Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: February 12, 2013
Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. February 5, 2012* (p. 2)

IV. Public Hearing on Resolution W-13-01

V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Kaitlin
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Phil

VI. Events Director Report

VII. Second Reading: Resolution to Create a Joint Committee on Graduate &
     Professional Student Governance * (p. 12)

VIII. RSG Branding – Seal and Logo* (p. 16)

IX. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary* (p. 6)
   c. COSAC* (p. 8)
   d. Elections
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
   g. GPC* (10)

X. Campus Safety Discussion
   a. Building Accessibility
   b. After Hours Transportation
   c. Personal Safety
   d. Graduate Student Programs

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
a. CALL TO ORDER: 7:33pm

b. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Alex Toulouse, David Barton, Dan Trubman, Phil Saccone, Chris Tom, Alex Gutierrez, Michael Lang, Ryan Roberts, Yiting Zhang, Ryne Peterson, Dan Trubman, Pete McGrath, Janakiraman Balachadran, Matt Filter, Anna Belak, John Forrest, Evan Arthur, Eugene Daneshvar

c. Absent:

d. Excused: Vanessa Cruz,

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Moved by Chris and seconded by Matt Filter. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 1/29/13

a. Moved by Kaitlin and seconded by Phil. Approved unanimously.

IV. COMMUNITY INPUT

a. Ryan Moody, Divestment from Fossil Fuels: financial records from the U via FOIA showed some of the U’s past investments. Ryan and his group believe investing in fossil fuels is unsustainable given the amount of CO2 released into the environment via burning of these fuels. U’s portfolio of investment includes over $900 million in investment in unsustainable companies and practices. 5% of total US University endowment investments in fossil fuels is just UM. UM supports around 1/3 of remaining CO2 budget. Pete asks questions about the stock portfolio and how divestment would affect our portfolio. Ryan says that there wouldn’t be too much risk in divesting and then reinvesting in sustainable companies. Ryan Roberts asks about how the U divesting would affect the company’s interest in hiring UM engineers. Motion by Phil to extend time by 5 minutes for discussion and seconded by David. Dan asks what Ryan would like us to do. Ryan says that he would like us to pass a student government resolution in favor of divestment as they attempt to address this issue from all sides. Eugene offers some advice regarding this issue given that he has been on campus for a long time and has some background in the history of this issue.

V. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Michael Benson. Regular guest speakers will start coming in next week so make sure to bring and use your nametags. Michael is in the process of
meeting with all of the graduate and professional student leaders on campus. Good work Phil on the budgets. Thanks to Yiting, Lauren and Ryan for help at ice skating. 320 people over the course of 3 hours. Don’t forget that as a rep you are required to help out with at least two events each semester. REB is meeting tomorrow and Michael will be attending.

b. **Vice President Kaitlin Flynn.** Approval of slate of committee chairs by Kaitlin and seconded by Ryan. Approved with two abstentions. The newsletter went out last week and will go out biweekly from here on out. Please let Kaitlin know if you have anything you wish to be included. Committee chairs, please continue to respond to budget request and event director’s emails. Don’t forget part of being on RSG is to attend at least one committee meeting—I know we could use more help in Student Life, for instance. We decided not to go through with the Grad Academic Conference given it’s scheduled much sooner than last year, so we would not have adequate time to contribute appropriately. Did anyone have any visitors at their office hours this week? A few members say yes.

c. **Treasurer Phil Saccone.** $13,243 in the account, SOAS has still not deposited our student fees into our account. Budgetary committee and budget will be discussed further down on the agenda.

VI. **Event’s Director Report**
   a. After budget is approved, we’ll be approving dates and ensuring conflicts do not happen between each event. Don’t forget to fill out the post-event form after you have events.

