Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: March 29, 2012

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March 22, 2012* (p 2)

IV. Public Hearing on Resolution W-12-01: Sexual Practices

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

VI. Guest Discussion: Jill McDonough, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

VII. SAGE Spring Conference – Update* (p 20)  

VIII. Winter 2012 Election Update* (p 27)  

IX. Graduate Student Bill of Rights* (p 13)

X. Rackham GPA* (p 18)

XI. Winter 2012 Bylaw Amendments* – First reading (p 32)

XII. RSG Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs* (p 8)  e. Legislative Affairs
   b. Budgetary* (p 10) f. Student Life
   c. Communications g. Bylaw Review
   d. Elections h. COSAC

XIII. Open Discussion

XIV. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
Board Meeting, begins 6:34PM
Absent: Excused: Michael, Marisol, Andrew, Alex Emly, Patrick. Unexcused: Nina

- Motion to approve agenda by Chris, seconded by Pete. Approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve minutes from March 8th Board meeting by Heidi seconded by Haven. Approved unanimously pending the following edit:
  - Haven would like “concerned” changed to “bringing up the issue” on top of page 4.
- Public hearing on resolution W12-01, introduced by Chris Tom
  - Kaitlyn opens resolution to discussion.
  - Haven motions to postpone until next week. Seconded by Pete. 9 approve, 1 abstention, 1 opposed
- Funding request
  - Guest from Thai student association.
  - Request submitted late but we are making an exception for considering request since we have already make exceptions.
  - Bam describes event: Annual event. On UM campus >20 years. “Than Night 2012”. Theme= Siam Love Story. Main performance is a skit reflecting different types of loves. Going to serve ~10 dishes of Thai food, drinks, dessert. They will write names in Thai on bookmarks for people, take photos of people dressed in Thai apparel, massages, literature on Thai tourism. Performance to follow of traditional Thai dance- slow with beautiful costume, then Thai modern dance with pop song, Thai kickboxing by professional boxer. Then spicy food eating contest.
    - Funding specifics: huge food budget since Thai food is all you can eat and 200-250 people coming. Ordering and making the food. Budget = $3000. Trying to save on everything else- putting most resources toward the food to make guests happy.
    - Great opportunity for Thai exposure.
    - Exhibitions very thought through and are very unique.
  - Requesting $100 for utensils & serving equip, $300 room rental, $800 for food.
  - Alex T confirms that food is top priority.
  - Ben asks “who else did you apply for funding for, specifically for food”. Bam says CSG, but they have history of not funding food. CSG gave
$850, which will cover equipment but cannot be used for food. Dan asks if applied anywhere else for funding. Center for Southeast Asian Study- application pending.

- **Girl sitting next to Chris-** asks about what other requests are pending. She asks about Thai restaurants. Bam clarifies that the restaurants would give discount for food purchase, not $$ directly.

- Anna asks when they will start advertising. They are selling tickets already- already sold 50 and most tickets sell in the week prior to the event. Ticket is $15, $12 for buying greater than 1 week in advance. Very young people get in free. Anna clarifies that they need $3k on top of ticket sales.

- Haven asks where their money comes from usually. Bam says Thai Embassy in D.C. sent them $1k but it is already used up from events from last semester. Rackham, Michigan Student Assembly, CSEAS. She mentions those are all pay up front and reimbursement, which is a disadvantage.

- Haven asks about advertising strategies targeting non-students as well. Bam says they target students but non-students also come from word of mouth. Haven inquires about proportion of nonstudents 80% students. Kaitlyn inquires about number of grad students. 70% of the 80% are graduate students.

- Ben asks if there is anything in bylaws that specifically says we cannot fund food. Alex T says no.

- Alex T asks how many students of Thai student organization that are organizing the event are graduate students. Bam says 60 active although mailing list is larger. <10 Thai undergrads, so ~50 graduate students.

- Haven asks what all-inclusive cost per person is. Bam says ~$25 for food plus entertainment, supplies and exhibition.

- Kaitlyn asks if they have been funded by RSG in past. Bam says they got $800 from us last year.

- Alex T asks where we can buy Tickets. Bam says online. Event usually sells out before event so they usually do not sell tickets at event. Auditorium can hold up to 306 people but they cap it at 250 to allow for everyone to have enough food.

- Heidi asks if there is any extra food, what do you guys do with it? She says they distribute it amongst themselves.

*Closed discussion begins:*

- Alex T addresses Ben’s inquiry about funding food. Alex says RSG has no problem funding food if it's the top priority of the event and it is instrumental to the event.
  - Dan references Michael’s previous explanation of food funding relating to cultural events.
  - Haven brings up that ticket cost is equal to food. Haven recommends we fund $5 per graduate student to cover the
difference between the inclusive cost per person and ticket price for the percentage of graduate students projected to attend the event. $5*140 (70% of 250).

- Kaitlyn seconds the motion. Reaches lots of people.
- Dan brings up the point that they came to us slightly after the deadline and worries that we are granting an exception for this group as well as for the Pakistani group and expresses concern that we are not upholding our rules. Alex T mentions we have not had a lot of funding requests this semester, so it is in our best interest to try to distribute the money to as many funding requests as possible.

- Vote: 9-0-1

- Eli grants us with his presence

- Next funding request: Pakistani Association
  - Late request but granted exception again
  - $2,408 for event this Saturday in Rackham 12-5:30. 5-6 speakers. Former ambassador, Wall Street Journal, Professor. Repeat event from 2010. Anticipate 150 participants, ~75 of which are graduate students.
  - $1k speaker travel & $1k speaker lodging. Would go to keynote speaker flying in from NY. Recommendation was to fund $500 for travel and lodging, along with idea that they applied late and did not give a lot of the information Michael would have liked to see. Application was very disorganized. They thought event wasn’t going to happen at one point, then they decided to have it. Application is carbon copy of a request sent to a different organization.
  - Girl sitting next to Chris asks if they were granted the $1k from the Multicultural Association. Alex T lists off funding they have received from other organizations. It is a few thousand dollars.
  - Heidi brings up that the breakdown of $300 for flight and $100 per night for 2 nights may not be enough. Haven says his school spends ~$140 per night. Alex T says if we are consistent with what we fund per graduate student, Alex says this is consistent.
  - Haven motions for $500 for travel and lodging. Pete seconds. Dan brings up that this group has not made nearly as much effort to apply and we are funding more per grad student than we did for the Thai group when the Thai group went above and beyond.
  - Anna brings up that this has not been advertised to her constituency so she cannot vote on funding something that has not been advertised to her constituency.
  - Kaitlyn brings up that we are trying to integrate the newsletter with events that apply for funding and groups that request to hold joint events.
  - Dan motions for $375. Kaitlyn seconds. Alex T is weary of formula funding.
Voting for motion to fund $500 for lodging and travel. We did a waterfall vote, options were $500 or $350. 7 voted for $500. No more votes taken.

**Officer reports:**
- Kaitlyn highlights Michael's highlights. En route to SAGE conference in DC. Jackie Simpson from Spectrum Center is our guest next week.
- First reading to adopt grad student bill of rights next week.
- Guests coming up - see Michael's blurb.
- RSG reps have obligations outside of board meetings- attend committee meetings, actively participate in 2 non-meeting activities each semester. Kaitlyn directs the Board to number of events people have attended this semester. Academic affairs committee is hosting town hall lunch with the deans and attendance at this event is Mandatory. April 3rd at noon. Vote in elections and reach out to grad students to vote. Dan mentions he was present at VDay event at Bar Louie. Ben asks when bowling event is. Katlyn says March 30th.

- Kaitlyn’s officer report: Going to SAGE conference. She is finalizing graduate academic conference. Bylaw amendments will be wrapped up and presented to the Board next week
- Alex’s officer report: Alex is working out SOAS putting HH fundraiser money in wrong account. $500 disbursement that was not ours was charged, which Alex is fixing. Lots of funding requests. 515 votes in divisional elections 418 voted in presidential election.

**Bill of Rights**
- With exception of Right 18, turning into resolution for board. Eli brings up section 6 needs to be cut. Alex motions to table, seconded by Dan. Ben brings up Rights paragraph 1, sexual practice is included. Ben is reticent to vote on this before sexual policy resolution is voted on. Chris said he talked to Michael about resolution taking less time. Bill of rights will take a lot of back and forth time between administration. Vote to table discussion about drafting resolution of the Bill of Rights until next week- approved unanimously.

**Elections**
- Polls close at midnight. Alex will send another email. Ben says Alex is doing a good job. Snaps.

**Resolution on sexual practices**
- Idea was to have a public hearing
- Motion to table by Alex, seconded by ben. Approved 9-0-1

**Committee reports**
- Academic Affairs
  - Alex motions to approve minutes, seconded by Eli. Approved unanimously.
  - Next Friday GAC event at MSU.
April 3rd town hall/lunch with deans
Conflict resolution process flow chart is being created
Tien says next meeting is next week

Budgetary Committee
Alex motions to approve minutes seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.
IF you ever purchase anything RSG related, get itemized receipts to ensure reimbursement.

Communications Committee
Less errors
Newsletter went out at beginning of week

Elections Committee
Pete asks which division urban planning is part of. Alex will look into verify that its divisional placement is correct.

Academic Affairs
Legislative affairs
Motioned to approve minutes by Kaitlyn seconded by Alex T approved unanimously.

SAGE meeting this weekend, pushing three issues:
1. Increasing research funding
2. Reducing graduate student load indebtedness
3. Improving immigration policies for international students
M&T advocating with congress people and will be presenting summary after.
Haven asks if something specifically they are advocating. Alex says there is a specific list of white papers worked on by schools and their university legislative aids. Board would like to see the white papers.

Student life
Motion to approve minutes by Anna, Pete seconded approved unanimously.
Not having march madness event because getting venue would be difficult
Rock climbing postponed till summer
Bowling next Saturday
Chris says date for bowling in minutes is wrong.
All hands on deck for bowling.

