Rackham Student Government Board Meeting: September 15, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. August 17 2011 **
   b. September 8, 2011 *
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy
V. RSG Committee Logistics (meeting times, and budget proposals) **
VI. Spring / Summer Updates
   a. Executive Board
   b. Academic Affairs
   c. Budgetary
   d. Communications
   e. Legislative Affairs
VII. RSG Branding
   a. Shirts **
   b. Representing RSG @ Events and Functions
VIII. Visioning for the Semester (breakout) *
IX. Future Events
X. Open Discussion
XI. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Affairs</th>
<th>Student Life (Policy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislative/External Affairs</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Affairs</td>
<td>General / Internal / Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. Role call: 7:10pm

II. Introductions: Nicola 1st year Master’s student in Aerospace Engineering. Bill from Thailand, Masters in Aerospace Engineering. Board members also introduced themselves.

Approval of agenda:
   a. Moved by Kaitlin, 2nded by Tien. Approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes
   a. Approval of minutes: Aug 17th minutes not here. Aug 31 minutes approval moved by Grant, 2nded by Eli. Approved unanimously.

IV. Officer Reports: The Board may overrule decisions by the executive committee. Want to emphasize that the Board has the power, even though the execs keep things moving on a day-to-day basis.
   a. President, Michael:
      i. Town hall forum, Bill of Rights, a number of social events over the summer including our annual Fall Picnic with Rackham. Want to thank everyone that was there to help. Had over 1000 students and their families/friends attend. Had one student that got injured during volleyball and did need surgery.
      ii. SAGE Coalition having its first conference call of the semester this upcoming Sunday. SAGE trip to Cali this Fall and DC in the Spring.
      iii. Met with President Simon of MSU as well as the graduate government
          1. Will have academic symposium with MSU
      iv. Will send out an email to the student body about volunteering to serve on Continuous Enrollment Dispute Board and Rackham Integrity Board
      v. Will have an election this term
      vi. Will have newsletter go out next week
   b. VP, Josh: Not present
   c. Treasurer, Mindy: Currently have $12,733.46 in our account.
      i. Academic Affairs:
         1. Lunch with the Deans
         2. Bill of Rights
      ii. Created, kept, and summarized the Summer Budget (see p. 7 of Agenda Packet)
      iii. Several student groups funded: NIMSA, Vaughn, Career Opportunities Committee
          1. But have also turned down several requests before them getting to the Budget Committee
      iv. SAGE representative
      v. Helping at social events (especially the Fall Picnic)
V. RSG Committee Logistics
   a. Charges & Membership
      i. Academic Affairs
         1. Chaired by: ?
         2. Plan MI/MSU Symposium in February
         3. Bill of Rights
         4. Added David Cottrell.
      ii. Student Life
         1. Chaired by: ?
         2. GSRA Unionization
         3. Anything non-class related
      iii. Communications
         1. Chaired by: Josh
      iv. Budgetary
         1. Chaired by: Mindy
   v. Legislative Affairs
      1. Chaired by: ?
      2. Testifying before the state legislature in November
      3. SAGE, NAGPS
      4. Ann Arbor Candidates Forum in October
   vi. Bylaw Review Committee
      1. Chaired by: Josh
   vii. Service Opportunities Committee
      1. Chaired by: Eli
      2. Add Eli, add Nina
   viii. Career Opportunities Committee
      1. Chaired by: Patrick
      2. Opportunities for non-academic careers to receive career info
      3. Added Tien
   ix. Elections Committee
      1. Chaired by: Josh
   x. APPROVAL: Motioned by Grant, 2nded by Serge. Unanimous approval.

b. Budgets – get your budgets to Mindy by next week

c. Meeting Times will be determined through Doodles

d. Motion by Michael: Count Committee absences for ⅔ of a Board missed absence so that chairs can help us make sure that Board members are doing their job
   i. Mindy: What about executives who are on every committee?
   ii. Michael: We’ll have to look at that.
   iii. Nina: In terms of excused absences, do we have to tell both the president and the Chair?
   iv. Michael: Will see excused absences on the google
v. Anagha: How many times do committees meet?
vi. Michael: Twice per month
vii. Nina: Could various committees set their own absence policies?
viii. Michael: Let’s have an open discussion on this topic.
ix. Rob: I don’t think we should have any extra penalty.
x. Rob makes a motion: Penalties will not carry over to the Board
xi. Rahul makes a motion: Should be a penalty for not showing up to a meeting
   1. Favor for Rob’s motion: 9
   2. Opposed: 3
   3. Abstentions: 3
xii. Michael: Ok- please go to committee meetings and if you can’t please inform the chair.
xiii. Michael: Would like standing approval to allow chairs to grant committee membership to add non-RSG members to their committees
   1. Rahul: Does this give them a vote on the Board?
   2. Michael: No. They can speak as an associate rep, but not vote.
   3. Moved by Nina to allow each chair individually to set the criteria, 2nded by Rahul
      a. Then each chair must submit their criteria at the beginning of the semester. When committees meet, discuss how to add new members. Request that requirements are minimal. Over 200 students expressed interest in joining committees. Suggest they must attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Board?
   b. Favor for Nina’s motion: 13
   c. Abstentions: 2

