Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: March 26, 2013
Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March 19, 2013* (p. 2)

IV. Guest Speaker / Discussion (Conflict of Interest Policy)
   a. John Godfrey, Assistant Dean

V. Guest Speaker / Discussion *** (Student Safety)
   a. Holly Rider-Milkovich, Director, SAPAC
   b. Benjamin Rosebrock, Beyond the Diag Program Manager
   c. Matt Lonnerstater, Beyond the Diag Program Assistant

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

VII. Director Reports
   a. Election Director, Dan Trubman
   b. Events Director, Ryan Roberts

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs* (p. 5)     e. Legislative Affairs* (p. 15)
   b. Budgetary* (pgs. 7, 10)      f. Student Life* (p. 17)
   c. COSAC                        g. Grad. Gala
   d. Elections                   h. J-COM

IX. S.B. Resolution: W-13-03: REGARDING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR (p. 18)

X. S.B. Resolution: W-13-05: RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT (p. 20)

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**: 7:34pm

b. **Present**: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Dan Trubman, Ryan Roberts, Ryne Peterson, Pete McGrath, David Barton, Anna Belak, Chris Tom, Evan Arthur, Lauren Knapp, Phil Saccone, Janakiraman Balachandran, Yiting Zhang, John Forrest, Matt Filter

c. **Absent:**

d. **Excused**: Eugene Daneshvar, Michael Lang, Alex Gutierrez,

II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**


III. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES, 3/12/13**

   a. Moved by Chris and seconded by Ryne. Changes to attendance. Approved with two abstentions.

IV. **PUBLIC HEARING: SENSE OF THE BOARD W-13-01**

   a. Regarding the academic calendar for the 2015-2016 year. A student says that he “always found it odd” that we get a large chunk of the year off (winter break) but don’t get time off where we might actually need it, like fall break. Michael mentions that the execs also got an email from a graduate student parent expressing concerns about the UM and AAPS Spring Breaks being off from each other. This makes it difficult for graduate student parents to find babysitting or spend time with their children.

V. **GUEST SPEAKER: LOUIS MIRANTE, CO-CHAIR, BUILDING A BETTER MICHIGAN**

   a. Louis mentions that the BBM has been working for 2 years with the Division of Student Affairs to poll hundreds of students regarding the condition of the unions and the recreational facilities. They and the VP of student affairs (E. Royster Harper) feel that they are very close to getting the Reagents to consider a variety of proposals. Chris asks about how BBM proposes to pay for this. Louis responds that it would probably be a combination of $65 per student as well as taking out a Bond for the U. Currently it would cost $80 million just to keep all of the buildings prepared for the future. The number could go to $550 million—this would be a complete overhaul. Louis estimates it would likely cost somewhere in the middle of this range. Michael Lang asks about the proposals for each building.
Louis mentions that their proposal would begin with the Union and the CCRB, starting in 2015.

VI. SENSE OF THE BOARD RESOLUTION W-13-03: *Building a Better Michigan Campaign*

   a. Moved by Phil and seconded by Chris. John points out a few grammatical errors in the text provided by the BBM campaign. John moves these changes. Seconded by Ryan. The board asks a variety of questions of Louis including budgetary and fee questions. Michael Lang says that he would support an initiative to make these gyms far more ‘green’ and energy efficient than they currently are. Generally many members of the board are supportive but are hesitant to increase student fees for their constituents. Michael Benson introduces a proposed amendment that adds that in order to have the graduate student body support a majority vote of graduate students would need to be in support of increasing the student fees. This is moved by Chris and seconded by John. Kaitlin objects because it’s highly likely graduate students are going to vote against a fee increase so why include this caveat in the support resolution. Matt speaks in favor of the resolution because UM already has incredibly high tuition rates and by not polling the students on this it’s doing a disservice. Ryne suggests that this be a majority vote based on the amount of graduate students that vote during a regularly scheduled election, motion by Ryne and seconded by Chris. It’s approved. Back to the normal amendment from Michael 8-4-2 the motion is approved. Matt asks if he can hear more about the peer schools BBM has visited and their fees. Louis responds that most students pay ~$350/semester for this kind of work. Approved 11-2-1.

