Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: January 22, 2013
Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. December 6, 2012* (p. 6)

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

VI. Appointments
   a. Treasurer
   c. Division 2 Representative
   b. Events Director

VII. Executive Order: EO-13-1: Creating a Graduate Prom Committee (p. 10)

VIII. RSG Logistics
   a. Representative
   b. Committee Membership
      Expectations
      (p. 14)
      i. Board Meetings (p. 16)
      ii. Committees
      iii. Events
      iv. Constituent Contact
   c. Social Gathering
   d. Food @ Meetings Policy
   e. Office Hours
   f. RSG Email List Usage (p. 13)

IX. 2013 Graduate Academic Conference

X. Domestic Student Health Insurance Plan – ACA Update (p. 38)

XI. Winter 2013 Goal Setting Session (p. 2)

XII. Open Discussion

XIII. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
Rackham Student Government Winter 2013
Representative Goal Worksheet

Academic Issues

Student Services Issues (non academic)

Local Issues

Social Events

State/ Federal Issues

My Action Items

I will work with Committee ______________ to achieve ________________.

I will work individually to achieve ________________________________.
Rackham Student Government Fall 2012
Compiled Goal Worksheet

**Academic Issues**
- G SRA issues, IP ownership
- Bill of Rights
- GPA issue (Ford school)
- Interlibrary loan efficiency
- Dispute Resolution Board to address student issues
- Ideas for non-traditional and international grad student funding
- PhD Candidate Courses
- Building Hours
- Masters Student Study Space

**Local Issues**
- PILOTs
- Status of Pfizer campus (NCRC)
- Town Halls for Political Candidtes
- More Political Activism (GOTV)

**State/Federal Issues**
- Grant and funding availability
- Cost of tuition, State bill with tuition coverage for Michigan students
- Decreased availability of loans
- **Taxing of stipends and loans**
- Support for non-traditional grad students
- Tuition

**Student Services Issues (non academic)**
- Housing: Northwood issues, closing of Lawyer’s club, West quad and Baits II
- **Increasing bussing** during peak hours (or longer hours overall)
- Airport shuttle for other times of year (work with CSG)
- Peer mentoring program, emphasis on non-trad or international students

**Social Events**
- Detroit Lions!!
- Grad student formal
- Red Wings!
- Event with local leaders (City and University)
- Earth Day
- Non-Traditional Careers
The RSG Board voted to commit the following issues to its listed committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Affairs Committee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- GSRA issues</td>
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<td>- IP Ownership</td>
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<td>- GPA Scale</td>
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<td>- Interlibrary Loan Efficiency</td>
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<td>- General Dispute Resolution Board</td>
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<td>- PhD Candidate Courses</td>
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<td>- Building Hours (academic)</td>
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<td>- Masters student study space</td>
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<td>- Associate Dean Advisory Panels¹</td>
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<tr>
<th>Community Outreach and Social Action Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Peer Mentoring Program, emphasis on international and non-traditional students</td>
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<td>- Associate Dean Advisory Panels (&amp; Assistant Dean for International Education)¹</td>
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<th>Student Life Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>- GSRA Issues</td>
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<td>- General Dispute Resolution Board</td>
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<td>- Non-traditional and International student funding</td>
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<td>- Housing: Northwood crunch, closing of the Lawyer’s club, west quad, baits 2, etc.</td>
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<td>- Increasing bussing during peak hours (City and U of M)</td>
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<td>- Airport Shuttle (AATA or U of M)</td>
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<td>- Registering Graduate Student Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<th>Legislative Affairs Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Payments in Liu of Taxes (PILOTs) for U of M and Ann Arbor</td>
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<td>- Status of NCRC</td>
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<td>- Town Halls for local political candidates</td>
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<td>- Cost of Tuition, State bill with tuition coverage for Michigan students</td>
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<td>- Availability of Loans (subsidized and other)</td>
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<td>- Taxation of Stipends</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Support for non-traditional graduate students (including international students)</td>
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<td>- Tuition and Fees</td>
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¹ Per Approved Board Resolution F-11-001: Creating Student Advisory Panels

