Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: December 8, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Introductions
III. Approval of Agenda
IV. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. November 10, 2011 *
   b. November 17, 2011*
   c. December 1, 2011*
V. Guest Speaker: Darlene Ray-Johnson, Graduate Ombudsperson
VI. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy
VII. The RSG Executive Board
VIII. Review of the Fall 2011 Election
IX. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs * (2) f. Student Life
   b. Budgetary i. Pistons Game
c. Communications g. Bylaw Review
d. Elections h. Service Opportunities *
e. Legislative Affairs * i. Career Opportunities
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. Attendance
   a. Present: Michael Benson, Mindy Waite, Kaitlin Flynn, Chris, Pat, Heidi, Rahul, Alex Toulouse, Eli Benchell Eisman, Marisol
   b. Absent: Josh Bow,
II. Introductions
III. Philip Hanlon (Provost)
   a. Phil Hanlon is the chief budget and academic affairs officer for Rackham and the University. He also works on the academic side of things. He gave a nice introduction on the academic trajectory of Michigan relative to the elite private schools and our resources. He feels that while we may have a resource disadvantage, we’re performing at a high level relative to these other schools.
   b. Budget wise, we’ve lost $166 million dollars in state appropriations. Phil feels that we've managed this better than other institutions, primarily because we've been stressed for 10 years (being in MI). We’re getting better at tightening our belts, sharing resources more efficiently and otherwise. In the past fiscal year we’ve lost a 15% drop from the state. Hopefully it’s the last large correction of state appropriation for the future. This should allow us to achieve at an even higher level.
   c. Opening up to the board, Heidi brings up a concern whereby as her role as the Graduate student council president in the Chemistry department she is a messenger of concerns raised by chemistry graduate students and faculty she is concerned about the amount of students are accepted versus how many GSI positions are available for graduate students. This puts pressure on PIs to fund their students through grant money. The concern is the amount of people being admitted to the department is hindering research progress. Phil responds by asking questions regarding the admittance level of the program and the driving force behind the high level of admissions. Eli makes appoint that the attrition rate is very high, and 20% of students drop out by the time they reach candidacy, particularly in the chemistry department. This may be a way for the department to save face or money. Phil says that he'll start by talking to Janet Weiss who works on reviewing programs, including chemistry. Heidi also passes on the concerns of some chemistry graduate students that, since all first years are guaranteed GSI positions and so many first years are being accepted, the margin of repeat GSIs for introductory courses is low, which biases the educational experience of undergraduates in those courses worries about the GSI quality. Eli makes a comment about balancing work and research and the lack of balance affecting attrition.
d. Eli's principal concerns are **how the $166 million dollars was cut** during the loss of funds and how it relates to graduate students, research, infrastructure, etc. Phil responds that the state appropriation goes into the general fund at the university and it's primary goal is to support the academic enterprise at Michigan. Tuition and fees comprise another part of this fund. The answer to his question is that by and large the operations of the University, much of which has been cut to offset the decline in general fund dollars. Also these cuts were done to preserve tuition rates and faculty initiatives. The money that has been managed lately has been by and large used to leverage our scale. **We've saved by** making better purchasing contracts, become more energy efficient, improving things building by building, exploring behavioral changes on campus, benefits, cost-shifting (employees now pay for 30% of co-premiums vs 10% 10 years ago), self insurance, moving to generic pharmaceuticals, stressing health of the campus and otherwise. Michael and Heidi ask questions regarding GSIs and insurance. There is a possibility that we could require students to have health insurance on campus. Many board members raise concerns.

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

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

g. Marisol brings up that in her intro to higher education class she noticed that
social science departments have had some severe budget cuts. She wonders
what changes we can anticipate to social science department budgets.
Phil says that the objective is to have the funding that goes to schools and
colleges scale to the initiatives and production of each school and college.
h. Michael mentions that Master’s students are concerned about the funding of
primarily PhDs, and there are less funding lines available for Master’s
students. What can and could be done to increase the availability of
funding for masters students? Phil says that 14.5 cents of every undergrad
tuition dollar goes into financial aid for undergraduates. To make a similar
deal for Master’s students, we’d likely need to do the same thing with their
tuition. Another issue is that many of these students pay for 4 semesters but
then still don’t get jobs.
i. Eli also wants to bring up that the University has brought up environmental
changes recently and asks if the University has considered bringing in
local foods and farming to bring low cost and fresh vegetables into the
purchasing section.