VII. Sense of the Board Resolution: W-13-01: Regarding the Academic Calendar for AY16 (*Representatives Filter, Peterson, and Tom*)

   a. Matt F motions to open this resolution for discussion and it’s seconded by Chris. There are three options for how we might handle the issue of Fall Break in 2015. There is much discussion on how we could change the calendar. Chris asks about Master’s students and their workload. Matt F mentions that the fall break is incredibly important for the Master’s students who are taking many classes and have a lot of obligations. Motion by Matt F to postpone discussion of this until next week, seconded by Dan, and it’s approved.

VIII. OFFICER REPORTS

   a. **President Michael Benson.** Texas A&M will be releasing their report that looked at student interactions with their graduate student governments (including UM respondents). 500-600 students were reached in last week’s events, covering about 5% of the student body. Next week we will have a variety of visitors including those from the Student Safety Workgroup, Beyond the Diag and John Godfrey.

   b. **Vice President Kaitlin Flynn.** Election update: elections are coming up soon, the email announcement to solicit for candidates, elections on March 27, 28, 29.
c. **Treasurer Phil Saccone.** $21,193 in the account—finally got our fees deposited.

IX. **Director Report**
   a. **Elections Director, Dan Trubman:** No candidates have submitted information thus far.
   
   b. **Events Director, Ryan Roberts:** Full steam ahead with the gala!

X. **Committee Updates**
   a. **Academics:** Town hall dates have been set, 4/11 for central campus, 4/22 for north campus. A resolution will be going into first readings next week.
   b. **Budgetary:** Lots of business to get through tonight, many groups applying for funding.
   c. **COSAC:**
   d. **Elections:** Elections coming up, get your friends to run.
   e. **Legislative Affairs:**
   f. **Student Life:** Many student life updates, look for the minutes next week. Moving towards figuring out how to
   g. **GPC:** The execs made a reservation for the Michigan Union Ballroom on 4/20 for the gala.
   h. **JCOM:** Not met.

XI. **FOCUS:Hope Detroit Partnership – Event Proposal**
   a. This event would be great but it was planned too late and it’s the general sense of many members of the board that this is a great event but there are not any reps who can run the event. Michael Lang says that it’s a great event and he would like to keep pursuing the goal of 1000 hours of community service. Motion by Kaitlin not to hold the event and seconded by Phil. It’s approved with four abstentions.

XII. **Open Discussion:**
   a. Need more ideas for COSAC events. Motion by Dan and seconded by Phil to add Alex Toulouse to SAGE. Approved with three abstentions. Chris mentions that there has been work in the committee aiming at requiring students to fill out their evaluations on GSI performance. Matt F brings up the issue of library fines.

XIII. **Adjournment:** Motion by Chris and seconded by Ryan. Adjourned at 8:50pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:40pm

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Chair Chris Tom, Michael Benson, Phil Saccone, Janakiraman Balachandran, Alex Gutierrez, Kaitlin Flynn, Anna Belak, Eugene Daneshvar

Present: Chair Chris Tom, Alex Gutierrez, Eugene Daneshvar, Michael Benson, Phil Saccone,

Excused: Kaitlin Flynn

III. CURRENT INITIATIVES & TASKS

a. Resolution Week!
   i. Eliminating Fall break
      1. Janet asked us to discuss/ weigh in on this. Discussion ensues. Masters students would potentially be affected, as would GSIs. Shortened fall break. A sense-of-the-board resolution will be authored, and the potential options will be presented. Michael drafting, Ryne, MP, CT authoring.

   ii. Resolution for Class Bank System
      Make it so that PhD candidates can take upper-level classes that are offered sporadically
      If you want to take more than two classes in a semester, get advisors signature.
      Chris will send rough draft out on Saturday, first reads next week

   iii. Resolution to Amend the Emergency Fund Requirements
      • Allow other individuals besides program/department head to write the required letter for emergency fund. Avoid privacy problems.
      • Chris will send off to Michael on Saturday. Otherwise will hold off for first reads for later.

   iv. Resolution to Require Evaluations Before Receiving Grades
      • Help GSIs and professors get meaningful feedback from grads/undergrads, which will either serve to enhance teaching abilities or goes towards tenure/salary evaluations.
      • Michael will draft, Chris and Michael will author
v. Resolution to Amend the Non-Discrimination Policy of the University (part 2)
   1. Chris will send off revised resolution to Phil, and send off the link to the Standard Practice guide to AAC.

b. Ongoing projects updates
   i. SACUA Joint AAC Committee
   ii. GSBoR -
   iii. Academic discrimination
   iv. Town Hall – dates by end of the week
   v. Career Services/Consulting workshop
   vi. Graduate student survey

IV.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION
   a.