Bylaw review committee
Suggestions from board for bylaws.
Compiling amendments while in DC.

CoSAC
Eli motions to approve minutes, Ben seconded. Approved unanimously.

Great CoSAC week.

April 28th secured for Habitat for Humanity. Already have 9 of 12 people registered.

Next event is DP day. 28 people volunteering - double that expected. Cosponsored by RSG and Ross Community Action group.

Open discussion

Haven asks when website will be updated. Kaitlin will do it. Alex T brings up that we are thinking about hiring someone to revamp it and include functionality for group registration.

Dan wonders what the hold up for revamp. Alex T says it takes time to find someone that fits the bill.

Haven asks when election results come out. Winners get notified then campus email gets sent. Alex says he will send winners to board one polls close.

Motion to adjourn by Haven seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
Academic Affairs Committee Meeting  
March 28th, 2012  
6:00 pm, Espresso Royale 322 S. State Street

Roll Call of Members:  
Present: Tien-Huei Hsu, Michael Benson, Kaitlin Flynn, Haven Allen, Eli Eisman  
Absent (excused): Chris Tom  
Absent (unexcused):

1. Call to order: 6:05 pm

2. Specific Business

a. MSU-GAC
   Bus will pick people up in front of Rackham at 1145 am. Students were asked to be there at 1130 am. We will get to East Lansing at 12:30 pm. This gives students enough time to check in and go to their presentations/posters. A lot of people have cancelled on the bus. So we have around 50 going.
   Some people have agreed to judge. Kaitlin will ask when judges are judging their individual sessions.

   Student awards for Umich students will not be $500; we can’t afford it. MSU money can only fund MSU students. Unfortunately, we haven’t done fundraising for this event. Outside sponsors can cover but we prefer to front it ourselves. However, Kaitlin will ask the MSU contact what sponsors can provide. Acknowledge prize winnings and then hand over the cash award later. Cash awards to be given a week later. Acknowledge winners in our newsletter and also sponsors (if we intend to go that route).

   Conference ends at 6, buses leave at 630 pm.

   Reminder email will go out Thursday with details on bus schedule etc. Chris and Lauren will be chaperoning on the bus on both ways.

   Send out survey afterward (Tien will design questions for survey).

   Haven why wouldn’t we host next year’s GAC? We need a lot more people to coordinate the effort. This discussion will have to happen over the summer on whether we want to do it.

b. Town Halls/Lunch with the Deans

   Email has been drafted, needs to be sent out. Tien will send to exec@rsg-umich.edu.

   Total food order (Eli): 90 sandwiches, halved. 36 falafel/ 36 chicken/ 18 kafta. Although
original plan was 80 sandwiches, Ali’s cutting us a deal on the hummus and fatoush with this size order. 3lbs hummus + 1lb free. This includes pita. 8lbs fatoush +1lb free. This includes the baked pita chips. No flatware included.

Delivery to the basement of Rackham (off East Huron) at 11.05-11.15, 3, April 2012 Total 691.47. Everyone plan to be there at 11am. Michael and Eli still need to get drinks + flatware for <$9 if possible.

Complications: Darlene will be late for the event. She has another meeting that will not end until 12 pm. We will need to fill in the time.

Questions from survey box and questions from survey. Also suggestions from newsletter will be used. Michael will moderate and he has a powerpoint presentation ready to go. “Sexual Practice” addition to the non-discrimination clause will be brought up at this Town Hall. Students will be invited to public hearing on following Thursday.


Make facebook/twitter event. Publicize like crazy to your department/program!

All RSG reps are expected to show.

Michael will bring suggestion box to town hall. Ask Heidi to bring quarter sheets to the meeting tomorrow.

c. GPA issue
Dean Weiss said that a weighted GPA fine. Ford School students favor a weighted GPA scale, do not oppose having a 4.0 scale otherwise. It’s going to the Rackham Executive Board and will be talked about there. Haven will type it up on how it will work by 2pm tomorrow.

3. Open Discussion

4. Next Meeting – Stay for briefing after Town Hall
   April 11th 2012, 6pm

5. Adjournment: 6:40 pm
I. Meeting called Electronically 3/19/12
   a. Members Present: Patrick Rooney, Michael Benson, Lauren Knapp, Eli Benchell Eisman, Alex Toulouse

II. Funding Request:
   a. Organization: Hustle And Grow
      i. Event name: **Goal Reassessment-How to Make the Best of Your Summer**
      ii. Event date(s): March 29, 2013
      iii. Event location: Rackham
      iv. Requesting: $466

III. Discussion:
   a. Michael: Given the size, scope and length of the event, he thinks it’s unreasonable to fund $300 for food. He supports the event and the cause and would like to fund the necessary supplies to make it happen. Makes motion for $166 for marketing printing, folders, and handouts.
   c. Eli: I vote **in favor** of Michael's motion to fund HandG for 166. I would also encourage the group to contact some of the Division 1 departments, which goes unrepresented in their compiled list, but have collectively made substantial efforts to increase minority representation over the last twenty years.
   d. Lauren: I vote in favor of Michael's motion to fund Hustle and Grow for 166. I appreciate and strongly support their empowerment events/programs.
   e. Vote:
      i. Approve: Michael, Patrick, Eli, Lauren
      ii. Abstentions: Alex

IV. Per the bylaws, the committee agrees to fund $166 for the event given the above mentioned stipulations.

V. Meeting adjourned 3/23/12
# RSG Budget Update Winter 2012

## Student Life

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Account Balance $25,034.70 $25,034.70
Rackham Student Government
Graduate Student Bill of Rights
2012
DRAFT

March 29, 2012
## Contents

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Rackham Student Government
2012 Graduate Student Bill of Rights
DRAFT

1 PREAMBLE

Upon enrollment, all Rackham graduate students will be informed of the following rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities are derived from Masters and PhD students roles as junior colleagues who contribute to the mission of the University of Michigan through their research, teaching and extracurricular involvement. All graduate students will be free from reprisal for exercising the rights and responsibilities contained within this document.

2 DEFINITIONS

1. University Refers to the University of Michigan as an institute of higher learning that is authorized to grant academic degrees, and also to faculty, staff and administrators who are associated with this institute.

2. Faculty/Advisor An employee appointed by the University who serves in teaching, service and/or research functions.

3. Program/Department An academic unit as defined by the University.

4. Graduate Student An individual enrolled in an advanced degree program and for whom the University holds academic records for.

5. Professional Development Skills or knowledge acquired for career advancement.

3 RIGHTS

1. Graduate students have the right to fair and equal treatment from University administrators, departmental staff and faculty free of discrimination based on gender, race, age, family status, sexual practice, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, religious or political affiliations, country of origin, and citizenship.

2. Graduate students have the right to refuse to perform tasks unrelated to the requirements of their individual academic program(s) or professional development.

3. Graduate students have the right to specific and concrete requirements for achieving an advanced degree. These will be communicated clearly upon entrance to the program and accessible in written form thereafter. Modifications to those requirements must be conveyed to the students in a similar manner. No changes to degree requirements will affect students previously accepted into the graduate program or academic focus, except at the option of the student.

4. Graduate students have the right to change their faculty advisor(s) and the right to alternative supervision, external to the university if necessary, in cases where the student’s primary advisor departs from the university upon achieving candidacy. If a degree program is to be discontinued, provisions will be made for students already in the program to complete their course of study.
5. Prospective and currently enrolled graduate students have a right to know the average time to degree within a specific graduate program. These students have a right to know a program's attrition rate and the predominant reasons for failure of completion.

6. Graduate students that are required to teach by their program will be afforded a comprehensive training program for their teaching responsibilities.

7. Graduate students that are required to perform research by their program will be afforded a comprehensive training program for their research responsibilities.

8. Graduate students have a right to adequate space and material resources for their work (e.g. printers, telephones, computers etc.)

9. Graduate students have the right to objective evaluation, regular feedback and guidance concerning their academic performance and progress towards an advanced degree. Evaluations will be factual, specific and should be shared with the student within a reasonable period of time. The following will be available to the student in writing upon request: annual progress reports, decisions on qualifying examinations, and unusual or additional program requirements.

10. Graduate students have the right to correct or remedy deficiencies in their academic and/or research performance prior to dismissal from a program. Any intent to dismiss a student from a graduate program or advising relationship must be preceded by specific, written performance information at least one semester prior to actual dismissal.

11. Graduate students have the right to access professional training courses and seminars. This includes but is not be limited to: information about professional and academic associations and conferences, mock interviews, job opportunities and publishing articles in journals.

12. Graduate students have the right to be informed of financial support for their studies prior to entering and during their programs. Should this support change at any time during the course of study, graduate students have a right to be informed in writing of such changes in a timely manner.

13. All departments and graduate programs will include graduate student representatives in committees that make decisions affecting graduate student policies and academic requirements. This does not include bodies that determine an individual student's academic progress.

14. Graduate students have the right to representation on all campus-wide administrative committees that affect graduate student, with voting privileges where appropriate. In addition, all departments and graduate programs will include graduate student representatives in committees that make decisions affecting graduate student policies and academic requirements.

15. Graduate students have the right to participate in extra-curricular activities including but not limited to student organizations and political processes without fear of retribution or academic consequence with the expectation that involvement not detract from progress toward degree completion.

16. Graduate students have the right to a non-biased arbitration process if seeing to resolve a violation of these rights. Official academic grievance procedures and informal complaint procedures will be provided and clearly defined by Rackham and at the graduate departments and graduate program level. These procedures will be presented to graduate students at time of entry.
17. Graduate students have a right to be informed of these rights upon enrollment, and to be free of reprisals for exercising these rights.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Graduate students have a responsibility to conduct themselves, in all educational activities, in a manner befitting a junior colleague. Graduate students’ behavior should be a credit to themselves, their program/department, and the University. They have the responsibility to respect and uphold all relevant university policies regarding professional conduct, including but not limited to the Code of Academic Conduct and the University Policy on Nondiscrimination, Sexual Harassment and Student Records and Privacy. Graduate students have the responsibility to uphold and respect all of the aforementioned rights for fellow graduate students.