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

V. Michael officer report
   a. On December 17 we will be having our end of term dinner. Some people may
      not be able to make it due to exams
   b. Next week’s guest speaker will be the director of housing to discuss
      undergrads moving into Northwood and other housing issues. Limit to 20
      minutes of speaking. Following guest speakers will be about budget.
   c. Josh unfortunately dropped the ball on the elections director hiring. So now
      Michael will be taking over to make the elections happen next Wednesday
      and Thursday. The election will be administered by the executives. Also,
      division II has grown enough so that they now get 9 seats on the board.
      Michael asks the board whether we should add the extra seat to be elected in
      the Fall and Winter. The board votes 5-3-2 so the seat will be in the fall.
   d. People can self-elect themselves to run through Monday. Then the execs will
      meet and decide if there are enough people to run and fill the seats,
      otherwise we might move the election to the end of November.
   e. There is a suggestion by Eli to have a quick social event and encourage
      people to vote. There is a motion to confirm the exec decision and it passed
      unanimously.
VI. Eli
   a. Event this Sunday at the park, meeting at 8:30am, bussing at 8:45am. For future events, magic bus needs 2 week advance to come.
Meeting Adjourned 8:22pm
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2011
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

1. Call to Order 7:06pm
2. Attendance:
   a. Present: President Benson, Treasurer Waite, Representatives Eisman (1), Hsu (1), Flynn (1), Emly (2), Sakhamuri (2), Toulouse (2), Pedini (2), Rooney (2), and Cottrell (3)
   b. Excused Absence: Representatives White (2), Fitspatrick (3), Gillezeau(3), and Ramos(3)
   c. Unexcused Absence: Vice President Bow, Representatives Mandarino (4), and Hutchinson (4)
   d. The chair declares a quorum present and the RSG Board proceeds to its agenda.
3. Approval of the agenda: Motion moved by Alex E, seconded by Tien. Mindy objects and says that we should move the speaker up from item 3 to number 1. Motion is seconded by Patrick and approved unanimously.
4. Guest speaker: Michael Zabriskie, Director of Housing Information Office at the University of Michigan.
   a. Michael Z raises the problem of housing shifts in Northwood. This is because there will be significant shifting around with residence halls. The U will be looking at a space crunch for undergrads, which will change what we’re looking at in Northwood for graduate student housing.
   b. Michael Z is curious how we can change the leasing of the apartments, via a term contract or by semester. The payment would be a ‘beginning of the semester payment’ and that might be of issue to graduate students. These apartments would be offered to grad students after filling Northwood with undergraduates. Particularly, would it be easier or feasible to have a one time payment or a monthly payment?
   c. Brief introductions of the board and whether we do or do not live off campus or specifically in Northwood.
   d. Eli has a question about the amount of rent and what is or is not included in rent (utilities etc). Cable is separate, but everything else is included for about $600 a month for a 1 bedroom in Northwood V. The average cost is about $600 per person, even in larger buildings. Eli asks what square footage is and if they’re primarily apartments. Michael Z says that there are multiple units to each building with a variety of layouts and configurations.
   e. Mindy asks what programs deliver stipends in lump sums. Most programs do not offer a lump sum. Fellow members of the board indicate that a lump sum payment would be a problem for most graduate students. Also, Rahul brings up that Master’s students aren’t funded and work hard on campus and only make money for rent.
   f. Michael Benson brings up that we are providing fewer options for graduate student housing and that makes finding housing very difficult for new graduate
students. There are also issues with summer housing (PhD students will be here during the summer) and the prevalence of undergrads in their housing community.

g. Heidi brings up the timing of if Northwood I and II were available after undergrads were placed there, for instance, when would it be known that there were available spaces. Michael Z answers that they would have a sense of the stock of housing in March and April, then I and II would be targeted to incoming graduate students.

h. Michael Benson brings up a March/April timeline is good for incoming students, but he thinks the issue is that quality of life, including bussing, will be a challenge. Another thing Benson brings up are the undergraduate lifestyle and to offer leases that are appropriate for Master’s students and others to encourage providing housing security for these students.

i. Kaitlin brings up the background of these projects: why are we losing so much space on campus? The quads will be shut down one by one for remodeling. Each quad hosts 900 students at least.

j. Alex E. asks what the requirement for housing is here. The University guarantees housing for freshmen and that makes a problem when the incoming classes are larger than usual.

k. Rahul brings up that already there are 25 year old grad students living near 50 year old grad students. There are problematic issues on lifestyle and he asks about having specific areas for families and otherwise. Michael Z brings up that families are protected under fair housing status and as landlords they can’t steer people in different directions.