VI. ACTION ITEMS
   a. [Phil] Email Paula and CC events director
   b. [Michael] Set up meeting with Janet for GSBOR
   c. [Chris] Set up dropbox
   d. [Everyone] Send Chris 5 survey questions for next meeting
   e. [Kaitlin] Send other committee chairs notice to gather 5 survey questions
   f. [Kaitlin] Add to Gazette a question about emergency fund policy
   g. [Michael] Invite CRLT professor to a meeting
   h. [Eugene] Write draft of pamphlet regarding basics of IP for graduate students to present to committee

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 7:32p

VIII. APPENDIX
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BUDGETARY COMMITTEE
March 12, 2013
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:49PM

a. Present: Representatives Matt Filter, Ryne Peterson, Yiting Zhang, President Benson, Vice President Flynn, Treasurer Saccone

b. Absent:

c. Late: Dan Trubman

d. Excused:

Electronic Meeting:

Phil:
Please find attached a funding request for the Committee's consideration. This will be our first meeting conducted electronically. I am opening debate on this matter immediately, and debate will close 5 days from now, Saturday February 23rd at 6p. Remember, everyone is required to participate unless you are excused by the Chair.

In general, I am supportive of the request; strong educational upside, involves mostly graduate students, etc. I am slightly hesitant to pay for items that will be used by graduate students from another university (see event supplies). However, that is a very small fraction of the budget. I guess I would want to know more about some of these other funding mechanisms-- did they take advantage of all they could from the other sources?

Dan:
I agree that this looks like a great event and just wanted to share 2 notes that might alleviate concerns. Firstly, the group has done a great job ensuring that students outside the Ford school will be participating. Secondly, none of the students will be receiving credit for this program.

Matt:
I agree. I support full funding.

Yiting Zhang
This funding request meets our majority criteria. I will support it.

Phil:
I spoke with Haven about their other funding sources, and although it is not very clear in
the application (it looks like IPSA was awarded exactly the amount requested) the Ford School actually funded half of IPSAs total request for this year-- which is half of what the total award was last year. Again, the event seems outstanding and I think RSG should stand behind it. I am on board to fund up to the full amount.

Debate is schedule to close tomorrow night. If anyone has anything else to contribute please do so as soon as possible. If there's nothing else, can someone make a motion?

Dan
I'll make a motion for the full amount.

Yiting
Second.

Michael
I appreciate the discussion that has taken place thus far on this funding request. With that said and given the scope of the request as well as the dollar amount requested from RSG, I would ask that we meet in person next week to discuss this request, ideally with a representative from the DPC.

Phil: This is an objection to the motion we will move to debate in person at our next meeting.

I. CHAIR’S REPORT
Introductory remarks
The Chair welcomes Ryne to the committee
In person meeting:

DPC—It’s a lot of money. It seems like the electronic debate did not result in much due diligence. Therefore I think it is necessary that people meet in person. Matt filter said he was not a member of DPC but would be participating in the event.

Phil: not necessary to have the booklets. This is a good cause and generally the type of event that should be supported. But, perhaps we should look to see if everything is really necessary.

Kaitlin: too much money for only 20 graduate students. Doubts that there will be 200 attendees.

Matt Filter says on average there are no less than 100 at the event.

Michael: Need some supply costs

Phil: Supply costs only comes to 140, if we just fund the UM students.

Yiting: Supplies seem too much. People can bring the own pens, pencils etc.
Kaitlin makes a motion to support at $500 level, seconded by Ryne.

Michael makes a motion to support at $700 seconded by Matt.

Phil says we will vote on each value in decrements of $100 from $700. The funding amount that receives the most votes will be appropriated.

Vote on $700

Yes: Michael, Phil, Ryne, Matt

Opposed: Yiting, Kaitlin.