2. Graduate students have a responsibility to devote an appropriate amount of time and energy toward achieving an advanced degree within a normative time, unless special circumstances apply.

3. Graduate students have a responsibility to uphold ethical norms in research and higher academic pursuits and provide accurate and honest reporting of research results, methodology, and scholarship.

4. Graduate students have the responsibility to take the initiative in asking questions that promote their understanding of the academic requirements and the financial particulars of their specific graduate program.

5. Graduate students have a responsibility to understand their role in the development of the relationship between faculty mentor and graduate student.
   
   (a) To have an awareness of time constraints and other demands imposed on faculty members and program staff.
   
   (b) To communicate regularly with faculty mentors and advisors, especially in matters related to research and progress within the graduate program.

5 ENFORCEMENT

Individual sections of this document will be enforced via various university policies and offices. They are listed here for reference.
MEMORANDUM
TO: Michael Benson, President
FROM: Haven K. Allen, Division III Representative
SUBJECT: Proposed Change to Rackham Grading Scale
DATE: March 28, 2012

Current System

Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan currently has a 9.0 grading scale that has been in place since the school's inception. The purpose and the history of this system are beyond the institutional memory of the university. This system assigns letter grades based off of the following numerical values:

- A+ = 9
- A  = 8
- A- = 7
- B+ = 6
- B  = 5
- B- = 4
- C+ = 3
- C  = 2
- C- = 1
- D  = 0
- E  = 0

To compute a cumulative grade point average, the sums of all earned grades are divided by the total number of hours a student has completed. To maintain satisfactory academic standing, graduate students must make satisfactory progress towards their degrees and have a minimum Rackham cumulative grade point average (GPA) of B (5.00 on a 9.00 scale).\(^1\)

Proposed System

In response to concerns raised by the graduate student body, the Rackham Student Government is proposing the following amended grading system to that of a weighted 4.0 scale. The purpose of this system is to maintain parity and remain competitive with our academic peers, while providing a representative system that reflects a student's coursework while affording potential employers with an opportunity to evaluate the student's success under current conventional standards.

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\(^1\) Rackham Graduate School. Coursework, Grading and Academic Standing. March 28, 2012
<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section4/>
The proposed system will assign letter grades based off of the following numerical values:

- A+ = 4.3
- A = 4.0
- A- = 3.7
- B+ = 3.4
- B = 3.0
- B- = 2.7
- C+ = 2.4
- C = 2.0
- C- = 1.7
- D = 0.0
- E = 0.0

To compute a cumulative grade point average, the sums of all earned grades are divided by the total number of hours a student has completed. To maintain satisfactory academic standing, graduate students must make satisfactory progress towards their degrees and have a minimum Rackham cumulative grade point average (GPA) of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale).

**No student may achieve a final GPA above a 4.0**

**Academic Peers Using this System**

The proposed grading system is currently in use by the following graduate school institutions:

- Cornell University
- Vanderbilt University
- Stanford University
- University of North Carolina
- Emory University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Oregon
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Iowa
- University of Georgia

**Final Justification**

The Rackham Student Government is acting on the will of the graduate student body. In order to serve their needs and desires, we believe the proposed grading scale system is prudent and necessary in a highly competitive employment environment.
March 24-27, 2012

WWW.SAGECOALITION.ORG
EBOARD@SAGECOALITION.ORG
SAGE Federal Legislative Priorities

Indebtedness and Taxation

**Indebtedness: A Growing Obstacle for Attaining a Graduate Education:** The growing debt burden students face has a tangible effect on the number of students who apply to graduate school and the time it takes them to complete their degrees. The outstanding student loan balance—$1 trillion according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—now surpasses credit card debt, and the average undergraduate student debt alone increased 5% between 2009 and 2010, a similar increase to previous years. The current loan forgiveness program is too narrow for its intended population to use, and creates a heavy tax burden on the forgiven debt.

*SAGE Recommends:*
- Amend the new Income Based Repayment rules to apply to all outstanding federal student loans (addressed in part by H.R. 4170), make Income Based Repayment installments regionally sensitive to cost of living, and exclude forgiven student loan debt from taxable income.

**“Qualified Higher Education Expenses” Not Defined as Originally Intended:** The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) defines the cost of attendance for higher education as the total cost of education, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, etc. In 1986, changes in tax law uniquely disadvantaged graduate students, making portions of fellowship and student aid, such as room and board, taxable income.

*SAGE Recommends:*
- Amend the tax code to define “Qualified Higher Education Expenses” and “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” to match the definition of “Cost of Attendance” in section 472 of the HEA.

Research Funding

**Funding Federal Research is Crucial to Our Country’s Economy:** The U.S. economy is dependent on groundbreaking research at leading research universities. If the U.S. is to remain a global leader in innovation and technology development, Congress should maintain or increase federal funding of graduate research, which produces cures to diseases, new technology, and a more powerful workforce.

*SAGE Recommends:*
- Congress should maintain, if not increase, federal funding of research, and should create the American Opportunity Challenge Grant.

Immigration

**Visa Reform: Allow World’s Brightest to Create American Jobs:** While the U.S. economy has globalized, our use of talented, U.S.-educated international students lags. The export of some of the best and brightest to our international competitors hurts our economy and standing as global leaders.

*SAGE Recommends:*
- H1-B visa reforms to exclude students with advanced U.S. degrees from H1-B cap, grant work permissions to H1-B-holder spouses, and pass H.R. 3012, and H.R. 2161/S. 1986, to eliminate per-country H1-B limits and grant priority H1-B to international students with advanced STEM degrees.
- F1-B visa reforms especially re-entry permissions for F-1 students, to enable visits to sick family, attend conferences and research, and expand off-campus work allowances.

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Indebtedness and Taxation Policies Stifle Innovation

**Indebtedness: A Growing Obstacle for Attaining a Graduate Education**

Students face an ever-increasing debt burden. The outstanding student loan balance—$1 trillion according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—now surpasses credit card debt, and the average undergraduate student debt alone increased 5% between 2009 and 2010, a similar increase to previous years.¹ This growing burden has a tangible effect on the number of students who apply to graduate school and the time it takes them to complete their degrees. Our nation’s productivity and economic competitiveness suffers as a result. The combination of the increases in cost of attendance and in cost of living, coupled with a reduction in many student aid programs, is making the financial burden of an advanced education overwhelming.

**SAGE Recommends:**

- **Amend the new Income Based Repayment rules to apply to all outstanding federal student loans, and improve the outreach and servicing of IBR so it is accessible and helpful to borrowers.**
- **Make Income Based Repayment installments regionally sensitive to the cost of living.**
- **Pass H.R. 4170, the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012.**
- **Pass S. 1102, the Fairness for Struggling Students Act, which extends bankruptcy discharge to private student loans.**

**‘Qualified Higher Education Expenses’ Not Defined as Originally Intended**

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) defines the cost of attendance for higher education as the total cost of education, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, and other education-related expenses. This definition determines the amount of student financial aid and higher education incentives, such as subsidized student loans and tax deductions, for which a student is eligible. In 1986, changes in tax law limited this definition in a way that uniquely disadvantages graduate students, making portions of fellowship and student aid ineligible for higher education tax incentives such as the lifetime learning credit and tax deductions on scholarship and fellowship monies.

**SAGE Recommends:**

- **Amend the tax code to define “Qualified Higher Education Expenses” and “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” to match the definition of “Cost of Attendance” in section 472 of the HEA.**

**Background: Student Financial Burden is Overwhelming**

**Elimination of Federal Programs Add to Student Indebtedness**

**Subsidized Student Loans.** Effective July 2012, graduate students will no longer be eligible for subsidized student loans. The elimination of the in-school and the after-graduation grace period subsidy will significantly add to the overwhelming debt graduate students face. This loss is also a disincentive for prospective students to pursue advanced degrees.

**Graduate Student Aid is in Decline.** Graduate students face cuts and elimination of funding in multiple need-based programs, and a narrowing of benefits for those that do still exist. For example, the merit based Javits Fellowship program (awarded to some of the highest achieving graduate students) has been

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suspended due to congressional cuts ($9.7 million), while awards for existing Javits Fellows will now be shared with the $31 million GAANN fund.

**Addressing Indebtedness: Loan Forgiveness Programs**

Income based repayment (IBR)\(^2\) is more important now than ever for graduate students to make student debt manageable. Since 1994, Congress has implemented a series of loan repayment options based on how much an individual can pay. These programs cap monthly payments on student loans and forgive remaining debt after the student has made a set number of payments (120 to 300 depending on the program). The monthly installment amount is a percentage of an individual’s “disposable income,” currently defined as the difference between AGI and 150% of the federal poverty line for the family size.

**Problem: The Programs Are Too Restrictive.** The new IBR programs are an excellent first step at addressing the increasing debt of students, but do not help many graduate students or current borrowers. For example, to be eligible for “Pay as You Earn” the newest IBR program, students must not hold student loans from before 2008 and must receive federal loans after 2011. Additionally, forgiven debt under IBR is treated as taxable income, resulting in a strenuous tax liability on individuals who have qualified for IBR precisely because they are unable to pay more.

In addition, the monthly payment amount under IBR does not account for the differences in cost of living faced at various regions of the country. Other federal programs use metrics, including the HUD Fair Market Housing Rate and the Department of Defense Basic Allowance for Housing, to account for regional cost of living adjustments in benefits. Students would greatly benefit if IBR allowed for regional sensitivity and defined disposable income to better represent the ability to repay student loans.