Events
- Detroit Lions
- Graduate Student Formal
- Detroit Red Wings
RSG Board Member Ideas for Winter 2013

- Create a temporary committee to review the SAGE minutes on Best Practices. This committee can then make recommendations to the board on how RSG can improve. (PS)
- Create/promote/improve relationship of RSG with Michigan Career Services with the goal of helping students find employment after graduation. (PS)
- Use RSG resources to promote career building resources (e.g. contact job recruiters to come to campus) (PS)
- Explore how RSG can help put together an alumni network for Rackham students. (PS)
- Increase outreach to student organizations-- aim to help promote/fund graduate student organizations on campus. (PS)
- Add more microwaves on North Campus (YZ)
- Create a graduate student lounge in North Campus which can provide hot water, a good lunch place (the lunch tables in North Campus is hard to find during 12-1 peak time) (YZ)
- Host a guest speaker (ML)
- Run a 5K/get involved in Grad Student Health/Host a 5K (ML)
- Get involved with Grad Student Advocacy/Health Sciences Advocacy (ML)
- Host an interdisciplinary faculty panel from LS&A discussing non-academic careers as well as additional projects that university faculty undertake. (SA)
- Host discussion at the UMMA and receptions at the UMMA for graduate students. (SA)
- Establish a peer mentorship program for incoming graduate students. This does not need to be program specific but should align with the interests of the incoming students. (SA)
- Increasing communication for RSG (LK)
- University Divestment (LK)
- More volunteer projects for COSAC (LK)
- Succession from CSG (LK)
- Development of guidelines defining the scope of obligated IP assignment from student-employees to the University. (ED)
- Development of "Informed Consent" protocol for cases where students give up their IP to the University. (ED)
- Development of required disclosures for Conflict of Interests from UM faculty and staff. (ED)
- Development of notification and mitigation practices for said Conflicts of Interests. (ED)
- Identification of services to whistle-blowing situations. (ED)
a. CALL TO ORDER: 6:37pm

b. Present: Representatives Haven Allen, Dan Trubman, Phil Saccone, Lauren Knapp, Chris Tom, Alex Gutierrez, Matt Waugh, Heidi Pedini, Vanessa Cruz, Evan Arthur, Matt Filter. Students at Large David Barton and Ryan Roberts (UMEC president). President Michael Benson, Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, and Treasurer Alex Toulouse,

c. Absent: Alex Emly, Eli Eisman

d. Excused: Brandon Erickson, Dan Trubman, Haven Allen

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. Approved with no abstentions, Michael adds a presidential appointment into the agenda.

III. APPOINTMENT

a. Michael nominates David Barton, BME, to a half-term Div II seat. David has served on the legislative affairs committee. Motion by Alex T and seconded by Phil and approved unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. Approved with 1 abstention. Moved by Alex T, second Matt W. One change to me made to a remark associated to Kaitlin.

b. Anna Belak had an excused absence. Motion by Phil, second Matt W. Approved with 3 abstentions with 2 changes to attendance.

V. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Michael Benson. Successful election. 9.5% is good, 2nd highest we’ve had. Thanks Kaitlin and elections committee. Kaitlin will be hosting an orientation and welcome from Michael for all newly elected members. Note that the Law school is currently voting on their version of the ballot question and have strong turnout. Executive order being issued to establish Graduate Student Assembly. Creation of what was formerly grad student assembly. It will meet 2x a semester and advise president and board. Programs will provide individuals to be part of this assembly. Last formal meeting for a number of people and would like to recognize them: Eli Eisman, Alex Emly, Brandon Erickson, Evan Arthur, and Haven Allen. The end of term banquet will be 8 pm next Friday 12/14. Remainder of the CSG CSJ case will move forward in early January. The complaint is
regarding the empty Rackham seats on CSG that were not filled among other things.

b. **Vice President Kaitlin Flynn.** Last newsletter went out and HSH fundraiser this weekend. Election finished this week. Excited that almost all seats were filled. Results from survey were approx 70% in favor. Last minute efforts to include voting prizes successful. Voter turnout approx 9.5%.

c. **Treasurer Alex Toulouse.** $19,211 in the account, a lot of reimbursements coming in. SAGE was this weekend and was significantly under budget. If you drove for SAGE, let AT know so he can get reimbursements going.