l. Kaitlin asks if there would be RAs for the freshman in these areas. Michael Z confirms yes.

m. Tien asks regarding numbers in Northwood I and II and Michael Z says that predicting student behavior is difficult and it’s hard to guesstimate how many students would be moved there. Michael Z says that the current graduate students in Northwood I and II have been notified that they would not have that much space in the following year. This means at maximum capacity this houses 474.

n. Michael Benson says that it would be ill-advised to discourage graduate students from living on campus.

o. Many members of the board bring up that graduate student housing on central campus would be really great. Michael Z says that there haven’t been any movements to house graduate students on central campus. Some members object and indicate that there would be strong demand.

p. Kaitlin brings up the point that freshmen might like the Northwood area more if there was a unique community drawing them there. Michael Z agrees and says that primarily the bussing system is the biggest disadvantage and qualm for the undergraduate students. Unfortunately this problem will only escalate.

q. David asks if we’ve compared our housing situation to other large scale universities. Michael Z says that they have but there is a decrease in family living across the nation on campus and many Big Ten schools do not have proper infrastructure in place.

r. Logistics for bussing would be hard at certain demand periods. PTS is coming to meet with RSG soon and we’ll have to ask if they’ll increase the
bussing at Northwood. Heidi brings up that AATA shuffles their system around in the fall winter. AATA will also be visiting RSG to discuss these things.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. We don’t have minutes from November 3 so we cannot vote on them. Heidi is wondering where the student body Vice President is and how he has not been attending meetings. Board members murmur in agreement. Michael Benson agrees that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. There have been personal life issues and busy grad student issues that have been dealt with by the VP.

b. Various things, including elections, communications and otherwise have been dropped. Mindy has really stepped forward as an executive and we all appreciate that. Michael says that he will have a meeting with Josh and give Josh options for what he should do, either stay and step up as executive or resign. Michael will address this issue in his following executive report in two weeks.

c. Approval of the minutes from November 10. Kaitlin notes that the attendance is not going to be correct. Michael says with the caveat that the minutes will be corrected, can we approve the minutes. The date and attendance being the caveat, the movement is made by Eli and seconded by Chris. Heidi has a potential amendment regarding her statement in III c) to change to ‘Heidi expresses concerns from the chemistry department…’. Heidi moves to postpone this for a week contingent upon changing of the phrasing. Kaitlin seconds this. Postponing is approved unanimously.

6. Officer reports

a. Mindy says we have $21,300. We have not started to pay out the allocated funds yet to individual student groups.

b. Michael says that the elections are going very well and the voting prizes are chosen randomly from each division. The prizes are gift cards to various places around campus (that do not serve alcohol). Alex E suggests that we give more prizes to more people to incentivize voting. Eli moves to increase elections committee appropriation to 20 prizes for voting. **Motion seconded by Alex E. The motion is approved unanimously.** Michael gives an update on how many people have voted by division. Serge has resigned and Michael has accepted it. No one in the board objects. This opens up a half term seat for Division I.

c. A discussion about available seats ensues.

7. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs- Tien has a motion to approve the minutes, objection by Chris for him not being marked as attending on November 7. Minutes are approved. Grant also has not been showing up to meetings and thus will be removed from the committee per the expectations set by the chair at the beginning of the term. They have been working on the Grad Student Bill of Rights.

b. Budgetary- 2 budget requests

c. Communications- meeting really quickly afterwards today, nothing otherwise to update. If anyone wants to take over the Newsletter, please contact Mindy.
d. Elections: they are going great.
e. Legislative: under budget for the SAGE fall summit for 4 people to attend. A survey is going to be sent out for SAGE and we should answer them by the next meeting.
f. Student Life: Alex E has organized a karaoke event at Circus from 9-11pm on Dec 8 at Circus. The money that was going to be used for the trivia night has been moved to this.
g. Bylaw review committee has met and the motion to approve the agenda by Heidi and seconded by Rahul, approved unanimously with the exception that Chris was not included in the attendance and this will be amended.
h. CoSAC- first event for natural area preservation last Sunday. They met up with APO and did a park cleanup. It went over very well. Another event will happen in the Spring in March. Upcoming events: local food bank events. Eli suggests that we donate blood for the blood battle. You can donate blood through next week.
i. CoNaCo- there was an event last night that was a success.