**Pass The Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012 (H.R.4170).** Under this bill, if a student makes payments equal to 10% of his or her disposable income for 10 years, then the remaining federal student loan debt would be forgiven. The bill would also (1) ensure low interest rates on federal student loans by capping them at 3.4%; (2) place a cap on forgiveness maximum to discourage unnecessary borrowing—$45,520 based on the average overall cost of a four-year degree at a public university; and (3) would be financed by projected savings from Iraq and Afghanistan Overseas Contingency Operations.

**Pass The Fairness for Struggling Students Act of 2011 (S. 1102).** While credit card debt and mortgages are discharged when a person files for bankruptcy, student loans—private and federal—are not. S. 1102 would give equal treatment to private loans as other debt and make them dischargeable with the same penalties and restrictions under bankruptcy law. We support expanding this to all student loans.

**Addressing Affordability: Qualified Higher Education Expenses**

Current tax law, in determining a graduate student’s tax liability, limits “qualified higher education expenses” to tuition and registration fees only. This limitation places an added financial burden on graduate students, and has a direct impact on the affordability of graduate education, by excluding income used for basic living expenses such as room and board from a qualified educational deduction. The SAGE recommendation makes the definition of “qualified higher education expenses” consistent across all forms of federal education assistance.

**Taxation of Fellowships and Scholarships.** Education expenses paid with fellowship and scholarship monies can be deducted from gross income, but the current definition excluding room and board reduces the benefit by about a one to one-and-a-half months’ worth of scholarship funds. Notably, education awards do not take this tax burden into account.

**Lifetime Learning Credit.** The Lifetime Learning Credit is equal to 20% of the taxpayer’s out-of-pocket education related expenses up to a maximum of $10,000 in expenses (that is, $2,000 in benefits). However, because of the narrow “qualified higher education expenses” definition, most graduate students do not qualify.

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2 We use “Income Based Repayment” (IBR) as the general term for all income based programs including the 2009 and 2014 versions of IBR, Income Contingent Repayment (ICR), and Pay as You Earn.
Cuts to Research Funding Put America’s Future at Risk

Funding Federal Research Grants Is Crucial to Our Country’s Economy

The U.S. economy is highly dependent on groundbreaking research conducted at leading research universities. If the U.S. is to remain a global leader in innovation, in technological development, and of the knowledge-based economy, Congress should maintain, if not increase, federal funding of graduate research. Basic research leads to cures to diseases, new technology, and a more powerful workforce. Universities rely on federal research funding to attract and retain the best graduate students, and these graduate students use the funding to perform essential research.

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<tr>
<th>SAGE FUNDING REQUESTS</th>
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<td>NIH</td>
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Critical Programs That Build Our Economy and Keep America Competitive

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIH, the nation’s primary agency for supporting biomedical research, competitively awards grants to scientists at universities in all 50 states, as well as many other institutions across the country and world. NIH educates the next generation of scientists and funds leading-edge research with the goals of improving health and saving lives through medical discovery and scientific leadership.

**SAGE Recommends:** Fund NIH at $32 billion, a 4.23% increase to the president’s FY13 budget request which would adjust for inflation of the previous years’ level-funding.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF develops new innovations, strengthens our national economic competitiveness, and advances the goals outlined in the bipartisan America COMPETES Act. NSF funds merit-based research and supports science, math, and engineering education across the country, in all 50 states. NSF investments help to ensure that we build a better America by remaining a global leader in science and technology.

**SAGE Recommends:** Fund NSF at the President’s FY13 $7.4 billion budget request level.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate

The NASA Science Mission Directorate is an essential part of meeting the growing challenges to fully understand global changes to the Earth and answer fundamental questions regarding the universe through space exploration.

**SAGE Recommends:** Fund Science Mission Directorate at the FY12 enacted $5.1 billion budget request, $0.2 billion over this year’s $4.9 billion budget request.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

NEH is the lead federal agency focused on the development and support of scholarship and other work in the humanities. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers. Their work helps citizens and policymakers alike better understand and address the social, economic, and political challenges facing the world today. NEH grants are awarded on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to organizations

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and institutions in every U.S. state and territory. Many NEH grants provide significant leveraging of nonfederal giving through matching requirements.

**SAGE Recommends: Fund NEH at the President’s FY13 $154.3 million budget request level.**

**Department of Education (ED)**

The ED office funds the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) and Javits Fellowship Program, two important competitive fellowships for graduate students. New Javits Fellowships have been suspended for year 2012-2013 due to congressional cuts of $9.7 million. Javits continuation awards will now be funded from the same $31 million GAANN fund which has expanded in scope but maintained level-funding for multiple years.

**SAGE Recommends: Provide additional funds to GAANN to fund Javits continuation awards above the President’s FY13 $31 million request level. Further, fund new Javits Fellows by restoring $9.7 million.**

**Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science**

The DOE Office of Science funds leading-edge energy research and educates the next generation of scientists. Strong, sustainable, and predictable funding levels for the Office of Science are also necessary to ensure that we remain a global leader in science and technology, which are the foundation of our nation’s economic growth and aid in our national defense.

**SAGE Recommends: Fund DOE Office of Science at the President’s FY13 $4.99 billion request level.**

**National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

NOAA conducts crucial scientific research related to our oceans and atmosphere that provides decision-makers with critically important data and services that enhance the nation’s economy, security, and environment. Particularly, the Sea Grant program is a nationwide network of 30 university-based programs that work with coastal communities on research and outreach to promote better understanding, conservation, and use of our coastal resources.

**SAGE Recommends: Fund NOAA Office at the President’s FY13 $5.06 billion request level.**

**Defense 6.1 Basic Research**

Pentagon officials recognize and hail the importance of basic research to keep our military armed with cutting-edge technology and to provide our soldiers with the tools necessary to succeed on the battlefield. Over the years, the Department of Defense has played an important role in funding high-risk, high-reward research, which has led to many significant defense technologies, some of which have also evolved into remarkable civilian applications.

**SAGE Recommends: Fund Defense 6.1 Basic Research at President’s FY13 $2.117 billion request level.**

**A New Partnership to Fund Research at Public Universities**

The Knowledge Made in America: A private-public funding model for leading public research universities proposal creates 1,000 permanent American Opportunity Challenge Grants a year, each to fund faculty and graduate student research. These will match philanthropic investments 1:1 by the federal government and 1:1 by the state governments (for a combined 2:1 government to donor match). For a period of ten years, 100 of our nation’s best public research universities will work with private philanthropists and corporations to raise significant new permanent endowed capital at each university. Only the proceeds from the invested endowment capital would be spent to support research and instruction. At the outset of this effort Congress will commit $1 billion annually for 10 years, distributed by state population. To qualify, state governments must match federal contributions, maintaining three important safeguards of public universities: (1) access and equity; (2) state fiscal responsibility; and (3) academic freedom. See [http://www.sagecoalition.org/knowledgemadeinamerica](http://www.sagecoalition.org/knowledgemadeinamerica).

**SAGE Recommends: Create the American Opportunity Challenge Grant.**
SAGE

Student Immigration Reform Will Keep World’s Best in U.S.

Incentivize Top International Students to Learn and Stay in America

Attracting top international graduate students to our schools and workforce is essential for domestic job creation and innovation. Unfortunately, visa restrictions often force immigrant graduates out of the country, robbing the U.S. of talent, skills, and educational investments. Simple, low-cost adjustments to two key visa programs could result in significant improvements.

I. Highly-Skilled Visa Reform: Allow World’s Brightest to Create American Jobs

While the U.S. economy has globalized, our use of talented, U.S.-educated international students lags. The world’s top students flock to our higher education institutions, only to end up having to leave due to restrictive U.S. visa policies. The export of some of the best and brightest to our international competitors hurts our economy and standing as global leaders. Recent studies from the World Bank and National Foundation for American Policy have found that increasing the number of H-1B high-skill visas to graduate students would increase the number of patent applications and encourage job creation, critical components of competing in a global economy.

SAGE Recommends:

- Exempt all students who obtain advanced degrees in the U.S. from the H1-B cap.
- Grant Work Authorization to the Spouses of H-1B Holders (those in the H-4 category), as is done for the spouses of L-1 Visa holders.
- Pass H.R. 2161 or S. 1986 – These bills would establish a priority worker immigrant visa for international students who have earned advanced degrees in a STEM field from a U.S. university and have an employment offer in the U.S.
- Pass H.R. 3012 – The Fairness for Highly-Skilled Immigrants Act would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to: (1) eliminate the per country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, and (2) increase the per country numerical limitation for family based immigrants from 7% to 15% of the total number of family-sponsored visas.

II. F-1 Visa Reform: Allow Int’l Travel for Academic Work or Family Emergencies.

The F-1 Visa is the primary visa foreign full-time students use to access education in the United States. Unfortunately, current regulations do not align with the realities of graduate education. Students from certain countries can only receive single-entry visas. Consequently, they face difficulties returning to the United States after traveling abroad for academic conferences, academic research or visiting sick family members. Further, current work requirements and “All But Dissertation” restrictions\(^1\) make it difficult for foreign students to support themselves while attending a full-time academic program.

SAGE Recommends:

- Grant waivers to students with single-entry visas, and make security screenings more efficient, to permit reasonable travel and re-entry while enrolled in a U.S. institution.
- Remove off-campus work restrictions.