Abstentions: 0

Motion carries to support at $700 level

Stipulation: must let us know who the speaker are and must advertise in the gazette.

II. AWIS

Kaitlin member

Phil Notes: Meets criteria—Keynote speaker, and networking event for graduate professional students. They advertise well. 2.50 per attendee of graduate school $75.

Matt states $100 seems reasonable.

Michael makes a motion to support at $100, seconded by Yiting.

Yes: Phil, Ryne, Matt, Yiting, Kaitlin and Michael

No: 0

III. Brains

Approx. 24 grad students doing community service. Nice program but very pricey. Phil mentions this event is similar to FEMMES and we should try to be consistent. Committee still has questions and would like to contact organizers. Application is tabled.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION (none)

V. ADJOURNMENT 9:21PM.
CALL TO ORDER: 8:51P

a. Present: Representatives Matt Filter, Ryne Peterson, Yiting Zhang, Dan Trubman, President Benson, Vice President Flynn, Treasurer Saccone

b. Absent:

c. Late:

d. Excused:

I. BrainsRULE

Electronic Communication:

From Phil:

Dear BC,

I would like to re-open the debate on funding BrainsRule electronically. After reviewing their application, comparing it to the one last year, and reviewing the BC minutes from Winter 2012, I think this is a relatively easy matter. The application isn't perfect, but I haven't found anything that looks suspicious. Additionally, we have received six applications since Monday that need review and I believe our time is better spent on new business.

First, this application is almost identical to the one they sent in last year except this year they are requesting less money; the BC approved $700 for the event last year and they requested $1500. (They requested more in Winter 2012 because one of their sponsors pulled out at the last minute.) We approved funding for an analogous event hosted by FEMMES earlier this semester in the amount of $400 and almost all of that money was going to feed the kids. BrainsRule is asking for $630 and the major expense is room rental. There are 34 graduate students participating in the event.

I also spoke with Joshua Haight who is the author of the application. He clarified that the $7000 he wrote under "yearly budget" actually corresponds to how much they anticipate needing. Josh was also forth coming in telling me that they just received $800 in support from the Department of Psychiatry. Currently they have $5100 in hand (that includes MSA) and have around $6300 in projected expenses.
I suggest the following: we eliminate funding for AV equipment etc. Neuroscience is a huge department— I’m sure they can rummage up the supplies they need. Out of the remaining $515 I could support giving them up to $400; the same amount we gave to FEMMES.

Please take a look over this application again. I will support anyone who finds cause to slow this down and get more information. If not, I would like to close debate on this issue in the next 24 hrs (provided there are no objections).

Lastly, I will be sending out four of the six applications for the Committee to review. We will attempt to hold these deliberations electronically, and to help the process along, I will provide a relatively thorough overview of each request. To keep things organized, I propose that we review one application at a time (I will send around an agenda). If possible, I would like to hold debate on each application for 48hrs. at the end of which there should be a motion and a vote.

I realize that we have held many meetings in person after everyone was told most of them would be held electronically. I will do my best to honor that going forward. However, if we get bogged down we'll need to meet again in person. As soon as I have a chance to review the other two applications, and if things are moving along with the electronic meetings, I’ll send around the last two.

Please let me know if you have any questions or objections. Thank you in advance.

Motion by Matt for $400, seconded by Kaitlin

Objection Ryne:

I still do not think this is adequate. They are saying they need t-shirts which is for the volunteers 60 plus the 20 chaperons would be 80 t-shirts and that 1764...so ts are 22 bucks a piece and that seems high to me. Plus they are saying they will sell t-shirts to get funding if we do not fund them. If they got ts at a reasonable price they wouldn't need our funding. Also, i do not know what the pipe and drape is, maybe for each stand?

Phil: We'll move to discussion in purpose at in-person meeting.

Continuation of BrainsRULE (in-person)

Phil reiterates that we funded an event similar to BrainsRULE (FEMMES). We should strive to be consistent.

Ryne points out that the Tee shirt selling/fundraising aspect is suspicious.

Debate ensues over whether to consider aspects of the budget that do not encompass what RSG is being asked to fund.

Micahael motions to fund at $515, Kaitlin seconds.