VII. **Winter 2013 Budget**
   a. A few amendments to the budget as presented in the minutes. Phil amends the budgetary committee budget to change student group funding levels from $6,500 to $6,000 (it was previously $6,000). Pete makes a motion to add $900 to the COSAC budget for line items as described by Pete for various service events and this motion is seconded by Chris. It’s approved with 5 abstentions. Ice skating event was ~$700. Michael adds a bowling event to the student life budget. $1005 needs to be added for this event for a total addition of $1,705 to the student life budget. Phil says that in Winter 2012 we budgeted $1000 for the bowling event. Michael explains that the lack of pizza is due to Rackham’s budget being lowered. Moved by Ryan and seconded by Pete for the bowling event which includes bowling lanes, shoes and soda. Approved with 3 abstentions. Discussion ensues about a variety of budgetary issues. Kaitlin asks about the Red Wings games. Michael explains the history and the prior issues with Quack media. Chris motions to call to question, vote to call to question fails. Kaitlin has some things to say regarding the 5K. Ram motions to increase the elections committee budget to $500 for voting incentives and this is seconded by John. Ryan mentions that the best way to increase turnout is to have a competitive election and we should be focusing our efforts on getting competitive candidates. By a vote of 5-6-8 the motion fails. Motion by Matt Filter to increase the student group funding level to
$6,500, seconded by Kaitlin. Kaitlin asks if we used all of our allocated student group budget last semester and Phil says no. Lots of discussion ensues about how to best use student group funds. Call to question on the student budget increase 10-3-5 the motion passes. Overall budget approval vote: roll call vote: 17-3-1 the budget passes.

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academics: Chris goes over the minutes. AAC will be initiating the first graduate student survey of the year and we ask that committee chairs come up with 5 questions related to their committee that we could ask the student body. Minutes approved.
   b. Budgetary: Met in person just before the meeting this week. Minutes will be approved next week.
   c. COSAC: COSAC just met right before the meeting as well and was sparsely attended. Meetings will be at 6:30 before the board meeting every other week. We already heard their goals/events: working with Focus HOPE on the 16th. Thinking about changing the committee’s name as well. Minutes also will be there next week.
   d. Elections: will be approving our election dates next week, CSG just approved March 27 and 28 for their events.
   e. Legislative Affairs: Motion by John and seconded by Phil to approve and receive the LAC minutes, approved unanimously. A lot going on, leasing ordinance could be coming up soon.
   f. Student Life: grad student organization fair and student group organization are both being worked on. Also working on a science Olympiad type event plus basketball. Valentine’s day event with stoplight theme at Blue lep from 9-11pm. Motion to approve the minutes by Ryan and seconded by Kaitlin. Approved with two abstentions.
   g. GPC:

IX. First Reading: Resolution to Create a Joint Committee on Graduate and Professional Student Governance
   a. First reading of this resolution, initial motion by Kaitlin and seconded by Pete. Change line 47 in the resolution to reflect the first meeting time. Editorial changes to the font of the last resolved clause. The first reading is now closed.

X. Campus Safety Discussion—moved to next week. Will be joined in 3 weeks by a few guest speakers regarding these issues.
   a. Building Accessibility
   b. After Hours Transportation
   c. Personal Safety
   d. Graduate Student Programs

XI. Open Discussion- Science fair this Saturday, talk to Michael about it afterwards. 9-11pm valentines day event next Tuesday. Eugene’s constituent feels like he was discriminated by a business student faculty because he does not have the prerequisites.

XII. Adjournment- Motion by Pete and seconded by Ryan, adjourned at 8:57pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 06:39pm
   a. Present: Representatives Dan Trubman, Yiting Zhang, Matt Filter, Michael Benson (President) Phil Saccone (Treasurer)
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Steven Apo

II. CHAIR’S REPORT Welcome everyone.

III. Funding requests
   • IWAP: Michael asked if they were a registered organization with Rackham. After checking it could not be verified. Phil noted that the application and budget were meticulous. It is also clear that the participants would be mostly Rackham graduate students. Members noted that the amount requested was primarily for services related to the speaker. Matt and Dan mentioned that budget numbers did not add up. The gap in their budget is $360—they asked for $500. Need to check if member of a student organization If not will fund at $0 and encourage them to register. Otherwise we will fund at $360 Michael wanted to fund with the stipulation that they advertise more. The motion to fund at $360 with the stipulation that they do more to advertising was motioned by Michael and seconded by Matt. Motion was approved 4-0-1.