\(^{1}\) A student is considered ABD when course work has been completed and he or she is focused on research.
Graduate Student Body Election

Total of unique users who voted: 478

Blank ballots cast: 22

Graduate Student Body President and Vice President - 1 seat(s)

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RSG Humanities and the Arts Election

Total of unique users who voted: 15

Blank ballots cast: 8

Representative - 1 seat(s)
RSG Physical Sciences and Engineering Election

Total of unique users who voted: 232

Blank ballots cast: 4
Representative - 6 seat(s)

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<th>Exceptions</th>
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RSG Social Sciences and Education Election

Total of unique users who voted: 282
Blank ballots cast: 1
Representative - 2 seat(s)

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magna aliqua Ut veniam quis nostrud exercitation
Rackham Graduate Student Government Bylaws

Article I: Authority, Rules, and Regulations
Source of Power
Definitions
Rackham Graduate Student Government
Amendments to the Bylaws
Availability of the Bylaws
Conflicts

Article II: Powers and Functions
Rules
Fees
Appropriations
Sponsorship
Lobbying
Representation
Appointments
Elections
Bylaws
Summer Operations

Article III: Infrastructure
Committee Descriptions
Committee Composition and Powers
Committee Responsibilities
Recall of Committee Members

Article IV: Executive Officers
Officers’ Powers and Functions
Officers’ Terms

Article V: Board Elections
Elections
Board Composition
Terms
Filling of Elected Seats
Election Director
Petitions

Article VI: Duties
Board Procedures
Board Obligations

Article VII: Recall and Appointment Power
Recall
Appointments to Vacated Seats

Article VIII: Funding Guidelines
Article IX: Resolutions
ARTICLE I

A. Source of Power. All power under these bylaws is derived directly from the University of Michigan's All Campus Constitution (amended and revised, March 2009), Article 1 (Student Governments on Campus), Section B (Governments), Section C (Democratically Constituted Governments), and the Compiled Code of the Michigan Student Assembly.

B. Definitions. As referenced in these Bylaws, the following terms shall have meaning as defined in this section.

1. “All-Campus Constitution” or “Constitution” shall refer to the All Campus Constitution as maintained by the Michigan Student Assembly.

2. “Rackham Graduate Student Government,” or “Rackham Student Government,” or “RSG,” shall refer to the University of Michigan Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies student government established by the Constitution.

3. “MSA” or “Michigan Student Assembly” shall refer to the University of Michigan Board of Regents recognized central student government.

4. “Rackham” shall refer to the University of Michigan Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

5. “University” shall refer to the University of Michigan.

6. “Campus” shall refer to the Ann Arbor campus of the University, to the exclusion of the Flint and Dearborn campuses.

7. “Student organization” shall refer to student-led groups recognized by the University's Student Organization Account Services department (hereinafter referred to as “SOAS”).

8. “Bylaws” shall refer to this document.

9. “Graduate Student” or “Student” shall refer to students currently enrolled in Rackham, or are currently enrolled for the following academic semester in Rackham.

10. “Student Body” or “Students” shall refer to the students currently enrolled in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies within a given academic year.

11. “The Board” shall refer to the legislative branch of the Rackham Student Government, consisting of all currently elected RSG representatives as well
as the Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer.
"Authorized signer" shall be the president, vice president, or treasurer of RSG.

MSA Registered shall be all student organizations that annually register with the Michigan Student Assembly. Registered student organizations can be found on [http://www.umich.edu/~maizpgs](http://www.umich.edu/~maizpgs).

"SAGE" shall refer to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education coalition founded in part by the Rackham Student Government.

C. Rackham Graduate Student Government. The Rackham Graduate Student Government shall consist of the Board, the executives, and the Board’s committees: the budgetary committee, the administrative committee, the academic affairs committee, the elections committee, the student life committee, and the legislative affairs committee. RSG shall be the only recognized graduate student government by and within the Rackham Graduate School, the Central Student Government (MSA), and the University.

D. Amendments to the Bylaws.

1. Any amendment to the Bylaws must be presented to the Board in hardcopy or delivered electronically to all members of the board at a RSG general meeting 7 days before its first reading. A second reading may take place no sooner than 6 days after the first reading and voted on between 7-45 days thereafter (or until quorum is met). The amendment(s) may not be acted upon for fourteen (14) days.

2.3. An amendment to the Bylaws shall not be considered by the Board if the amendment creates a conflict within the Bylaws or a conflict between the bylaws and the Constitution. Such a conflict may be raised as a point of order by any voting member of the Board. Should a conflict be detected following a successful vote by the Board, the President will veto the resolution and thus declare it void.

3.4. Amendments will be adopted with a two-thirds majority vote of the Board present and voting at the 2nd reading. Amendments are immediate in effect 14 days after a passing vote, unless otherwise noted in the amendment, with the exception of changes to student fees.
5. Any amendment that shall modify student fees must be approved by Student body-wide, majority vote during either a scheduled fall or winter seat election. Fee adjustments approved by the student body will be presented by the President to the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan for their approval.

Amendments must be recorded in a RSG meeting’s official minutes. Official minutes must be approved on or before the next RSG general meeting or the amendments are void.
E. Availability of the Bylaws. The Bylaws must be posted on the RSG website. Hardcopies Electronic copies must be made available to any member of the student body upon request.

F. Conflicts.

1. Any conflict or ambiguity arising between the Bylaws and the Constitution shall be resolved in favor of the Constitution.

2. Any conflict or ambiguity arising between the Bylaws and any other student government code (including MSA) shall be resolved by the Central Student Judiciary on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE II

A. Rules. RSG shall create rules and/or sanctions for the governing of students within the Graduate School. Any such rules adopted by RSG shall be presented to the Dean for her review and approval.

B. Fees. RSG shall levy fees to Students, as approved by majority vote of the Student body, pursuant to Article I, Section C of the Constitution.

C. Appropriations. RSG shall keep, manage, and appropriate monies collected under Article II, Section B of the Bylaws and all other sources of income.

D. Sponsorship. RSG shall appropriate funds to MSA registered Student organizations for programs designed to enhance and improve the Graduate Student community on Campus pursuant to the rules contained in these bylaws.

E. Lobbying. RSG shall lobby for the interests of Students within the University and externally to federal, state, and local entities as deemed appropriate by the Board.

F. Representation. RSG shall represent the interests of the student Student body. Body to all school, university, and external entities.

G. Appointments. RSG shall be the sole appointer of Student representatives for all University committees requesting graduate student views and input.

H. Elections. RSG shall hold semester elections for candidates. Elections may include referenda.
I. Bylaws. RSG shall establish Bylaws in order to exercise their powers and to carry out the functions described herein.

J. Summer Operations. RSG shall remain in force throughout the entire calendar year.

K. Referenda. RSG shall send to the student body such questions as it deems necessary by a majority vote. Such questions can be informational, such as to gauge the general opinion of the student body on a given issue, or binding such that the outcome of the vote will be binding on RSG policy decisions.

ARTICLE III

A. Committee Descriptions.

1. Budgetary Committee (BC)

Composition: 6–87 or more members

Required Members: Treasurer (Chair) President Vice President 4+ current Board members, 1 from each division (minimum)

a. The Budgetary Committee shall be required to maintain five active members representatives for the purposes of divesting Student funds democratically. In the event the Budgetary Committee falls below the required five members, the Budgetary Committee duties and powers detailed in III.A.1.b. of these Bylaws are rescinded until membership requirement is met. Until met, all funding requests shall be presented directly to the Board.

b. The Budgetary Committee is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and authorizing all funding requests from Student organizations by majority vote up to, but not in excess of, $700 dollars. Requests made for over $700 shall be presented to the Board, after which the Committee shall recommend the amount to fund to the Board for approval. Lack of Board approval will result in further Board discussion followed by a vote. Student Groups requesting funding may request to present their proposal to the Board during a RSG general meeting for approval, with recommendations by the BC.

c. The Budgetary Committee, with the action power described in III.A.1.b of the Bylaws, is required to maintain informal minutes. These informal minutes shall include the individual voting records of all members for all
funding requests. Informal mMinutes shall be taken by the treasurer and kept for three-four years before disposal. Informal mMinutes shall be presented to the Board upon request from the President.

d. The Budgetary Committee may hold its fiscal deliberations electronically. In such a case, all committee members will be required to participate in the discussion in a timely manner. Individuals that do not contribute to a discussion, without the approval of the Treasurer shall automatically relinquish their vote on the pending matter(s). Repeated lack of participation shall be cause for removal from the Committee by the Board. Unless otherwise specified by the Treasurer, a timely manner shall be considered to be 5 business days.

e. Student organizations granted funding by the Board shall be required to produce itemized receipts and an Event Report to the Treasurer prior to receiving funds.

f. All rules contained in these bylaws as well as in the allocation email from the RSG Treasurer must be adhered to in order to receive reimbursements. Article VIII specifically addresses organization funding requests.

g. Five percent (5%) of the estimated yearly budget shall at all times be kept in reserve for emergency costs. These funds shall not be considered available for funding Student organizations. Use of this reserve shall only be authorized by a majority vote of the Board and the concurrence of both the Treasurer and the President.

h. Disbursements of $700 or less shall require one authorized signature.

i. Disbursements of over $700 shall require the signature of the Treasurer with the approval of at least one other authorized signer.

j. Final funding amounts for each accepted Student organization request of $700 or less shall be determined by a majority of the Board. Final funding levels for each accepted student organization request for funding of over $700 shall be recommended by the Budgetary Committee and voted upon by the Board. The Board may hear from the organization requesting funding and may modify the Budgetary Committee’s recommendation. A simple majority vote shall be required to approve funding up to $1,500. Funding above this level shall require a super majority as well as the affirmative vote of at least one executive.

k. The treasurer is responsible for producing a detailed Budget for each fall, winter, and spring/summer term, presented to the Board no later than the 4th week of the academic term. Budgets shall be approved by.
a majority vote of the Board and shall be posted on the RSG website, and hardcopies shall be made available to any interested Student.

1. The treasurer will produce a detailed spending report at the conclusion of each academic term. This report will include all funds budgeted and expended as well as all submitted event evaluation forms. The Board will review the report and approve it if correct by the 3rd week of the following semester. Approved funding reports will be placed on the RSG website and made available to any interested Student.

2. **Student Life Committee (SLC)**
   Composition: Open Enrollment
   Required Members: 43 current Board members
a. The Student Life Committee shall address all non-academic needs and concerns of the Student Body to the appropriate university administrator(s). Additionally, the committee shall serve to help unite the Student body through the hosting of large communal events designed to stimulate student social interaction. Specific attention shall be given to creating/hosting events that are inter-departmental, that strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for minority groups and that help to unite both central and northern sub-campus locations.

b. The Student Life Committee shall present funding requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval. The committee is not exempt from the funding guidelines found in article VIII of these bylaws except when such an exemption is requested and approved by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Board.

c. The Student Life Committee shall be required to host at least three major Student social events per winter and fall semesters. One major social event during the spring and summer months shall be held, funding permitting.