Ryne motions to fund $315, seconded by Matt.
$515 Motion fails
Yes: Michael, Kaitlin

$415 Motion passes
Yes: Kaitlin, Yiting, Dan, Matt, Phil, Michael
No: Ryne
Abstain: 0

II. SCOR

Michael: why was application late.
Phil: I elected to waive the requirement. Event seems worthwhile; a similar application has come before the committee before.
Committee debates the merits of funding printing costs.
Kaitlin mentions that she is a member of SCOR and that the previous years event did not have anywhere near 100 people.
Motion is made by Michael to fund at $415. Seconded by Matt.
Yes: Phil, Michael, Ryne, Kaitlin, Dan, Yiting and Matt.
No: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passes for $415

III. Michigan Linguistic Anthropology Graduate Student Organization

Dan comments that he respects the honesty of their application and notes that this event does not seem broadly popular among Rackham graduate students. Phil mentions he spoke with one of the organizers who said they expected 18 graduate students from Michigan and the rest from Univ of Chicago. Kaitlin notes that this is a unique event for us to fund and encouraged some funding. Ryne notes that it is too much money for such a small number of students to benefit.

Motion by Michael to fund at $200 with condition that they advertise in the Gazette. Seconded by Yiting.
Yes: Phil, Michael, Yiting, Matt, Ryne
No: Dan

Abstain: Kaitlin

**Motion passes to fund at $200.**

**IV. GradTONES**

Matt mentions that they put on a quality performance. Discussion commences on cost of room rental. Phil mentions that the RSG budget website should encourage people to hold their events for Rackham at no cost. No one thinks we should fund the sunglasses. Ryne asks if their alleged budget shouldn’t cover everything. Phil explains they did not interpret the question correctly; they meant to indicate how much money they would need to put on all their events. Dan suggests we consider rewording the question. The committee agrees.

Motion by Michael to fund Room ($120), music license ($70), and ($30) flyers specifically. Conditional on advertising in RSG gazette. $200 total. Seconded by Dan.

Yes: Matt, Yiting, Michael, Kaitlin, Dan

No: 0

Abstain: Ryne

Motion passes for $200.

**V. Pakistani Student Association**

Phil noted that this was funded during the previous year. Appears to attract a lot of graduate students. Committee agrees this is an important campus event. Some question exists about how many of these people are actual graduate students.

Matt motions to fund at $700, seconded by Michael.

Committee agrees to decrease by increments of $100 until a majority is reached.

$700

Yes: Matt and Michael

$600:

Yes: Phil, Michael, Matt, Dan, Yiting, Ryne, Kaitlin

No: 0

Abstain: 0

**Motion passes at $600**
VI SPIC MACAY

Kaitlin notes that this performer is a Grammy Winner and is likely to attract a lot of graduate students. Committee notes it is good cultural event with strong support from the Graduate student body.

Motion to fund $650 by Michael, seconded by matt

Yes: Phil, Ryne, Kaitlin, Michael, Dan, Yiting,

No:0

Abstain:0

Motion passes at $650

VII Thai Student Association

Committee had questions about application. Will contact organizers for an in person meeting.

VIII OPEN DISCUSSION (none)

IX ADJOURNMENT 9:39PM.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:38pm
   a. Present: Haven Allen, Michael Benson, Alex Toluse, Michael Lang, Ryne Peterson, David.
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused:

II. CHAIR’S REPORT

SAGE:
Federal
SAGE: Board approved the sage delegation. Everyone will buy their own plane ticket. Getting more money from other people.
Position paper: Alex and Phil—writing paper. Immigration innovation act of 2013 went on to describe the act. Anyone wants to talk to Cindy or to participate in the process contact Phi or Alex.
Look over the Federal budget before we go out to DC.
Washington taking: We are also looking into research funding. Need to find out exactly how much money was appropriated.

Taxation and indebtedness taken up by Texas. Phil found a position paper and will send it around.

Michael met with President Colman. She is very supportive of our efforts at advocacy. Michael proposed that the University figure out a way to underwrite loans for graduate students that do not have Funding. We will look to put something together. Get low subsidized loans for graduate students. Haven suggests that we look into what the development office is doing before we do anything.