VI. **Guest Speaker: John Heiftje, Mayor of Ann Arbor**

a. Dan asks about the new transit authority. The Mayor says that he has been a huge supporter of the transit umbrella that would connect Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, and many other areas. The proposal on the table would create a transit authority between Wayne and Washtenaw counties. The Mayor says that he would like to be taken out of it but the Governor’s office still included Ann Arbor in the bill. The Mayor explains that politics and budget in the surrounding areas would ‘drag us down’ with them. There is a lot of mess in the city systems surrounding it. There’s also the fact that Ann Arbor is 15th in the nation for commuters that use transit. The fellowship funding that comes to the AATA is through ridership and getting grants. We’re very good at getting grants. All of this money will go to the greater authority. The funding that used to come to us will be going somewhere else given the need in the surrounding communities. Michigan is getting $400 million from Obama for the high-speed rail. The entire line between Kalamazoo and Detroit will be bought by MDOT and approved for 110mph. These are approved for passengers. Amtrak is going to go from 3 trains each way to 5. The system of high speed transit plus a ‘slower’ local train will resemble the European system. The RTA bill has a poison pill in it—it would require a unanimous board vote and Oakland will never vote for rail. It’s a huge setback for the area and for the projects. The Mayor feels that given the RTA bill we’re signing ourselves up for a bus system that we won’t want in 20 years.

b. Eugene mentions that there could be increased communication between the City and the residents to allow for more discussion and campaigning (either for or against) city issues that affect graduate students. Eugene cites the Wall st parking garage as a great example. The Mayor updates us on this issue. Eugene asks how to help.

c. Michael asks a question about the city Fire Department and how it can affect the University. The Mayor gives some information about merging fire departments and mentions that there are a lot of labor issues with merging. There are fewer firefighters than there used to be. A lot of that is because there are a lot less fires nowadays. We have a great response time for large fires. Compared to what’s happened in other cities, A2 is very satisfied with our fire protection. There is a lot of collaboration between neighboring stations as an alternative to closing certain departments.

d. Chris asks about renting in Ann Arbor and claims that the policies are more absurd than other cities. The Mayor explains the history behind the leasing policy. Michael chimes in and says that we will host some leasing forums to gauge
student interest. The Mayor mentions that graduate students are great people for city council members and anyone with interest in the Housing committee should talk to the Mayor.

e. Kaitlin asks re: crime and break-ins. Crime is way down overall in Ann Arbor. The Mayor says that over 500 break and enters have been reported this year. He cites crime statistics.

f. Vanessa asks about addressing late-night graduate and undergraduate student’s transit needs. The Mayor explains the issues behind having night busses and the lack of predictable volume as far as it goes with cost-cutting measures. Heidi asks about a specific route. The Mayor says that they are looking at adding another bus to the 4 route.

g. AT asks about pedestrian safety. The Mayor comments about the auto-centric environment in Michigan. He says that the city passed a new ordinance to order cars to stop. Enforcement is coming. There is an issue with putting LED flashers on Huron and Jackson because they are state roads.

VII. RSG Election – Recap

a. In addition to what is above in Kaitlin’s recap, per the bylaws we need to present the results to the board and they are included in the packet.

VIII. SAGE Fall Summit- Recap

a. Full minutes are included in the packet. Overall it was very well received and enjoyable for everyone who attended. The Michigan delegation had strong representation and we came in strongly under budget. We had a few visitors to speak, including State Rep Jeff Irwin.

b. Ryan (outgoing UMEC pres) came to the conference and thought it was very informative. Alex T says that the meeting with Martha was really interesting and the group work done on sharing of best practices, including lobbying at the state level, building a grad alumni network, graduate student study spaces, student health, career services, etc. It was really interesting to hear what goes on at other universities. There was also a lot of SAGE internal business to discuss.