3. Academic Affairs Committee (AC)

Composition: Open enrollment

Required Members: 3 current Board members

a. The Academic Issues Affairs Committee shall address academic & programmatic needs of the Student body to the Rackham Administration. These issues shall include, but are not limited to, financial aid, fellowships, grants, awards, summer funding, and academic policies.

b. The Academic Affairs Committee shall present Budget requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

4. Elections Committee (EC)

Composition: Open enrollment

Required Members: Vice President or Treasurer(Chair)* (The Vice President shall chair the committee in the fall term. The Treasurer shall chair the committee in the Winter term.)
4 current Board members (1 from each Division)

1 Election Director

- The Elections Committee shall provide active advisement and procedural help to the Election Director, aiding him/her in running a smooth and timely election each fall and winter term.
- The Elections Committee shall propose any changes to RSG’s election policy no later than 6 weeks prior to a given election.
- The Elections Committee will assist the executives in the solicitation for and the selection of an election director.
- The Elections Committee shall present Budget requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

5. Communications Committee (ComCom)

Composition: Open enrollment
Required members: Vice-President (Chair), 2 current Board members

- The Communications Committee shall facilitate bidirectional communication between RSG and the student body. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining and managing the RSG website as well as publishing a monthly electronic newsletter.
- The Communications Committee shall solicit applications – from within RSG as well as the general student body – to serve on various Rackham and University boards, panels, and committees desiring graduate student representation.
- The Communications Committee shall, at the request of the President or Vice-President, assist in the vetting for appointed members.

The Communications Committee shall be responsible for publicizing RSG meetings and events, producing RSG paraphernalia, and providing constituents with general information about RSG.

7.6. Legislative Affairs Committee (LegCom)

Composition: Open enrollment
Required Members: President (must be chair or co-chair), Vice President, 43 current Board members
a. The Legislative Affairs Committee will collaborate with external lobbying-advocacy organizations such as the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) coalition, the Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students (MAGPS), and the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) to promote the legislative agenda of the student body.

b. The Legislative Affairs Committee will work with the City of Ann Arbor City Council and Washtenaw County to promote the local interests of the Student Body.

c. The Legislative Affairs Committee will work with the State and Federal Governments, as well as other entities beyond the University to promote the interests of the Student Body.

C-B. Committee Composition and Powers.

a. The Vice President will, with the advice and consent of the President and Treasurer, nominate members of the Board to sit on RSG’s various committees by the 2nd meeting of each semester.

b. Each committee shall have a chair or co-chairs.

c. At least one chair, per committee, must be a current elected representative or executive of RSG. Chairs are voted on in committee with the exception of the BC Budgetary Committee and the Legislative Committee and ComCom and will be presented to the Board for Confirmation by its (the Board’s) 3rd meeting each semester.

d. Committees with open enrollment may include any number of non-RSG members or Associate Members at the discretion of the committee chair, the vice president, the president, or with the approval of the Board.

e. No committee shall act on issues outside of its stipulated responsibilities described herein without prior authorization from the Board.

f. Committees may be created on a temporary basis for special projects. The formation of ad-hoc committees shall be approved by the Board without the requirement of an amendment. Ad-hoc committees do not have any power of action and serve only as advisory panels to the Board. Full committee status requires a 2/3 majority vote by the Board and inclusion into the bylaws, formally stipulating composition and duties.

D.C. Committee Responsibilities.
1. Meetings

a. Committees shall meet **at least twice bi-weekly monthly** and at the discretion of the chair.

b. The chair of each committee shall establish the time and location of each meeting, providing at least 48 hours’ notice to committee members, and provide an electronic copy of the committee’s preliminary agenda to committee members and upon a written request, to members of the student body.

3. Minutes

   a. Each committee chair shall ensure that minutes are recorded for each meeting. These minutes will be sent to the committee’s members within 5 days of the meeting for review and approval.

   b. Each committee chair will submit approved minutes to the Board within 2 days of approval by the committee.

   c. Minutes will be presented in a format provided by the Vice President.

   d. Minutes will include meeting attendance as well as an accurate record of the committee’s deliberations, decisions, and future plans.

3.4. Oral Reports

   a. Each committee chair shall be required to report any and all committee activities to the Board at each general meeting. Reports must contain attendance records for the committee’s meetings and activities.

   Reports may be oral or in writing. The Board’s official minutes may serve as a record of committee reports.

   b. The chair of each committee shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of meeting attendance. Minutes Attendance is required and must be emailed to the Vice President within one week the meeting

   c. The chair(s) of each committee may appoint a vice-chair from within the committee’s membership. The selection / election of a vice chair will be reported to the Board. A vice chair shall be responsible for taking minutes and for chairing in the elected chair’s absence as well as for any other tasks so delegated by the
4.5. Budget

a. Each committee must present to the Treasurer a budget no later than 14 days the second week of the term after formation by the Board. Committee chair(s) will take the lead in forming these budgets under the guidance of the Vice President.

D. Recall of Committee Members.

1. Any committee member including the chair may be removed from their position on the committee by a majority vote of the Board in the event of:
   
   a. The accumulation of 2 unexcused absences in a given academic term. Absences may be excused by the chair when requested in writing.
   b. Failure to report committee activities to the Board for two consecutive meetings (where committee activities have occurred).
   c. A motion by another member or chair of the committee, and a majority vote in favor by the Board.

2. Any committee member including the chair who is up for recall by majority vote shall be given an opportunity to address the Board. Following this speaking opportunity, the Board will vote by secret ballot. The ballots will be counted by the executive officers.

3. The President may, with the consent of either the Vice President or the Treasurer temporarily remove a committee member or chair. Temporary removal shall be voided upon the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

A. Officers: Powers and Functions.

1. President: The president shall:
   
   a. Be the chief executive officer of RSG, President of the Graduate Student Body, and shall preside at Board meetings with the power to vote.
   
   b. Be authorized to speak on behalf of the RSG Board, its committees, and the graduate student body at large.

   c. Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.
c.d. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees.

d.e. Set the time, dates, and frequency for all general Board meetings, set the general Board meeting agendas, and chair general Board meetings.

e.f. Maintain an updated roster and attendance record for the Board’s elected and appointed members.

f.g. Provide voting members with excused absences as deemed necessary and appropriate, subject to appeal by the Board.

g.h. Vacate a representative’s seat upon the accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences. Bring to the Board a motion to vacate a representative’s seat upon the accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences.

h.i. Provide ultimate oversight and management of RSG’s paid staff members.

i.j. Create, Charge, and oversee Ad-Hoc committees for specifics projects and interests.

j.k. In the event of either the vice president or treasurer being recalled/removed and/or unable to fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws, nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.

l. Represent the Student body as a voting member of the Rackham Executive Board, the governing administrative body of the Graduate School.

m. Chair the Legislative Affairs Committee

n. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees

k.o. Be the University of Michigan’s official delegate to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education.

l.p. Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new president.

q. Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her vice presidential activities.
m. Appoint members of the graduate student body to university committees as appropriate.

2. **Vice President:** The Vice President shall:

   a. Be the chief operating officer of RSG, Vice President of the Graduate Student Body, and shall be a member of the Board meetings with the power to vote.

   b. Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.

   c. Take minutes at regular Board meetings.

   d. Coordinate the activities of RSG committees, including collecting and publishing committee meeting minutes.

   e. Provide management for RSG’s paid staff.

   f. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees.

   g. Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her vice presidential activities.

h. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees

i. Be an official delegate to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education

j. If unable to attend a meeting, submit his/her report in writing to the president no later than 48 hours after the meeting. Assume all the powers of the president in the event that the president is unable to fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws and/or is recalled/removed.

k. Act as chair of RSG communications activities including appointment, subject to Board approval, a newsletter editor, serving as editor for all communications emails, and manage RSG’s social media presence including Facebook and Twitter.

 l. When chairing the Board meeting, appoint a temporary secretary to take minutes from among the present Board members if the treasurer is unavailable. If the vice president assumes chairing duties, the treasurer shall take the minutes.
Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new vice president.

3. **Treasurer**: The Treasurer shall:

a. Be the chief financial officer of RSG with oversight authority of all RSG accounts and financial transactions.
b. Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.
c. Chair the **Budgetary Committee-BC**.
d. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees
e. Recommend to the Board a salary, consistent with the bylaws, for all RSG paid staff members.
f. Prepare a budget with the advice and consent of the President by the 3rd Board meeting of each semester for adoption. Failure by the Board to adopt the treasurer’s proposed budget after the 5th meeting of a given semester shall constitute automatic approval.
g. Disburse funds appropriated by the **Budgetary Committee-BC** and the Board as provided for in the Bylaws.
h. Compile an RSG budget at the beginning of each academic term including committee budgets, representative project budgets, executive discretionary accounts, and other potential expenses.
i. Compile an RSG Funding report at the end of each term.
j. Manage the approved RSG budget.
k. Report at every general Board meeting the current state of the RSG budget and all RSG accounts, including pending credits and debits.
l. If unable to attend a meeting, submit his/her report in writing to the president no later than 48 hours after the meeting.
m. **Have the authority to interpret the spirit and intent of funding articles of these bylaws and to implement the same subject to approval by the President.**
n. **Complete a full funding report at the close of the fall, winter, and spring/summer semesters for which s/he was appointed detailing all expenditures. This report shall be submitted to the Board and published to the Student body.**
o. Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new treasurer.
p. **Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her vice presidential Treasurer activities.**
The treasurer is responsible for producing a detailed Budget for each fall, winter, and spring/summer term, presented to the Board no later than the 4th week of the academic term. Budgets shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and shall be posted on the RSG website, and hardcopies shall be made available to any interested Student.