   • Kapiotonez: Matt noted that there was only one graduate student in the organization. Phil pointed out that the budget numbers didn’t make any sense. Michael mentioned that they would be charging admission to the event at East Hall but did not seem to be using any of it to fund the event. Matt pointed out that the other event was in Cambridge, Mass and would not be serving the Michigan community. Motion was made by Matt not to appropriate funds, seconded by Dan. Motion was approved NOT to fund 0-5-0.

   • Muslim Graduate Student Association (MGSA): It was noted that the organization has a number of graduate student members. It was clear that the organization was within the funding guidelines of RSG. Phil said the budget seemed a bit high for the cost of cupcakes and frosting. The committee agreed. A motion was made to approve funding for $140 by Michael and seconded by Matt. The motion to approve funding was approved 5-0-0.
• **SWAIRS:** Phil in general thought the application was thorough and represented the variety of requests RSG should fund. Dan noted that the amount of money for honorarium seemed high considering the speakers were all from U of M. Matt agreed—it also didn’t make sense that they were requesting money for lodging. Michael pointed out that they would probably be getting money from other places as well. Matt asked how much money was budgeted for disbursement to student groups. Phil said $6500 --up $500 from the year before. A question was raised in the context of whether we should/could consider funding requests relative to other requests that may come based on merit etc. Michael answered that public funds, cannot be considered in this manner, and in fact it is against the law to do so. We have to find on a first come first serve basis and evaluate each application on its merit alone. Dan said we should follow up with these people and ask what the money is for. The motion to table the request to fund was made by Dan and seconded by matt. We will contact this organization for clarification. **The motion carried 5-0-0**

• **FEMMES:** Phil though the cause was generally worth funding as it seemed to meet our guidelines for support. Dan mentioned that the food cost seemed a little high. Matt agreed and asked who exactly we were feeding at the event (there would be graduate student volunteers, faculty and children). Michael thought these were valid points and mentioned that we had funded things like this in the past if applicants could demonstrate that food was an essential to the success of the event. It was unclear where all their funding sources came from. The committee wanted clarification on that. Michael wanted to know what their current funding status was is and how much of the event they can fund on their own right now. Michael suggested that we invite them to meet with the committee in some fashion to address these concern before we consider funding. A motion was made by Matt to table the decision to fund until we could meet with them, it was seconded by Michael. **The motion was approved 4-0-1.**

• **Open discussion:** The Supreme Court case that mentioned public funding guidelines was discussed.

• **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn was made by Dan and seconded by Yiting. The motion carried 4-0-1. We adjourned at 7:07pm
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:37
   a. Present: Michael Lang, Pete McGrath, Rahul Singh; halfway through meeting, Phillip Saccone, Michael Benson
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Lauren Knapp

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, Introductions: Brief introduction of group members, expectations for the committee, and possible goals for semester.

III. Report from last year:
Rahul notes highlights from last year:
   • Eli and others were involved with Habitat for Humanity in conjunction with the business school
   • Great Lakes Alliance for a beach clean-up when it warms up—was quite successful last year
   • Greening of Detroit, which may just be a fall thing. We had a good turnout and people, overall, enjoyed it. Greening of Detroit is a nonprofit that promotes conservation. Planted trees when they showed up. Took a lot of planning ahead of time—it is a sought-after group.
     o people wanted to do it more often—Monthly
   Additionally mentioned: Women in engineering does a mentoring program we may want to investigate.

IV. Goals/Ideas for the semester:
   • Wolverine Express
   • Ronald McDonald house
   • Forsythe Science Fair
   • Food Gatherers/Soup Kitchen maybe over the winter. Lang and Rahulsingh both note that it is hard to schedule and they want a commitment on a monthly basis.
   • Mentoring
   • Partnership with Focus: HOPE, an Detroit based organization that provides job training and neighborhood outreach. Pete has already booked them for Feb. 16th for two things: (1) a neighborhood cleanup and/or (2) boxing food to give out to seniors.
V. Tasks from the Board:
- Bus trips to Detroit (van trips?), combine with COSAC event?
- Bar night combined with COSAC event
- More volunteer projects for COSAC

Change of committee name and generation of a committee mission statement:
Issue arises, broached by Pete, Seconded by Michael that “COSAC” as a name might
not reflect the goals and needs of the committee toward the greater RSG. Names are
suggested. Additionally, we need a mission statement that reflects a framework within
which the group can work. We plan on a name change and mission statement for next
week.