IX. Building a Better Michigan – Discussion

a. Michael explains that we are being asked by the LSASG to submit a resolution giving support to the Building a Better Michigan initiative that would provide support to improving Rec and other campus facilities on campus. Michael reminds us that we are elected to represent graduate students and taking a stance on this issue is not too controversial (unlike our ballot question).

b. Vanessa advocates not taking a stance on the issue. Eugene says that he likes the idea of supporting the Building a Better Michigan campaign. He gives an example of the CAEN lab and how the chairs are broken and how that reflects poorly on the University. Eugene says that if there is a mechanism for us to bring in our input you might as well. Kaitlin mentions that via the newsletter questionnaire we have had graduate students say that they are dissatisfied with these facilities as well.

X. MLK 2012 Kickoff Event—sponsorship Request
a. There’s a request in the packet for us to co-sponsorship and it would involve advertisement, no money or busses, but RSG would need to staff. Motion by Heidi and seconded by Vanessa. Approved with 1 abstention.

XI. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs: Last meeting yesterday. Wrapped up a number of things that were still on AAC’s plate, a few resolutions to submit in January. We also have a meeting time scheduled to meet with the administration regarding the Graduate Student Bill of Rights. Motion by Chris to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt Filter. Dan asks about updates regarding the GPA scale. Chris says that as a committee they have chosen to support the 4.3 scale that accounts for the A+.
   b. Budgetary: Budgetary committee minutes for 4 requests: Indian Student Association, Out in Public, Optics Society, Political Scientists of Color. Motion by Alex T to accept the minutes and seconded by Kaitlin. Haven objects and asks to change his vote on the Out in Public event. Michael and Alex decide that the vote cannot be changed as the discussion has been closed and changing the vote would change the outcome of the event’s funding and the event has now passed. Approved with one objection and 3 abstentions.
   c. Community Outreach and Social Action: Circus event on Saturday. Please come out and support Habitat for Humanity!
   d. Elections: discussed above.
   e. Legislative Affairs: Met yesterday, were considering sending out right to work legislation and concealed/carry policies currently going through the state congress. Motion by Matt Filter and seconded by Phil to accept the minutes. Approved with two abstentions.
   f. Student Life Committee: did not meet this week.
   g. GPSASC: another resolution will be coming in January to create a joint committee and to move forward with the secession issue.

XII. Open Discussion- Dan asks about Pistons tickets. There are still some left. Michael says that we still need a few more folks to serve on the Academic Integrity board. There’s a hearing coming up.

XIII. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn by Kaitlin and seconded by Phil at 8:23pm
AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE GRADUATE PROM COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Members of the Rackham Student Government, including former vice president Josh Bow, and former Treasurer Alex Toulouse, have discussed hosting a large semi-formal or formal event for the past two years; AND

WHEREAS, Members of the graduate student body have expressed an interest in attending such an event; AND

WHEREAS, Hosting a large semi-formal or formal event, such as a prom, will require a significant amount of planning; AND

WHEREAS, The student life committee is tasked by the RSG bylaws to host large events for the graduate student body; AND

WHEREAS, The student life committee has a number of mid-sized events to host during the Winter 2013 semester as well as a number of policy issues to address including creating a mechanism for RSG to register graduate student organizations; AND

WHEREAS, Representative Lauren Knapp has volunteered to lead an effort to host a graduate student prom; AND

WHEREAS, Leaders of other graduate and professional student governments on campus have expressed an interest in co-sponsoring such a prom; AND

WHEREAS, Hosting a prom-like event with the professional student governments would help to foster communication and collaboration between our various student bodies; AND

WHEREAS, Article 4, section A, subsection 1i explicitly grants the president the power to “create, charge, and oversee Ad-Hoc committees for special projects and interests”; NOW THEREFORE I, MICHAEL L. BENSON, AS THE DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT AND BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE ANN ARBOR CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND THE

1 Comment cards from past RSG Events
BYLAWS OF THE RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT DO
HEREBY ORDER THE FOLLOWING:

Section 1. That a graduate prom committee (GPC) be created, effective immediately.