The Treasurer will produce a detailed spending report at the conclusion of each academic term. This report will include all funds budgeted and expended as well as all submitted event evaluation forms. The Board will review the report and approve it if correct by the 3rd week of the following semester. Approved funding reports will be placed on the RSG website and made available to any interested Student.

B. Officers’ Terms.

1. Newly elected officers begin their terms with the commencement of the new semester. The president and vice president shall assume their duties on the first day of classes of the start of the spring semester. The treasurer shall assume his/her duties on January 1st at the start of the winter semester.

ARTICLE V

A. Elections. RSG general elections shall be held on dates determined by MSA. The election timetable and rules are found in Article V of MSA’s Compiled Code.

B. Board Composition. The Board shall consist of currently enrolled Students as follows:

1. Representation for the Board shall be divided among the four major Divisions defined by Rackham:
   • Biological and Health Sciences
   • Physical Sciences and Engineering
   • Social and Behavioral Sciences
   • Humanities and the Arts

2. There shall be one representative for each 400 Students or major fraction thereof presently enrolled in each of the Divisions. A major fraction thereof shall mean that the remainder is greater than 200 Students after the number of Students in the Division is divided by 400. Each Division must receive at
least one representative, regardless of size.

a. The basis for deciding a Student’s appropriate Division by his/her current area of study for the purposes of election shall be determined by Rackham. Current Division listings, as of March 1, 2012 are as follows:

**Division I - Biological and Health Sciences**

- Acute Care Nursing
- Bioinformatics
- Biological Chemistry
- Biostatistics
- Cancer Biology
- Cell and Developmental Biology
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Cellular Biotechnology
- Chemical Biology
- Clinical Research
- Clinical Research Des and Statistical Analysis
- Community Health Nursing
- Dental Hygiene
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Endodontics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Environmental Justice
- Endodermological Science
- Epidemiology
- Genetic Counseling
- Gerontological Nursing
- Health and Health Care Research
- Human Genetics
- Immunology
- Industrial Ecology
- Industrial Health
- Kinesiology
- Landscape Architecture
- Medical Scientist Training Practice
- Medical Surgical Nursing
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Molecular and Cellular Pathology
- Molecular and Integrative Physiology
- Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Nursing Business and Health Systems
- Nutritional Science
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral Health Sciences
- Orthodontics
Parent-Child Nursing
Pediatric Dentistry
Periodontics
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacology
Physiology
Program in Biomedical Sciences
Prosthodontics
Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Restorative Dentistry
Social and Administrative Sciences
Spatial Analysis
Toxicology

Administration of Nursing & Patient Care Services
Bioinformatics
Biological Chemistry
Biology
Biostatistics
Cell and Developmental Biology
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Chemical Biology
Clinical Research
Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis
Community Health Nursing
Dental Hygiene
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Endodontics
Environmental Health Sciences
Epidemiological Science
Gerontological Nursing
Health and Health Care Research
Human Genetics
Immunology
Industrial Ecology
Industrial Health
Kinesiology
Medical Scientist Training Practice
Medical Surgical Nursing
Medical Chemistry
Microbiology and Immunology
Molecular and Cellular Pathology
Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
Natural Resources and Environment
Neuroscience
Nursing
Nursing Business and Health Systems
Nutritional Science
Oral Health Sciences
Orthodontics
Parent-Child Nursing
Pediatric Dentistry
Periodontics
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacology
Program in Biomedical Sciences (PIBS)
Prosthodontics
Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Restorative Dentistry
Social and Administrative Sciences (Pharmacy)
Spatial Analysis
Toxicology

Division II - Physical Sciences and Engineering

Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace Science
Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics
Applied Physics
Applied Statistics
Astronomy and Astrophysics
Atmospheric and Space Science
Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences
Biomedical Engineering
Biophysics
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Complex Systems
Computer Science and Engineering
Construction Engineering and Management
Design Science
Earth and Environmental Sciences
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering-Systems
Environmental Engineering
Financial Engineering
Geology
Industrial and Operations Engineering
Macromolecular Science and Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences
Nuclear Science
Physics
Plasma Science and Engineering
Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace Science
Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics
Applied Physics
Applied Statistics
Astronomy & Astrophysics
Atmospheric and Space Science
Biomedical Engineering
Biophysics
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering
Construction Engineering and Management
Design Science
Electrical, Eng Atmospheric, Oceanic & Space Sci
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering - Systems
Environmental Engineering
Financial Engineering
Geology
Industrial and Operations Engineering
Macromolecular Science and Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences
Nuclear Science
Oceanography Marine Geology & Geological Chemistry
Physics
Space and Planetary Physics
Statistics

Division III - Social and Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology
Anthropology and History
Applied Economics
Asian Studies: China
Asian Studies: Japan
Business Administration
Division IV - Humanities and the Arts

- African American Diasporic Studies
- African Studies
- Afroamerican and African Studies
- American Culture
- Arabic Studies
- Architecture
- Art
- Asian Languages and Cultures
- Classical Art and Archaeology
- Classical Studies
- Classical Studies-Greek
- Classical Studies-Latin
- Comparative Literature
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- English & Women's Studies
- English and Education
- English Language and Literature
- Film Studies
- Germanic Languages and Literature
- History of Art
- Judaic Studies
- Linguistics
- Media Arts
- Medieval & Early Modern Studies
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- Architecture
- Art
- Asian Language and Culture
- Chinese
- Classical Art and Archaeology
- Classical Studies
- Classical Studies - Latin
- Comparative Literature
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- English and Education
- English and Women's Studies
- English Language and Literature
- Germanic Language and Literature
- Greek and Roman History
- Guest Student
- History and Women's Studies
- History of Art
- Independent Interdependent Degree Program
- Landscape Architecture
- Linguistics
- Linguistics and Germanic Languages and Literatures
- Media Arts
- Music Composition
- Music Composition and Theory
- Music Conducting
- Music Performance
- Music Theory
- Music: Music Education
3. A president, who shall be President of the Graduate Student Body of the University of Michigan, along with a vice president, each with full voting rights.

4. A treasurer, who shall act as the principal financial officer for RSG and chair of the Budgetary Committee, with full voting rights.

C. Terms.

1. Two elections shall be held each year, on the same timeline as those of MSA-CSG (Michigan Student Assembly-Central Student Government). One shall be held during November, and the other shall be held during March. Officers and Representatives shall hold their elected seats for one-year terms. One half of the seats apportioned to each division shall be elected in the Fall with the other half being elected in the Winter.

2. The President and Vice President of the Graduate Student Body shall be elected by the student body on a single ticket during the Winter election.

3. The Treasurer shall be nominated by the President and Vice President from and among the current and former RSG membership after the fall election has concluded. The treasurer will assume office for a one-year term upon confirmation by the new Board. A 2/3 majority of the board, including the President and Vice President is required to confirm the treasurer.

4. Each representative’s one-year term shall begin with the following semester. March electees shall assume office beginning the spring semester. November electees shall assume office beginning the winter semester. Upon election, and prior to taking office as an elected representative, all representatives elect shall be considered associate members.

D. Filling of Elected Seats.
1. For any given Division with multiple vacancies during an election cycle, the candidate with the most votes is awarded the first seat. The candidate with the second highest vote total receives the second seat, and so forth.

2. In the event of a voting tie between two candidates for one seat, the newly constituted Board shall vote at the first general Board meeting of the new term. In the event of a Board voting tie, the votes of representatives of the Divisional candidates in question shall decide. In the event of a Divisional voting tie, the winner will be determined by the president at the first regularly scheduled General Board meeting after the election results were determined.

3. President/vice president: The executive officer positions shall be filled together on a single ticket. They shall be elected by general Student body vote in the winter term. In the event of a tie, the newly constituted Board shall vote to determine the winner at the first general meeting of the spring/summer term. In the event of a Board voting tie, the treasurer shall determine the winner.

E. Election Director (ED).

1. Eligibility: The election director shall be a currently enrolled University student. The director may not be a Board member or any student currently running for office in RSG.

2. Recruitment: The election director shall be recruited through a campus-wide email sent by RSG no later than 49 days prior to the election (as determined by CSG-MSA).

3. Appointment: The Board shall appoint the election director by majority vote no later than 39 days in advance of any general election.

4. Salary: A salary of $300 shall be paid for services rendered. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Board, with the recommendation of the Elections Committee, the Treasurer, and the President may approve a salary bonus for the ED of up to a maximum of $200. All monies will be paid upon successful (as determined by the Board) completion of a given election cycle.

5. Duties:
   a. The ED shall report weekly to the president with updates on candidates and election progress.
   c. The ED shall report the current status of the elections including preparations, advertising, candidate applications, and the like to the Board at least once a week upon his/her confirmation by the Board
and until the election is completed, as determined by the President.

d. The ED shall work with the EC to advertise the election to the
student body including the ability to run for any open Board
positions as encouraging maximum voter turnout.

e. The ED shall consult the Office of the Registrar to verify current
enrollment numbers to determine the current, appropriate number
of seats per Division. No later than one month prior to the election,
the ED shall email Graduate to seek candidates for representative
seats and advertise the election.

f. No later than 5 p.m. 16 days prior to the start of the election,
candidates must, via email to the ED, indicate their intention to run.
The ED shall consult the Office of the Registrar to verify current
enrollment status and Divisional membership of candidates.

g. The ED shall collect all candidate names and information and
submit them online to the voting website no later than 12 days prior
to the election, at which point a sample official ballot will be posted
for public viewing.

h. The ED shall maintain the voting website and ensure its proper
function.

i. The ED shall remain available during the full voting period and
answer all questions received from candidates.

j. The ED shall notify the Board and all candidates of election results
no later than 24 hours after vote counts have been completed.
These results will be posted on the RSG website within 24 hours of
notice to the Board being presented.

k. The ED shall receive active advisement and support from the
Elections Committee and members of the Board not seeking
election.