8. Second reading of the board resolution F-01-11: Creating Student Advisory Committees for the Rackham Associate Deans.
   a. Moved by Rahul and seconded by Heidi. Discussion: Alex E likes it still. In line 32, Eli suggests that some typos be fixed. In A, associate has been misspelled.
   b. Mindy is now chairing. Movement to approve the document. By a vote of 9-0-0 this is approved. Michael hereby approves this resolution.

9. International Student concerns
   a. John Godfrey will be joining us at our meeting in 2 weeks as he is the assistant dean for international affairs at Rackham and also is a policy writer at Rackham.
   b. Michael suggests we reach out to other international students and what their concerns may be. Godfrey also asks that we create an advisory panel as we’ve done with the deans.

10. Winter logistics
    a. We will be having meetings in the winter. The representative elects will be announced tomorrow. A Doodle poll will be sent out soon and by December 15 to set up meeting times and speakers.

11. Visioning by Winter 2012
    a. Michael lays out a few suggestions for things we might do: work with AATA and parking transportation, working on implementing the GSBOR, Educational symposium with MSU, social events (bowling and ice skating), a de-stressing event during finals, Red Wings game (December 8), also working for a joint event with MSU student council for a box event at Yost.

12. Adjournment: motion to adjourn by Rahul and seconded by Alex E. Adjourned at 8:20pm.
7.05PM Call to Order by the acting chair, Mindy Waite
Attendance: Representatives Patrick, Rahul, Marisol, Tien, Heidi, and Eli. Associate Representative Chris Thom, Treasurer Mindy.

No quorum
Go over the agenda
Go over the minutes

We have a guest speaker, John Godfrey, Assistant Dean for International Education. Introductions go around!

Dr. Godfrey: Talks about issues on treatment of international students. Wants to know about what we can do to address them. He is open to discussions about it.
Mindy: How big is the current international student population?
Dr. Godfrey: 35-40% of all graduate students are international. China, India, S Korea, Canada are the countries where students come from the most. 75% of the international graduate students come from the top 5 countries. This has trend has been followed for decades. The University of Michigan has awarded more PhDs to Chinese students than any other university in USA. We even have the Barker Fellowship for women of the orient!

Tom: How is that reflected at a more graduate student level than an administrative level?
Dr. Godfrey: The entire international graduate experience is very perplexing for the student. The single greatest obstacle is mastering of English. Many students study English just to pass the TOEFL. Many students now are comfortable with colloquial English because of exposure to mass media. They need to learn it from an academic standpoint as well. American students are much less receptive to internationals; they find it a lot harder to connect with them. The students don't want to be alone, so they fall back on them selves and then on their own people. The International Centre is a great resource for them to fall back on. Students don't start to adjust till maybe they get their degree. The university has still not figured out how to prepare for this.

Eli: If American Scholars are not signing up to pair up with incoming Internationls, why doesn't the University just pair them?
Dr. Godfrey: Not sure how to make this a success. We should do this more on the program level. Has to be on the program level.
Eli: I agree with you, has to be on the program level. How about the International Center?
Dr. Godfrey: If done in the department and not international center, it will work.
Marisol: I am the chair of student of color of the school of public policy, more than half the students are students of color and the other half are international. And we have potlucks, to discuss the whole experience of graduate students.

Tom: Every student irrespective of nationality has a second and third year mentor in our department.
Dr. Godfrey: We need to break out of the “ghettoisation” and build a better collective environment. We even have some entire research groups that speak for example mandarin.

Tien: Don't single out only the international students, even American students need mentors.
Heidi: Everybody needs a mentor.

Dr. Godfrey: We can vertically organize cohorts within the program. As far as academic they are ok, but they need to be done socially as well.
Eli: RSG can help with the social events
Tien: We can have more interactive events!
Tom: But we need to be careful because there is no point in building artificial relationships!
Man: What pulls people together is competition. Exploratory thinking on what can be done. There are many ways to do this but we need more things to think about it.

Eli: Governor Schneider, he just came back from a commerce trip to China but wanted to know if he wanted to do anything further.
Dr. Godfrey: Nothing he does have much impact on us. We have bigger ties with the country.

Dr. Godfrey: The academic programs are not prepared you for the global dimension of our education. We don't think too strategically about this.

Dr. Godfrey: Thanks for inviting me. I’m really concerned about climate issues for international students.
Patrick: Undergrads reach out to GSIs with easier names.
Heidi: They give poor feedback on the accents with the GSIs. But we need to be more receptive and help the GSIs as well.
Dr. Godfrey: This is a leadership issue. People need to stand up and be held accountable.
Pat: Its just scapegoating really.
Dr. Godfrey: (laughs)
Mindy: do you have any ideas for social activities
Dr. Godfrey: New moon festival!
Mindy: We’ll look in to it!