State Level:
Will hold town hall forum to get feedback on what RSG is working on for advocacy at the state level. We should bring up no fault insurance issues.
Budget is winding its way through the committee. Working and scheduling on when we will go to Lansing to advocate. We’ll work on recruitment.
Haven spoke to Dudderstat and spoke to him about graduate student retention in the state of Michigan. He brought up that in the 60s and 70s, for stem students, there was money.
that they wouldn’t have to give back if they stayed in the state and worked for the university. Basically, persuading students to stay.

Michael: Found white paper on no fault insurance.

Michael reviewed the agenda from SAGE.
Michael will send Phil leasing forum stuff.
Volunteers for Taxi Committee.

Micahel notes that he continues to get feedback about the election forum. We’ve been asked to do it again.

III. OPEN DISCUSSION

IV. ADJOURNMENT at 8:30pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:15pm

   a. Present: Representatives Ryan Roberts (Chair), Matt Waugh
   b. Absent: Janakiraman Balachandran
   c. Excused: Ryne Peterson

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

   a. Approved

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT

V. March Madness

   a. The ESPN bracket competition has been arranged, and the publicity has been produced.
   b. The publicity has been distributed to the Student Body.
   c. The Engineering Council has cancelled its week of competitions for March Madness; we will no longer be holding our contribution to that week of events.

VI. Additional Event

   a. Seek feedback and develop ideas for a potential additional event in April; consider partnering to help with Gala in substitution for holding another event.

VII. Student Organization Registration in Fall 2013

   a. Options: shared solution (another student government / registration body), unified solution, in-house (independent solution).
   b. Matt Waugh believes either Alex (former Treasurer) or Michael attempted to arrange for an in-house framework in the past. Check with them.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 6:42pm.
A SENSE OF THE BOARD REGARDING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR AY16

2 WHEREAS, the University of Michigan is in the process of defining the academic calendar for the 2015 – 2016 academic year; AND
4 WHEREAS, Labor Day falls on September 7, 2015; AND
WHEREAS, Public schools in the state of Michigan cannot start their academic year until after Labor Day; AND
WHEREAS, the university traditionally provides two days off from classes in mid-October for a Fall Break and two days off from classes in late November for a Thanksgiving holiday recess; AND
10 WHEREAS, the University’s academic semester span 15 weeks, 14 of instruction and 1 of final examinations\(^1\); AND
12 WHEREAS, the University’s academic calendar includes one weekday study day which separates the period of instruction from the final exam week; AND
14 WHEREAS, using the traditional model, the final day of final exams for the 2015 – 2016 academic year will fall on December 23, 2015; AND
16 WHEREAS, many domestic and international graduate students travel to be with family and friends for the final weeks of the calendar year\(^2\); AND
18 WHEREAS, Vice Provost and Rackham Dean Janet Weiss has asked for input on the proposed calendar; NOW THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND ARTICULATED BY ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, IT IS THE SENSE OF THE BOARD THAT IN THEIR NAME, THE FOLLOWING BE
24 RESOLVED, that the University should shorten Fall Break by one day, thus moving the end of the Fall semester to December 22\(^{nd}\), and that the intersession between

\(^1\) [http://ro.umich.edu/calendar](http://ro.umich.edu/calendar)
\(^2\) Conversations with Rackham Students
the fall and winter semesters be extended by one day; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

28 **RESOLVED,** that the University should eliminate the Fall Break, extend the Thanksgiving Recess to include Wednesday November 25, 2015 thus moving the end of the Fall semester to December 22nd, and that the intersession between the Fall and Winter semesters be extended by one day; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

32 **RESOLVED,** that the University is encouraged to form a committee comprising of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff members to review the academic calendar and to make recommendations as to its future modification; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

36 **RESOLVED,** that the university should explore the ramifications of starting its academic year prior to the Labor Day holiday.