VI. Board Logistics
   a. Festifall: We signed up, but are not going
   b. Northfest: We will be there, please volunteer to represent RSG here
   c. Representative Responsibilities
      i. Office hours: Michael will send out an email asking you for your office hours and location of office hours. Please use the office hours sheet on the website. Will publish these to the student body.
         1. Nina: People talked to me about how they feel about RSG (good things). How would you like us to address that?
         2. Michael: Email us! That’s great.
         3. Anagha: How do office hours work? What will we talk about?
         4. Michael: Doesn’t matter what committee you’re on- you can talk about any topics they want to discuss. If you can answer the question, then do. Otherwise say you will get back to them. You’re there to connect with your constituents.
      ii. Event Support: Every rep is required to help out (plan or run) 2 non-board meeting events. We are going to have a lot of events, so plenty of opportunities.
1. Grant: Lunch with the Deans counts
   iii. Individual projects: We’ve found through time that if you have ownership of a project you’re more likely to be active and involved. Eli and Patrick are shining examples of this. We can get you money for a project. Please have an idea of what you’d like to do so we can discuss it next week.

d. Snacks at meetings: Under $20 worth of food.
   i. Vote to have food: Yes: 2, No: 8, Don’t care: 5

VII. Spring Summer Updates: Skipped. Chairs, please prepare something to say next week
VIII. Committee Progress Review: Next week
IX. Fall Picnic Recap: Thanks everyone that helped! Michael will pay for pizza at one of the meetings as thanks.
X. Future Events: Please email Michael if you have an idea for an event. Mindy suggests PINBALL PETES!!!!
   a. Nina: A lot of people liked the Multicultural Taste Fest and would like it back

XI. Open Discussion:
   a. Grant: Want to ask if the Agenda can come out earlier, specifically more than 3 hours before the meeting because people like to read it over before the meeting.
   b. Michael: The rule is 8pm on Wednesday. If you want something in the packet, get it to me by Tuesday.
   c. Eli: Can we have an RSG Board night? I volunteer Michael to organize it.
   d. Michael: When is the best night for you guys? What about after an RSG Board meeting? Executive Decision: We’re planning on next week after the Board meeting at the Heidelberg.