Section 2. That the BRC’s composition, leadership, charge, and operating procedure shall comply with the RSG bylaws as well as section 3 of this order.

Section 3. GRADUATE PROM COMMITTEE

A. Composition. The GPC shall be composed of a minimum of no less than four (4) members of the RSG Board, including Representative Lauren Knapp who shall serve as the chair of this committee. Any member of the Rackham Student Body may join the BRC and shall have voting rights, subject to the conditions outlined in subsection C. Upon the affirmative vote of a student government on the University’s Ann Arbor Campus that represents graduate students, to participate in a prom during the Winter 2013 semester, the students currently enrolled in said student governments’ constituencies may also participate on this committee as voting members, pursuant to subsection C of this order.

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

C. Voting Rights. All members of the Rackham student body are eligible to vote on this committee. Voting rights may be obtained and retained at any point in time, following the committee’s formation by:

1) Notifying the chair of their intent to serve on the committee.

2) Attending a minimum of 50% of the committee meetings and discussions.

After meeting both requirements listed above, a member of the student body shall have voting rights on the GPC. Maintenance of voting rights shall be pursuant to continued compliance with the requirements listed above.

D. Committee Operations. The GPC shall meet on an as needed basis, at least bi-weekly through the Winter semester. Votes to approve recommendations and to send a final recommendation package to the Board must be taken in person with a quorum present. Committee discussions may take place electronically so as to allow for maximum participation including representatives and students at-large that are not in the Ann Arbor area.

E. Charge. The GPC shall plan and host a prom-like event during the Winter 2013 semester. This event shall be open to the entire Rackham Student Body as well as such other student bodies as the committee shall determine. The
committee will by February 11, 2013 submit to the Board and the RSG Events Director a plan. This plan will include:

1) A proposed date for the event

2) A proposed theme for the event (or a timeline to determine a theme using input from the student body)

3) A proposed location for the event, as well as the associated costs

4) A proposed budget for the event including advertising the event to the student body

5) Budget Requests to other funding authorities, as appropriate, to offset the cost of the event to the participants as well as to the Graduate Student Governments participating in hosting it.

Upon approval by the Board of the aforementioned plan, the committee will execute the plan under the direction of the Events Director.

F. Reports. The GPC will submit regular reports to the Board on its progress and will seek feedback from the same. The Chair and the Events Director are tasked with ensuring regular input on the GPC’s activities is gathered from the Board and any other student governments participating in the event.

G. Modification. The committee may, by a simple majority vote recommend an extension of its timeline or an expansion of its charge to the President. An amendment to this order shall not be necessary to affect either such change as a memorandum from the president to the chair shall suffice. Further, the Board may, by a simple majority vote extend the timeline for the GPC up to the end of the Winter 2013 semester. Any motion to extend the timeline of the board must include a new dissolution date.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

__________________________
Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Student Government
# Rackham Student Government Email Lists

The following table lists the main email lists used by the Rackham Student Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List (@umich.edu)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Who Can email?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Committee Email Lists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>rsg</td>
<td>Legacy Board Email List</td>
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<td>rsg-exec</td>
<td>Executive Board (President, Vice President, &amp; Treasurer)</td>
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<td>rsg-sage</td>
<td>Legislative Affairs Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>rsg-social</td>
<td>Student Life Committee</td>
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| **Officer and Director Email Addresses** | |
| rsg-president | President Benson | Public |
| rsg-vicepresident | Vice President Flynn | Public |
| rsg-treasurer | Treasurer’s email address | Public |
| rsgelectiondirector | Election Director’s email address | Public |
| rsg-eventsdirector | Events Director’s email address | Public |
Rackham Student Government Winter 2013
Representative Committee Assignments

**Academic Affairs**
Kaitlin Flynn
Michael Benson
1. Stephen Apotheker (IV)
2. Chris Tom (I)
3. Anna Belak (II)
4. Phil Saccone (I)
5. Alex Gutierrez (II)
6. Eugene Daneshvar (II)
7. Janakiraman Balachandran (II)