Clapping- Thank you! And Patrick snaps! 😊
Mindy: Officer reports, Michael has one on page eight. We currently have $21,186 in the account.
MINDY GOT MARRIED!

Academic Affairs, Tien: Graduate student bill of rights. People have not sent me their parts. We spoke about the GPA scale. We want a university wise consistent scale.
Pat: What was the margin of vote.
Tien: 70%.

Budgetary Committee: One request in. we are looking into that

Communications: A newsletter will go out this Monday. Not sure what to put into it!
Elections: Results are in.
Legislative: Michael and three others are on their way to the SAGE conference.
Student Life: Karaoke night and red wings game.
By Law: We met and made some edits.
Service: Eli and Tien met last week. Moving forward next semester, we need a more committed group. Got events in the pipeline for next sem. Tie up with student life for some of the events. Open to any ideas and suggestions. Human Society, Habitat for humanity, etc.
Career Opportunities: The committee headed by Samantha Zhang partnered with the women of science. Total of 78 participants (70% were grad). $1000 on food. We funded $500.

8PM Adjourned!

Minutes taken by Rahul.
### Fall 2011 Budget vs. Expenditures

#### Requested Funds vs. Spent Funds

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requested Funds</th>
<th>Spent Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislative</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>* SAGE Fall Summit (2 - 3 Delegates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airfare: $463 / person * 3 = $1389</td>
<td>$1,389</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel: $210/night * 3 nights = $630</td>
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<td>Food: $50/person/day = $600</td>
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<td><strong>MSU Collaboration</strong></td>
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<td>* Travel: 10 trips max * $6 gas / trip : $60</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Advertising (posters): $30 (b/w)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projector / AV: $60</td>
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<td>* City Council Candidates' Debate</td>
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<td>* Committee Discretionary</td>
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<td><strong>Student Life</strong></td>
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<td>Apple Orchard Event - Oct. 9th</td>
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<td>Dominick's $345.22</td>
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<td>Heat Game - December</td>
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<td>Orchard trip $275.61</td>
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<td>RSG Trivia Night</td>
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<td>Trip to Cedar Point</td>
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### Requested Funds

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<td>(expected attendance: 100 per)</td>
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### Bylaws

<table>
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<tr>
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### Budget

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<td>Funding Requests</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PSOC Spker series</td>
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<td>ISA Meet &amp; Info</td>
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<td>INMM*</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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<td>SCOR*</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEC Travel**</td>
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<td>UPSA Hope**</td>
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### Misc

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<td>Candy for Fests</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>$336.38</td>
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### Total Requested Funds

| Assumed Semester Total             | $21,919                            |
| Total Requests                    | $15,229                            |
| Reserve                           | $3,000                             |
| Monies Left                       | $3,690                             |

| Total spent/Allocated             | $9,153.56                          |

### Total Spent/Allocated

| Total                              | $9,153.56                          |
I. Roll call of members
Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, David Cottrell, Tien-Huei Hsu, Mindy Waite, Eli Eisman
Absent (excused):
Absent (unexcused): Grant Mandarino (no longer on the committee)
Called to order: 6:09 pm

II. Special Business

  • Graduate Student Bill of Rights
    Went through the document line by line and made changes to the GSBOR. We are planning to include it in the next board meeting for a first reading.

  • Town Halls format
    Discussion postponed due to time constraints.

  • Symposium (MI and MSU collaboration)
    Symposium website is available: msugac.com
    Abstracts will be due Jan 23, 2012. Start advertising after thanksgiving.
    Kaitlin will work on the blurb to include in the newsletter.

  • Ballot question results (in favor of 4.0 system)
    We favor following the LSA GPA scale. Check out this link for more details:
    http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umich/v/index.jsp?vgnextoid=a66b421cce20a110VgnVCM100000a3b1d38dRCRD

  • Monthly event

III. Open Discussion

V. Next meeting
   December 5th 2011, 6pm

VI. Adjournment: 6:48 pm
I. Roll call of members  
Present: Mindy Waite, Kaitlin Flynn, Tien-Huei Hsu, Eli Eisman  
Absent (excused): Michael Benson  
Called to order: 6:04 pm

II. Special Business

- Graduate Student Bill of Rights  
  Tien will update it once Michael sends text file.