XII. Adjournment at 8:16pm
Rackham Student Government Committee Roster: Fall 2011

### Standing Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Affairs</th>
<th>Student Life</th>
<th>Communications</th>
<th>Budgetary</th>
<th>Legislative Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tien Huei-Hsu †</td>
<td>Rahul Sakhamuri †</td>
<td>Kaitlin Flynn</td>
<td>Pat Rooney (2)</td>
<td>Marisol Ramos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Flynn</td>
<td>Heidi Pedini</td>
<td>Rahul Sakhamuri</td>
<td>Marisol Ramos (3)</td>
<td>Rob Gillezeau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Mandarino</td>
<td>Patrick Rooney</td>
<td>Anagha Kshirsagar</td>
<td>Eli Eisman (1)</td>
<td>Nina White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eli Eisman</td>
<td>Amit Patel</td>
<td>Alex Toulouse</td>
<td>Will Hutchinson (4)</td>
<td>Lily Mancour</td>
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<td>Anne Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Will Hutchinson</td>
<td>Heidi Pedini</td>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
<td>Amit Patel</td>
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<td>David Cottrell</td>
<td>Alex Emly</td>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
<td>Josh Bow</td>
<td>Serge Farinas</td>
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<td>Michael Benson</td>
<td>Alex Toulouse †</td>
<td>Josh Bow</td>
<td>Mindy Waite</td>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
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<td>Josh Bow</td>
<td>David Cottrell</td>
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<td>Mindy Waite</td>
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### Ad-Hoc Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bylaw</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Career</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Flynn</td>
<td>Tien Huei-Hsu</td>
<td>Pat Rooney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Mandarino</td>
<td>Anne Fitzpatrick</td>
<td>Nina White</td>
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<td>Michael Benson</td>
<td>Serge Farinas</td>
<td>Alex Emly</td>
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<td>Josh Bow</td>
<td>David Cottrell</td>
<td>Kristy Figel</td>
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<td>Mindy Waite</td>
<td>Anagha Kshirsagar</td>
<td>Rob Gillezeau</td>
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<td>Michael Benson</td>
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<td>Eli Eisman</td>
<td>Nina White</td>
<td>Josh Bow</td>
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<td>Michael Benson</td>
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<td>Josh Bow</td>
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<td>Mindy Waite</td>
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† Indicates chair or co-chair nominee. **BOLD** indicates bylaw or executive order specified chair.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Affairs Committee</th>
<th>Student Life Committee</th>
<th>COSAC</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* SAGE Fall Summit (2 - 3 Delegates)</td>
<td>Apple Orchard Event - Oct. 9th</td>
<td>$600 Youth Education Outreach $125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airfare: $463 / person * 3 = $1389</td>
<td>Heat Game - December</td>
<td>$800 Washtenaw area parks cleanup $125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel: $210/night * 3 nights = $630</td>
<td>RSG Trivia Night</td>
<td>$300 International student Peer-mentoring $125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food: $50/person/day * 3 people * 4 days = $600</td>
<td>Grad Welcome Blue Lep Night - Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel: 10 trips max * $6 gas / trip : $60 (to Lansing)</td>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>$800</td>
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<tr>
<td>* City Council Candidates’ Debate</td>
<td>RSG October Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising (posters): $30 (black and white)</td>
<td>Total (tentative)</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<td>Projector / AV: $60</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Committee Discretionary</td>
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<td>$25 - For logistics such as copying &amp; snacks at a couple of meetings over the semester.</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications Committee</td>
<td>Academic Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Budgetary Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embroidered polos</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>Town Hall Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 $5 gift cards newsletter trivia prize</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 $10 gift cards for Twitter/Facebook</td>
<td>$40</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$550</td>
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</table>
I. Roll call of members
Present: Michael Benson, Kaitlin Flynn, Eli Eisman, David Cottrell, Tien Huei-Hsu
Absent (excused): Grant Mandarino, Mindy Waite
Absent (unexcused): Josh Bow, Anne Fitzpatrick
Called to order: 6:11pm

II. Special Business

- Nominations for Chair:
  o Tien is nominated to chair for the fall! Wheeee.
- Committee member expectations
  o Tien has power as chair to decide the expectations for the committee members
  o Tien will determine criteria for non-RSG members to become full voting members on the committee
- Budget
  o Budgeting for town hall food: $700
- Town Hall
  o Heidi Div2, Eli Div1, Rob Div3, Will Div4, (David backup for Div3)
  o The guidelines for RSG and deans to speak for the event
  o Also, might mention the issue of GPA on a 9.0 scale. We will draft a resolution for presentation to the board so this can be included on the ballot in the fall for student vote.
  o Another thing to add: what is rackham? (for deans)
  o Plates and napkins etc
  o Committee members arrive at 11:30am to set up
- Graduate Student Bill of Rights
  o It hasn’t been sent out yet. We will take another look before sending out
- Symposium (MI and MSU collaboration)
  o Research symposium next February. Sub committee: Tien, Kaitlin, Eli
  o Kaitlin will be point person for now
- Improvements for this semester
  o Enhancing classrooms? LSA is involved, improving IT in Angell hall, Dennison and Mason hall. Important for GSIs who teach in these classrooms. Some things that are needed are to enhance the classrooms and provide them projectors (!). Currently there are only overheads and chalkboards. Michael suggests bringing this to upper administrators first. David might take this on. Research to see where they would impact GSIs and masters students best.
  o Updated course records? Some that are on the books but aren’t being taught in many years. Rollover classes: classes taken above and beyond as a Phd candidate
might cost more. For other departments students aren’t allowed to take classes post candidacy what so ever.
  o Reserved study carrels for master’s students—meet with library guy soon. What about extra basement space of grad library.
  
- SMART Goals
  o Have a successful Lunch with the Deans event—possible survey to evaluate at event or at email?
  o Further push for graduate student bill of rights through the executive board

- Meeting times and frequency
  o Determined via Doodle, will be meeting Mondays from 6-7pm
  o Frequency: 2x per month unless completely necessary

III. Open Discussion

- Eli would like to hold a monthly event that ties in scholarship as a bigger picture event—ex: hold an event at a museum that’s focused on academic culture and broadening experience. Ex: planetarium, art events, have people from each division co-plan and sponsor the cultural excursion. Also serves to unite people with the campus and its facilities. All of us are on board!

V. Next meeting

  2 weeks from now.