**AUTHORS**

Matthew Filter  
Representative, Division 3  
Chairman, Academic Affairs Committee

Chris Tom  
Representative, Division 1

Ryne Peterson  
Representative, Division 3

**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 _____, 2012.

__________________________  
Michael L. Benson  
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body
DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES: ALIGNING THE UNIVERSITY’S INVESTMENTS WITH ITS COMMITMENTS TO SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan is actively committed to environmental sustainability, and climate change is a substantive threat to current and future generations here at the University of Michigan and around the world; AND

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the acidification of oceans, flooding and drought; AND

WHEREAS, scientists from the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine agree that the Earth’s average temperature will increase between 2 - 12 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century given current trends and any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe; AND

WHEREAS, the emissions from the burning of fossil fuels negatively impact human health, with a recent estimate of at least $14 billion in healthcare costs linked to natural disasters caused by climate change; AND

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution, a “fossil fuel company” shall be defined as companies that are primarily involved in the exploration, extraction, production, distribution, and burning of fossil hydrocarbons; AND

WHEREAS, In its “Unburnable Carbon” report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO2 if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming; AND

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WHEREAS, a 2009 study in the journal Nature by Meinshausen et al. found that to have
an 80% chance of staying below the 2°C warming threshold, the world could
only emit 886 billion tons of CO2, and having emitted 391 billion tons thus
far this century we have only 495 billion tons remaining; AND

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan is invested in fossil fuel companies holding 284
billion tons in carbon reserves, amounting to over half the world’s
permissible carbon budget to stay below a 2°C temperature increase; AND

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan investments include over $900 million in fossil
fuel companies; AND

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan’s mission is centered on “developing leaders and
citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future,” and its core
values include (but are not limited to) teaching, research, and service in the
fields of climate change, healthcare and public health; AND

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan has increased its total sustainability research
funding by 200% since 2003, funding $181 million on research toward
climate change research over the past decade, with 667 faculty currently
cconducting research; AND

WHEREAS, President Mary Sue Coleman stated, “I want the message to be clear:
Sustainability defines the University of Michigan... How we operate as a
multi-billion-dollar enterprise is significant. It matters to the bottom line,
which is important to students, parents, and taxpayers. It protects the
environment, which is threatened. And it puts our values into practice”; AND

WHEREAS, investing in fossil fuel companies is antithetical to the core values and
mission of the University of Michigan with respect to sustainable and
environmentally-friendly practices; AND

WHEREAS, the voluntary acquisition of financial stocks and holdings represent an
implicit support of a company and its industry, and it is within the right of
any stockholder to sell and purchase shares for reasons that lie outside mere
financial self-interest; AND

WHEREAS, the University of Michigan has a history of successful divestments: in 1978
from Apartheid in South Africa and in 2000 from tobacco companies; AND

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5 http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v458/n7242/abs/nature08017.html
7 Divest and Invest Campaign, http://divestum.org/resources/investment-data/
9 2011 Speech: Going Green, Staying Blue: Sustainability at the University of Michigan, http://president.umich.edu/speech/speeches/110927sustainability.php
WHEREAS, The Aperio Group’s “Do the Investment Math” report showed that the effects of full fossil fuel divestment on the risk and expected returns of a portfolio is de minimus\(^{10}\); AND

WHEREAS, students at more than two hundred colleges and universities in the United States have launched campaigns to have their institutions divest from fossil fuel companies, and peer institutions have passed resolutions urging their Colleges and Universities to divest such as Harvard University, Northwestern University, Tufts University, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara. AND

NOW THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND ARTICULATED BY ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, IT IS THE SENSE OF THE BOARD THAT IN THEIR NAME, THE FOLLOWING BE

RESOLVED, the official stance of the Rackham Student Government is that investing in fossil fuel companies is antithetical to the core values and mission of the University of Michigan; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Rackham Student Government urges the President and Board of Regents of the University of Michigan in their commitment to sustainability, to take the following actions:

1. To disclose all current investments, and immediately freeze new investments in the fossil fuel industry; and,

2. To divest from direct ownership in and commingled funds, that include public and private fossil fuel industry financial securities within 5 years; and,

3. Invest a substantial portion of such funds in socially, environmentally, and economically responsible companies.\(^{11}\)

AUTHORS

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Dave Marvin
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology


\(^{11}\) The definition of such companies will be determined by an ad-hoc committee established by the University of Michigan Regents to investigate fossil fuel divestment.
Serge Farinas  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Graduate Student Body

ATTEST

By Signing below, I certify 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