VI. Homework:
1. Brainstorm A Mission statement
2. Brainstorm a new name for the committee

We additionally need to recruit additional non-board members. We plan on meeting
weekly until an undecided time on Tuesdays in West Hall on the Second floor of the
Rackham Building second floor south alcove.

VII. Election of committee chair:
We vote for Pete for committee chair. Rahul makes a motion to elect, Michael seconds
it, voted unanimously.

VIII. Agreement of meeting time:
The committee unanimously decides to meet weekly at 6:30PM in the current location,
before RSG board meeting.

IX. Creation of budget:
The committee decides to make a motion to add 900 for a budget and will make a
motion at tonight’s meeting for the following:
- 600 for a bus
- 200 for food throughout the year
- 100 for tools, et cetera throughout the year

X. Closing remarks:
None
Motion to adjourn by Michael, seconded by Michael. No objections. Adjourned at
7:26PM.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:10pm
   a. Present: Representatives Ryan Roberts and Lauren Knapp (Chair)
   b. Absent: Chris Tom, others?
   c. Excused: Pete McGrath

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Event Date
   - We discussed any Friday or Saturday in April might work. The availability for which the venue can be reserved and other conflicting events in April will help us narrow it down from there.
   - Possible dates include (Friday or Saturday in April): April 5-6th, April 12-13th, April 19-20th, April 26-27th

Location
   - Cavern
   - Millenium club
   - Circus?

Expected attendance
   - Expected people: 400-500?
   - We'll need to set an attendance cap to ensure we stay under budget and can fit enough people in venue.
   - Potentially might require people to pay $3-5 dollars to get a ticket a month in advance at office. Doing so creates an RSVP list in a way so we can ensure that attendance doesn't get out of control.
   - 400 people? Attendance cap to ensure we come under budget etc.
   - Max attendance will be determined by location maximum whereas target # people could be a 100 people under that

Budget: big ticket items
- Renting the venue:
- DJ (comes with the venue? Someone volunteer from graduate student body?)
- Catering: finger food but we’re expecting to underprovide
- Bar person:
- Advertising:

**Theme**

- Want it to be elegant, not tacky
- Black and White? - required formal dress in these colors

**Miscellaneous**

- We want to get feedback from the students, so Ryan Roberts will send out a google survey to the graduate student body over the weekend:
  - 1. Location?
  - 2. Date?
  - 3. Willing to pay a small cover?
  - 4. Theme? (write in box)
  - 5. Know of any DJs?

- Outreach to other schools? Ryan will ask Michael what he thinks.
- Engineering Council? - all undergrads might be an issue
- Co-sponsor with Rackham potentially

**IV. OPEN DISCUSSION**

**V. ADJOURNMENT** at 5:42pm.
A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Numerous student governments exist on the University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor Campus; AND

WHEREAS, All graduate students, regardless of their school of enrollment are represented by both a Central Student Government (CSG), and a school specific government; AND

WHEREAS, All graduate students pay $7.19 to the central student government and $1.50 to their school’s student government during each term of enrollment¹; AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government’s leadership is traditionally dominated by undergraduate students²; AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government spends the vast majority of its time focusing on issues relating to undergraduate students²; AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government spends the vast amount of its budget on events and programs that target undergraduate students³; AND

WHEREAS, Members of the Rackham Graduate School, the Law School, and the School of Public Health student bodies voted during the fall 2012 academic term to look into creating a graduate and professional student government, separate from the Central Student Government; AND

WHEREAS, 9.5% of Rackham students voted in the Fall 2012 election⁴; AND

WHEREAS, 69% of those Rackham Students voted in favor of pursuing a separate graduate and professional student government⁴; AND