- Town Halls  
  Dean Weiss is available on the following dates: March 16th and April 3rd 2012.  
  We are thinking of having one large event with all the Deans with open registration to all  
  graduate students with no limit on number attending one month prior to the event.  
  Eli will email Deans (or their secretaries). Mindy will provide contact information to Eli.  
  New additions to the THs: Dean Weiss and Dean Godfrey, the latter would like to meet  
  specifically with the international students. Tien has already contacted Dean Weiss and Dean  
  Godfrey (will have to email Dean Godfrey’s secretary instead).  
  Format of the Winter 2012 town halls will be 45 min with everyone present (lunch), 30 min  
  with the respective division Deans (for dessert).  
  Room reservations will be done once date(s) are confirmed. Most likely will be in the  
  Rackham building on the 4th floor where we had it last year.  
  Jerusalem Garden is still caterer of choice for the Town Hall.

- Printing quotas  
  Students in the Ford School would like their printing quotas to be the same as those for  
  Engineering students and Ross students.  
  Tien will email ITCS about printing quotas.

- Symposium (MI and MSU collaboration)  
  We will advertise the Graduate Academic Conference in the newsletter. Kaitlin will write the  
  blurb.  
  Abstract deadline for the conference is January 23rd 2012. We’ve decided to post the flyer on  
  the RSG website. However, we will not be flyering because it has not been a very successful  
  way of disseminating information to the graduate student community.

III. Open Discussion

V. Next meeting  
January 2012

VI. Adjournment
Rackham Student Government
Community Outreach and Social Action Committee
Meeting agenda for 28, November 2011, 6pm
Espresso Royale Café 322 South State Street

I. Convene
   A. Call to order at 6.13

II. Attendance
   A. Tien!

III. Committee membership and expectations
   A. Last meeting for the semester

IV. Executive Order: EO-11-2
   A. Will reword for extension of committee existence and submit board for final meeting.

V. Event ideas
   A. RSG Works!
      1. Humane Society
      2. Habitat For Humanity- March April
      3. Meals on Wheels
      5. Food Gatherers Tie In with SLC events?
      6. Shelter Association of Ann Arbor
      7. United 2 Heal
      8. ACS walk for the cure/ relay for life
   B. Community of Scholars
      1. Work with international center for International Student Peer Mentoring
   C. Coordination with other service groups
   D. Cosponsor events with Student Life Committee

VI. Open discussion

VII. Adjourn

VIII. 6.3.6
I. Roll call of members
   1. Present: Michael Benson, Christine Andres, Denise Lillvis, Alex Toulouse
   2. Absent: Marisol Ramos, Nina White (excused, at SAGE Fall Summit)
   3. Called to order: 7:23

II. Special Business
   1. Other Committee members to join us soon for collaboration

III. Local Affairs

IV. Federal Affairs
   1. SAGE fall summit:
      • Review schedule
      • Prepare to host the summit last year
      • Review affordable health care plan document
      • Michael will send an email with info for being part of sessions from home
      • Read over last years white papers
   2. Future Objectives
      • SAGE representatives went to DC to meet with partners and brought up the idea of
        pushing for quality
      • Think About: Research bills that will accomplish this, or ideas where higher efficiency
        could be achieved in higher education. Ex reducing overhead for grants
      • Think about how to write a survey to include in a future news letter.
      • ISR peeps to be invited to a future meeting (Michael)
      • Duderstadt is leading a committee to define the role Public University and Higher
        Education. He will hopefully come and provide more information on this topic in a future
        meeting.

V. State Level
   1. Rep visit in January, Start prepping

VI. Next Meeting: **Wednesday, Dec 14th** Chipotle State Street

VII. Adjournment: 7:45
FALL 2011 RSG Election Results

Results for each of the four elections run by RSG are displayed in their entirety below. Overall, 9.6% of eligible voters (students enrolled in the Rackham Graduate School this term) participated in this election.

Candidates listed in blue were victorious and won full (year-long) terms. Candidates listed in green were victorious and will fill vacant seats for a half-term. Candidates listed in red have tied for a seat.

A note about the results from ITS:

The “Weighted” column is the sum of the weights assigned the preferences that each voter chooses when voting. For example, if a vote allows 4 levels of preference, then selecting a candidate as your first choice will assign 4 points to them. Selecting a candidate as your last choice will give them 1 point.

Exception ballots are ballots cast by voters not known to be eligible for that particular election. If they are later shown to be eligible, their votes can be marked as valid.