5. Removal: The board may remove the ED for failure to perform duties,
as determined by a majority vote of the Board. Should the ED be
removed, any promised salary shall be forfeited. Selection process shall
then recommence. Should the ED be removed from office too close in
time to an election (as judged by the Board), the President or his
designee will fulfill the remaining roles of the ED without financial
compensation. The treasurer will reallocate the ED's forfeited salary
accordingly.

F. Petitions.

1. Petitions, amendments, and ballot questions may be submitted to the
Student body during a general election for campus vote. The Board must approve all such items by majority vote no later than 16-14 days prior to the general election. Questions to be placed on a general election ballot may not be approved during a first reading.

ARTICLE VI

A. Board Procedures.

Membership
a. Elected Members

1. Elected Members are all Board members who have been elected by the student body during a regular or special election or elected by the Board to fill a vacancy.

2. Elected Members include the president, vice president, and the treasurer.

3. Only Elected Members may vote on official business during Board meetings.

4. Each Elected Member must be a member of at least one RSG committee as defined in these bylaws.

5. Each Elected Member must plan, execute, or attend at least two non-meeting RSG events each academic term (fall, winter, and spring/summer).

b. Associate Members

1. Associate Members are all non-elected members who show a continued interest in RSG proceedings.

   a. Individuals may become an RSG Associate Member by attending 3 consecutive Board meetings or by attending 3 consecutive committee meetings.

2. An Associate Member may only vote as a member of an RSG committee.

3. Associate Members may participate in Board discussions and debates.

4. Associate Membership shall expire at the next regularly scheduled election as defined in the All Campus Constitution.

5. Associate Members are limited to a single term. Exceptions must be requested in writing and approved by the Board.
e. Appointed Members

1. Appointed members are all non-elected members of RSG that have been jointly nominated by the President and Vice President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Board to serve in a specific leadership role for RSG.

2. With the exception of the RSG Treasurer, appointed Members will not be given a vote on the Board.

3. The President and Vice President may notify members of the Graduate Student Body of any vacancy in an appointed position.

f. Student Body

1. Members of the student body not included in sections a, b, or c above shall be allowed and encouraged to attend RSG Board and committee meetings and to provide information to the Board and its committees when requested. These members will not be allowed to participate in RSG debates or discussions without the permission of an Elected Member.

2. Quorum: Quorum shall consist of half of all non-vacant voting seats, rounded up.

3. Roll call: Each general meeting shall commence with a roll call attendance conducted by the Vice President. This attendance report will be included in the meeting’s minutes.

4. Minutes: Minutes shall be approved electronically or at the next General Board meeting. Minutes shall be posted on the RSG website (by the Vice President) for all Board members at least 72 hours in advance of the next General Board meeting.

5. In accordance with the Constitution, no RSG member shall receive monetary compensation from RSG for services rendered.

6. Board meetings shall be open to the Student body.

B. Board Obligations.

1. Attendance: All RSG members are required to attend general meetings. After the accumulations of three (3) unexcused absences, the member is immediately recalled. Elected Members must also attend a minimum of two RSG sponsored events each semester.
2. Excused absence: Any RSG member may receive an excused absence from the president provided permission is requested at least 48 hours prior to the general meeting, or within five (5) days subsequent to the absence for reasons deemed appropriate by the president.

**ARTICLE VII**

A. Recall. For conduct deemed inappropriate by members of the Board, a recall vote may be initiated against another representative and/or officer. A board member shall be considered recalled after a seconded motion and 3/4 majority vote of the Board.

B. Appointments to Vacated Seats.

1. Board members: In the event of a vacancy due to recall, election to an officer position, graduation, resignation, or any other reason, the Board may canvass the Student body via email to invite interested Students to serve as Representatives for the remainder of the term. Any Associate (non-voting, but regularly participating) Member in the same Division as the vacated seat shall be included in the Board’s consideration during the appointment process. Vacancy shall be filled by majority vote. The appointed representative shall only serve out the remainder of the previous representative’s term. This appointment power shall be voided within one month of a general election.

2. Executive Officers:

   a. President: If the president cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the vice president shall assume presidential duties.

   b. Vice President: If the vice president cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the president shall nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.

   c. Treasurer: If the treasurer cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the president and vice president shall nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.

**ARTICLE VIII**

A. Funding Guidelines.
1. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will consider funding requests from all MSA-registered student organizations. Requests for event funding will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups requesting greater than $700 in funding are required to make a presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Groups requesting less than $700 may be required to make a presentation, at the discretion of the treasurer.

2. A maximum of two requests per organization shall be funded in a given academic year.

3. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will not consider retroactive funding requests.

4. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will not consider funding requests submitted fewer than fifteen business days prior to an event. This restriction may be waived by the Treasurer on a case-by-case basis.

5. All monies appropriated for a funding request will be for specific items originally listed in a submitted budget. Where budget items are originally approved but have less or no expense actually incurred, excess appropriated funds will be forfeited. Funds cannot be reallocated to budget items not previously approved by the Board.

6. The guidelines contained in the following four clauses will be used by the RSG - BCBudgetary Committee -BC and the Board in making decisions about funding requests. Each request will ultimately be considered on its individual merits.

7. The following are likely to be funded:
   a. Academic events
   b. Cultural events
   c. Proposals that are well written with a detailed budget, including expenses and expected/secured income
   d. Events which are public and held on campus
   e. Community service events involving or benefiting graduate students
   f. Projects that may need start-up funds but which will become self-sustaining in a short period of time
   g. Events that involve more than 100 graduate students and/or have at least 25% graduate student participation
   h. Programs designed to enhance quality of life for the Student body.
8. The following are not likely to be funded:
   a. Parties
   b. Events not open or easily accessible to the entire UM community
   c. Publications which do not positively impact the UM community
   d. Events that, in our judgment, should be receiving funds from some other obvious, appropriate source
   e. Club sports
   f. Proposals from social fraternities or sororities
   g. Proposals from lobbyists
   h. Capital goods
   i. Activities exclusive to the membership of one organization
   j. Film and photo development/photographers/videographers
   k. Loans
   l. Political lobbying

9. The following may require additional information prior to consideration:
   a. Food
   b. Honoraria
   c. Travel
   d. Requests from the Central Student Government.
   e. Guest Speakers (biographies, prior speaking engagements)

10. The following will not be funded:
   a. Alcohol
   b. Drugs
   c. Medication
   d. Charitable contributions
   e. Projects in which students are receiving course credit for completion.
   f. Human resources (coaches, secretaries, employees)
   g. Late fees/penalties of any type
   h. Proposals with non-itemized budgets
   i. Plaques/trophies/prizes
   j. Scholarships/stipends/awards
   k. Events intended for participation by the entire graduate student body if that event is scheduled for a day that is identified as a major holiday on the calendar of University sanctioned holidays.
   l. Proposals from individual students (RSG will only accept funding requests from MSA-registered organizations)

B. Organization Funding Reports
1. Upon a Board or Budgetary Committee decision to fund a group, the treasurer will send an email to the group’s contact person that designates the date – 30 days after the event takes place – by which a report and receipts are due. A detailed event report, provided by the treasurer in that email, must include the number of students in attendance, the percentage of graduate students attending, a summary of how the event went, as well as a financial breakdown. Receipts for reimbursement must be attached to this report and mailed to the treasurer’s campus address given at request approval. Organizations failing to meet this deadline will forfeit any appropriated funds and will be excluded from requesting/receiving RSG funding until at least the end of the current semester pending any appeal to the Board. This exclusion may be extended by a majority vote of the Budgetary Committee. Under circumstances beyond an organization’s control, the treasurer may extend this deadline provided groups send timely and reasonable requests for such an extension.

2. Per Section A, Clause 3, items in funding reports not approved by the Board will not be reimbursed.

ARTICLE IX

A. Resolution Types.

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

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

B. Format.

1. Every RSG resolution shall contain the following:

   i. A title.
   ii. A unique resolution number, assigned by the Vice President in his/her role as the chair of the ComCom
   iii. A set of descriptive clauses, explaining the rationale for the resolution and providing support for any operative clauses contained within the resolution.
iv. A minimum of one operative clause directing action in the case of a BR or stating an opinion in the case of a SB.
   1. The first operative clause in a BR shall have a format “Therefore be it resolved by the Rackham Student Government on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school that”
   2. The first operative clause in a SR shall have a format “Therefore, on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school and articulated by its elected representatives, it is the sense of the Board that”

v. The signature upon final vote by at least one executive officer__attestingshe Vice President or his/her designee to the vote count and that the process to consider a resolution as outlined in this article and in Roberts Rules of Order was followed.

vi. The signature of the President __or the Vice President approving or vetoing the final passage of the resolution. The Officer not chairing shall have the authority to approve or veto.

C. Voting

1. All voting members of the Board shall be able to vote on RSG Resolutions.

2. The President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The president may vote when not chairing.

3. The Vice President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The vice president may vote when not chairing will retain his/her full vote on the final passage of a resolution, regardless of if chairing the Board.

4. The Treasurer, will retain his/her full vote on the final passage of a resolution, regardless of if chairing the Board, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The Treasurer may vote when not chairing.

D. Student Body Input

1. Upon a motion, second, and majority vote by the Board any resolution may be postponed to a time certain to allow for formal input from the student body.

2. Unless waved by a 2/3rds majority of the Board, a vote to adopt a BR will
be out of order unless a public hearing on the BR has been advertised and conducted.

E. Public Hearings

1. Board resolutions serve as official statements of policy and as such require input from the student body.

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

F. Executive Veto

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

G. Publication

1. Upon the final adoption and approval of a resolution, a signed version shall be posted to the RSG website and included in the Board's minutes.

2. Copies of the approved resolution should also be transmitted to the Michigan Daily, the Michigan Voice, MSA, and members of the Student Body (upon request).