¹ http://www.ro.umich.edu/tuition/tuition-fees.php
² http://csg.umich.edu/about/history & CSG / MSA Meeting Minutes
³ CSG / MSA approved budgets and funding committee allocations 2007 - present
⁴ RSG Fall 2012 Election Results, http://rsg.umich.edu/fall-2012-election-results
WHEREAS, Significant majorities in both the University’s School of Public Health and Law School student bodies voted to pursue a separate graduate and professional student government; AND

WHEREAS, A new constitution will need to be drafted and approved by the graduate student bodies at the University of Michigan before any separation from CSG can take place; AND

WHEREAS, This constitution should be written in an open and fair manner with input from each graduate constituency; NOW ON BEHALF OF THE

STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT

RESOLVED, That a joint committee on graduate student government (J-COM) be created; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the President of the Rackham Student Government will appoint members of the graduate student body to serve as voting members of the J-COM ; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to the presidents of each of the University’s professional student governments with the urging that they approve a similar resolution and appoint members of their respective student bodies to serve as voting members on the J-COM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that no graduate student body shall appoint more than 5 voting members to the J-COM at any given time; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Presidents of the Graduate and Professional Student Bodies (CHAIRS) may appoint any number of alternates to the J-COM, so long as said alternates are currently enrolled students in their school; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall hold its first meeting no later than February 6, 2013; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the presidents of the graduate and professional student bodies shall serve as co-chairs of the J-COM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall be empowered to define and approve additional rules and regulations for its operation so long as they do not conflict with the provisions of the initial operating manual contained within this resolution; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that such rules and regulations may be voided by a 2/3rds majority vote of the CHAIRS, or simple majority votes by at least two graduate and professional student legislatures; AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall consult with the graduate and professional student body as it develops a Constitution for the Graduate and Professional Student Body of the University of Michigan; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall report regularly to the legislatures of the graduate and professional student governments on its progress; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM’s initial operating manual shall be defined as follows:

A. Composition. The J-COM shall be composed of a minimum of no less than three (3) members of each of the graduate and professional student bodies at the University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor Campus. Any member of the Student Body may join the J-COM upon an appointment of their school’s student body president and shall have voting rights, subject to the conditions outlined in subsection C.

B. Chair. The Presidents of the graduate and professional student bodies shall serve as co-chairs of the J-COM and shall share administrative responsibility for its timely operations. The co-chairs may appoint such other officers of the committee as they deem appropriate. The co-chairs will select from amongst themselves a president to chair each J-Com meeting. The same president should not serve as chair for consecutive meetings.

B. Quorum. A quorum shall exist when half plus one of the committee members are present as determined by the co-chairs.

C. Voting Rights. All appointed members of the J-COM shall be entitled to a vote.

D. Committee Operations. The J-COM shall meet on an as needed basis, at least bi-weekly through the Winter semester. Votes to approve recommendations and to send a final recommendation package to the graduate and professional student body must be taken in person with a quorum present. Committee discussions may take place electronically so as to allow for maximum participation including representatives and students at-large that are not in the Ann Arbor area. All committee discussions shall be published electronically upon approval by the committee for review by the public at large.

E. Charge. The J-COM shall draft a constitution for a graduate student government that will be separate from the Central Student Government. The J-COM will consult with the elected representatives of each graduate and professional student government as well as host a minimum of two town hall style events for members of the graduate and professional student bodies to offer their input and advice.
F. Reports. The J-COM will submit regular reports to the legislatures of the graduate and professional student governments on its progress and will seek feedback from the same. **AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,**

that the committee shall be empowered to draft and submit a question for uniform submission to the graduate and professional student body to the March 2013 graduate student body election without requiring additional approval by the Board.

**AUTHORS**

Peter McGrath  
Representative, Division 3

Kaitlin Flynn  
Vice President, Graduate Student Body

**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.

______________________________  
Kaitlin Flynn  
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 _____, 2013.

______________________________  
Michael L. Benson  
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body
RSG Seals