The Rackham Student Government posed one (1) question to the graduate student body in this election. The question and results by division are as follows:

The Rackham Graduate School currently employs a unique 9.0 GPA scale. Should the graduate school adopt a 4.0 GPA scale? For information about the current GPA scale and the proposed 4.0 scale, please visit this page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>YES – I support the change</th>
<th>NO – I do not support the change</th>
<th>No Preference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Health Sciences</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Education</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities &amp; the Arts</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>126</td>
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</table>
RSG Biological and Health Sciences Division

Total of unique users who voted: 220 (12.25% turnout)
Blank ballots cast: 17
Representative – 3 seat(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Weighted Votes</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
<th>Weighted Total Including Exceptions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tien-Huei Hsu</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Eli Eisman</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lauren Knapp</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kaitlin Flynn (write-in)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>George Nicholas Llewellyn (write-in)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jonathan Grover (write-in)</td>
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</table>

RSG Physical Sciences and Engineering Division

Total of unique users who voted: 271 (7.41% turnout)
Blank ballots cast: 47
Representative – 5 seat(s)

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<th>Votes Exceptions</th>
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<td>166</td>
<td>693</td>
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<td>Alexandra Emly</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>653</td>
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<td>Cassandra Yaple</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>576</td>
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<td>48+15=63</td>
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<td>Drew Dileo (write-in)</td>
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<td>Christine Andres (write-in)</td>
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<td>Alexander Mueller (write-in)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>94+7 = 101</td>
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RSG Social Sciences and Education Division

Total of unique users who voted: 217 (11.58% turnout)
Blank ballots cast: 114
Representative – 3 seat(s)
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<th>No</th>
<th>Write-in</th>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dan Trubman (write-in)</td>
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<td>Drew Dileo (write-in)</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>David Cottrell (write-in)</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Exceptions</td>
<td>Weighted Total Including Exceptions</td>
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<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
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* = These votes were counted included in the recipients total, indicated by the + X.

** = This individual was written in but declined to accept the nomination. As such, Peter McGrath has won the Humanities and the Arts RSG Election.
I. Call to Order  
a. The meeting is called to order at 8:07pm

II. Roll Call  
a. Brendan Campbell  
b. DeAndree Watson  
c. Ryan Roberts  
d. Crissie Zuchora  
e. Anne Lagerdy  
f. Jeff Larkin  
g. Melissa Burns  
h. Sean Jackson  
i. Emily Desanti  
j. Eric Braun  
k. Bethany Felder  
l. Torrie  
m. Andrew Lee  
n. Omar Hashvie

III. Approval of Previous Minutes  
a. Motion to approve the previous meeting’s minutes  
   i. Melissa: Object: motion to change Alissa to Melissa  
      1. Consent  
b. Motion to adopt the minutes as amended  
   i. Consent

IV. Approval of Agenda  
a. Motion to approve agenda  
   i. Consent

V. Guest Speakers

VI. Delegation Reports  
a. Mac: We’re in the process of a triple-transition, three times the usual things we do. Other than that, we’re done.  
b. Melissa: The biggest new thing is that with all of our elections we have three ballot measures. We’re trying to figure out where to allocate new water bottle filling stations. Also we’re looking into a School of Art and Design minor. The most overwhelming result, 95% was for when a professor posts your grade on Wolverine Access you get an automatic e-mail.
c. Sean: We had our elections last week. I am the only person on the executive board that was on the last one. We have all but one spot filled right now, we’re still working on “social responsibility” – the person that controls Greek Life parties. One thing we’re working on now is to work with the AAPD to work on the pregame situation that’s been happening – seeing the targeting of students in general. Our houses are racking up several tens of thousands of dollars in fines and tens of MIPs. I’d really like to work with you guys more. I know Greek Life has often times kind of remained in solidarity and I don’t think we’ve done a really good job of working with people who are not Greeks.

   i. Crissie: How are students being targeted?
   ii. Sean: We’ve had various reports from people receiving these tickets of the cops saying, “alright, which house are you going to next”, also tickets for littering being given out mid-cleanup, students directly being... There’s been a high number of tickets, a high number of citations and violations in comparison with years past. We’ve noticed that when every single house has hit the thousand dollar mark for noise violations – it’s a tier system – by the second pregame of the year, frankly budgets don’t really hold that. We’re trying to figure out a way to work with police on this issue, trying to make our pre-games safer for all students. Our houses have felt that the police have only gone to them and I would like to hear if you’ve noticed through your members of personal experience if you’ve had issues with the police. I know personally I was cleaning our house three tailgates ago with a number of people and we received a littering ticket while cleaning. We’ve also noticed it’s not just for the houses that drink. Theta, a dry house, has been written up for these things.

