding the frontiers of human knowledge, and earning a masters and/or a PhD along the way. The work required will often be exciting and challenging but at times might be tedious or boring. Don’t loose hope in these dark times! You have already achieved a great deal just by being here, and its clear that the faculty think that you have what it takes to succeed. So, I’m going to offer a few pointers.

Over the course of the next few years, there will always be more work, it’s a certainty of graduate school. However, you shouldn’t let the work consume you … entirely. The university and the surrounding communities are great places to live and offer countless activities and opportunities to those that seek them out. So, seek them out! In fact, there are over 1,200 student organizations in the university alone; many of these cater to graduate students. From a sailing club to countless club hockey teams, to a LGBTQ cultural group, to your student government, there’s an extracurricular opportunity for
everyone. My best single piece of advice to you is this: work hard, it’s why you’re here. But make time to play and avail yourself of the opportunities as they come along. It will help keep you grounded and sane.

Your Rackham Student Government is but one of many resources available to you here. We serve as a conduit between the student body and the Graduate School, the University administration, the state legislature, and even the federal government. We work on your behalf to make your time in Michigan the best it can be. If you see something in your program or in the University as a whole that you want to change, let us know, we’re here to help! The same holds true for laws and policies in Michigan and the US. We are a founding member of the SAGE coalition and we work tirelessly to lobby state and federal decision makers on behalf of graduate and professional students.

For the technologically minded in the audience, your student government is online and on the social media circuit. Check out our website at rsg.umich.edu and if you’re feeling adventurous, follow us on twitter or like us on Facebook. I’ll let you in on a little secret. We’ve been collecting cool gifts from around Ann Arbor and were going to start picking a Facebook liker or a twitter follower each week to give a gift to. The rest of the student body doesn’t know this yet so…. If you follow us or like us by next Tuesday, there is a very good chance that one of you might be our first winners! Fundamentally, we want to hear from you, if you have an issue or concern, please let us know. We’re here to help!

In addition to our advocacy work, we also host a number of social events to help you mingle with students from across Rackham. In fact, were hosting an event tonight!

I invite you all to attend our Welcome picnic this evening at 5pm in Island Drive Park. We’re going to have live music, plenty of food, a moon bounce for big and little kids, volleyball, tug-of-war, and much more. This year we’re going to have a shuttle bus running from the front of this building to the picnic and back, so there really isn’t an excuse not to go! I hope to see you there.
Before I introduce our next speaker, I’d like to encourage you to stop by EACH and EVERY booth upstairs at the activity fair, especially the RSG both. We’re always looking for new faces to get involved, to meet new people, and to help make a difference on campus and across the nation. We have lots of candy for you too.

Finally, I’d like to thank you again for listening to me today. I know that you’re getting a lot of information in a relatively short period of time and you’re bound to be a little overwhelmed. Don’t worry it’s natural. Now, if you only remember one thing from my talk today, I hope it’s that every graduate student should find a balance between their academic work, a social life, and everything else; it’s possible you just have to make an active commitment to achieve this balance.

Our next speaker is a graduate of Dartmouth College and the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Hanlon has been a member of the Michigan faculty since 1986 in the department of mathematics and has contributed to our community in various administrative positions over the past decade, including service as the associate Dean for planning and finance in the college of literature science and the arts and most recently as the vice provost for academic and budgetary affairs. Last summer, Dr. Hanlon assumed the position of Provost. As he is a professor of mathematics, I’ll note that today is his lucky 429th day on the job. In this capacity, he oversees the university’s academic mission as well as our financial management.

It is my privilege to introduce the Donald J. Lewis Professor of Mathematics, our Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Philip J. Hanlon.