VI. Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:06pm
Rackham Student Government- Student Life Committee Meeting

Date: 09/13/2011
Venue: Starbucks, Corner of State and Liberty, Ann Arbor

Present: Michael Benson, Patrick Rooney, Alex Toulouse, Alex Emily, Heidi Pedini, Rahul Sakhamuri

Start: 7.10PM

Committee begins by electing Rahul Sakhamuri and Alex Toulouse as Co-Chairs.

Michael Benson proceeds to give the committee an update of what was done over the summer.

Michael notes that graduate students would like to see a student organization recruiting event that focuses on graduate students. The committee discusses this idea and Alex T proposes that we create a database of all the student organizations that cater to graduate students and provide that as a resource to the graduate students.

The events planned for the year, are tentative and as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Tentative Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apple Orchard Event</td>
<td>Oct 9th</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heat Game</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSG Trivia Night</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad Welcome Blue Lep Night</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trip to Ceder Point</td>
<td></td>
<td>Heidi to check on prices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td></td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSG October Fest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Budget (tentative)= $2500

End of Meeting: 7.40PM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Underground Printing</th>
<th>Adrian's Printing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Apparel</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bayside</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Gildan</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Apparel</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hanes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 color front/3 color back</td>
<td>19.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 color only</td>
<td>13.88</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

union/American made
The Rackham Student Government strives to improve the graduate student experience at the University of Michigan through academic programs, extracurricular engagement, and beyond.
Who We Are

- 1903 Students in Division 1, Biological & Health Sciences
- 3262 Students in Division 2, Physical Sciences & Engineering
- 1961 Students in Division 3, Social and Behavioral Sciences
- 813 Students in Division 4, Humanities & the Arts

Who We Are - Legislative Branch

- The Board
  - 1 *elected* representative for each 400 students or major fraction thereof within each division.
  - Associate representatives *appointed* by the Board after attending 3 consecutive board meetings
  - 6 standing committees
    - Academic Affairs
    - Budgetary
    - Elections
    - Communications
    - Legislative Affairs
    - Student Life
Who We Are – Executive Branch

- Graduate Student Body President
  - Elected annually in March with the VP

- Graduate Student Body Vice President
  - Elected annually in March with the President

- Graduate Student Body Treasurer
  - Appointed by the President in November

Who We Are – Judicial Branch

- RSG utilizes the Central Student Judiciary (CSJ) for its judicial needs. CSJ is the highest adjudicating student body at the University of Michigan, often hearing cases involving election disputes, MSA constitutional issues, and reviews of decisions made by student groups on Campus. Although CSJ requires potential parties to make a good faith effort to handle conflicts within their own organization, the Court is available for both arbitration and to hear challenges to a student group’s decisions.
What We Do

- Social Events
  - Regular graduate student bar nights
  - Pinball Pete's
  - Ice Skating at Yost
  - Fall Welcome Picnic
  - Detroit Red Wings Games
  - Detroit Pistons Games
  - Detroit Tigers Games
  - And much more!

What We Do

- Funding
  - Each graduate student pays a $1.50 student government fee during terms of enrollment ($3/year)
  - We provide a significant portion of our income to student organizations to host events and programs of graduate student interest
  - Apply for funding by visiting rsg.umich.edu
Advocacy
- Work with City of Ann Arbor on issues affecting Graduate Students (Couch ban, housing supply)
- Work with the Graduate School to make the Continuous Enrollment Policy work for students
  - Created the Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board
  - Worked to remove the CE re-enrollment fee.
- Push Graduate Student Priorities within the Graduate School, individual programs, and the University as a whole.

Lobbying
- RSG is a founding member of the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE): SAGE serves as an advocate and a network for graduate students at public institutions aiming to empower graduate students to meet the challenges of graduate education and to form partnerships across universities.
- RSG is a founding member of the Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students (MAGPS)
Federal Action Items
- Restoring the tax-exempt status of graduate scholarships and fellowships
- Allowing for the forgiveness of some student loans for graduate students who pursue careers in government, the nonprofit sector or other areas of public service.
- Expand federal research funding to the humanities, the social sciences, education, and the arts.
- Treat Public Issued Federal Student Loans the Same as Other Types of Private Debt in Bankruptcy.
- Increasing the number of H1-B visas and removing unnecessary and burdensome restrictions associated with F-1 visas.
- Promoting Campus Safety through the Cleary Act
- Promoting Open Access to Research

Get Involved!

- Any member of the University community can join the RSG Board as an associate representative AND/OR as a member of one of our committees.
- Email rsg-exec@umich.edu for more information and/or visit our website to get in touch directly with our committee chairs.
Contact Us

- Email: rsg-exec@umich.edu
- Web: http://rsg.umich.edu
- Twitter: RackhamStudGovt
- Facebook: Rackham Student Government

- On Campus Office Hours: Visit the Website