d. Emily: We just had our elections this week, a completely new executive board.

e. Eric: We’re in the process of taking on a new endeavor with the student athletes. We’ve started a new fundraising effort called “Race for a Cause” and we’re looking toward the sale of maize shoelaces. We think this will be very profitable; we’ll be
working alongside of Adidas. We’re going to name two games a year per sport that we will designate as “Race for a Cause” games. This money will go to the athletic department. For example, when student athletes get injured we could provide athletes’ families with airfare to get here. We’re also looking into contacting local high schools.

f. Bethany: We had a good weekend, a good November. If any of you saw the Musket Show this past weekend it was Cabaret in the Power Center. Pops had their show last night as well. Things are kind of in the swing, I guess.
   i. Sean: Were you in any of them? I saw Cabaret, it was great.
   ii. Bethany: No, ha ha.

g. Torrie: We just had our MSA rep step down so I’m going to be appointing a KSG rep within the next couple of weeks. We decided to go volunteer with Mott; we’ll be making fleece blankets for them. We’re also having our first student org leaders meeting next week with the Dean and the assistant Dean. We just got a new Dean this year and in the history of Kinesiology we’ve never had such an inclusive meeting.

h. Brendan: We don’t have a ton of updates from MSA. We had our elections to fill vacant seats. There is still a seat that is going to be filled through the student judiciary. Hopefully we’ll have that settled in a couple weeks. I don’t think we have any other vacancies. In terms of projects that we’re getting started, a few students working with the Peace and Justice Commission are starting a campaign to have the University recognize undocumented students, if they meet other residency requirements, to pay in-state rather than international tuition. Undocumented students that have paid state and local taxes for years are severely punished by having to pay for international tuition and are ineligible for financial aid. Many other schools such as Western Michigan do this already. Beyond that we don’t have anything stunning or new. We’re still working on some of the campaigns we talked about last time.
   i. DeAndree: I’d like to remind you that we’re offering a special Airbus service for students coming back for the Ohio State
game on Friday. Buses will be running once an hour. Also, purchase your tickets for general Airbus! Many of these buses are already sold out.

j. Brendan: Oh! The assembly recently passed a resolution encouraging the university to not invest in the future to HEI hotels. HEI is a hotel-flipping company that buys old hotels, lays off all the workers, and sells them back to make huge profits. The university has invested over 65 million into this company thus far. We’re working with Tim Sado and the rest of his financial team to see how we can cease investments.

1. Sean: Is this a direct investment or does it come from a specialized fund?
2. Brendan: I do not know the details but I believe funds frequently come from college endowments.
3. Omar: They pay the workers a lot less, make them do more work, drain the workers, and look like they’re making a profit, then sell the company back. There have been schools that have divested from them like Penn State.
4. Sean: Did you guys have anything to do with the student-run... 25 million... The University just passed a resolution to invest 25 million over the next five years into student start-ups.
5. Brendan: My understanding is that MSA will appoint students to the board but this is not an MSA run program.
6. DeAndree: That’s President Coleman’s initiative, actually.

k. DeAndree: The assembly also passed a resolution against final exams on election days. We’re looking to get a policy into place to prohibit professors from scheduling exams on these days.

l. Brendan: I’d like to add too that in the past we’ve worked on this issue and the Provost has been unwilling to make a university-wide policy.

m. Melissa: We’ve been working on this for a while in our college and they say it’s University-wide... The LSA Dean said this. There is some argument about the University-change versus College-change.
n. Brendan: From what I understand it’s sort of a matter of neither side wanting to step on each others’ toes.
   i. Eric: Do you have any administrative individuals behind you?
   ii. Brendan: From what I understand, yes.
   iii. DeAndree: I can give you Aly’s e-mail now it’s amaredia@umich.edu. His name is Aly Maredia.
   iv. Ryan: I was in Texas for the last major election and I was wondering what the voting system was... For voting at Michigan.
   v. Brendan: That’s a separate issue but anyone enrolled in a college is eligible to vote as a resident of that state, as decided by the Supreme Court. I would recommend that you vote here.
   vi. Ryan Because it counts more than in Texas?
   vii. Brendan: Rather, because the local issues effect you here more. I’d be happy to work with you to provide accurate info to the college of engineering.

VII. New Business
VIII. Old Business
IX. Open Forum
X. Adjourn
   a. This meeting is adjourned at 8:30pm.