**Budgetary**
Treasurer (Chair)
Kaitlin Flynn
Michael Benson
1. Dan Trubman (III)
2. Yiting Zhang (II)
3. Vanessa Cruz (III)
4. Matt Filter (III)

**Legislative Affairs**
Michael Benson (Chair)
Kaitlin Flynn
1. Phil Saccone (I)
2. Chris Tom (I)
3. Dan Trubman (III)
4. David Barton (II)
5. Anna Belak (II)
6. Michael Lang (I)
7. Lauren Knapp (I)
8. Alex Gutierrez (II)
9. John Forrest (II)
10. Ryne Peterson (III)
11. Haven Allen (former rep, III)

**Student Life**
Michael Benson
Kaitlin Flynn
Ryan Roberts (Event’s Director)
1. Ryne Peterson (III)
2. Janakiraman Balachandran (II)
3. Matt Waugh (I)
4. Evan Arthur (II)
5. Matt Filter (III)

**Community Outreach and Social Action**
Michael Benson
Kaitlin Flynn
1. Eli Benchell Eisman (former rep, I)
2. Yiting Zhang (II)
3. Peter McGrath (IV)
4. Michael Lang (I)
5. Lauren Knapp (I)

**Elections**
Michael Benson
1. Chris Tom (I)
2. John Forrest (II)
3. Matt Filter (III)
4. Stephen Apotheker (IV)
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<th>Name</th>
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ARTICLE III

A. Committee Descriptions.

1. **Budgetary Committee (BC)**

Composition: 7 or more members

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

a. The Budgetary Committee shall be required to maintain five active members 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. Student Groups requesting funding may request to present their proposal to the Committee.

c. The Budgetary Committee, with the action power described in III.A.1.b of the Bylaws, is required to maintain minutes. These minutes shall include the individual voting records of all members for all funding requests. Minutes shall be taken by the treasurer and kept on the RSG website. Minutes shall be presented to the Board consistent with the general rules for committee minutes as provided for in these bylaws.

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. Within 3 business days of a funding decision, the Treasurer or his/her designee shall notify the requesting organization of the committee’s decision, including its rationale and any stipulations provided by the committee. The requesting organization shall also be notified of its option to appeal the committee’s funding decision to the Board. Appeals must be submitted electronically to the President no later than 5 business days after the committee’s original decision is emailed and no less than 7
business days before the requesting organization’s proposed event is scheduled to commence.

i. Funding limit. In the instance where the Budgetary Committee votes to allocate over $1,000 to an organization or event, the funding request and the committee’s vote will be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board will be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding the event and the funding process. Members of the Board may, by a simple majority vote deny the budgetary committee’s allocation. In the event that an allocation is denied by the Board, the committee will re-convene to reconsider its allocation in light of the Board’s vote and its directives to the committee.

2. **Student Life Committee (SLC)**
   
   Composition: Open Enrollment
   
   Required Members: 4 current Board members

   a. The Student Life Committee shall address all non-academic needs and concerns of the Student Body. 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 (AAC)**

   Composition: Open enrollment

   Required Members: 3 current Board members

   a. The Academic 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: 4 or more members
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

a. 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.

b. The Elections Committee will receive and be copied on any and all elections related correspondence to ensure transparency between the Elections Director and the committee.

c. The Elections Committee shall propose any changes to RSG’s election policy no later than 4 weeks prior to a given election.

d. The Elections Committee will assist the executives in the solicitation for and the selection of an election director.

e. 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. **Community Outreach & Social Action Committee (COSAC)**

Composition: Open enrollment
Required members: 2 current Board members

a. The Community Outreach & Social Action Committee will work collaboratively with the SLC and the AAC as well as non-RSG related service organizations in order to provide a diverse array of volunteer opportunities to the graduate student body, with focus on providing service to the greater Ann Arbor citizenry. While the primary role of RSG is to enhance the academic and social lives of Graduate Students attending the
University of Michigan, a special emphasis will also be placed on fostering youth scholarship in the surrounding communities.

b. The Community Outreach & Social Action 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.

6. **Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC)**
   Composition: Open enrollment
   Required Members: President (must be chair or co-chair)
   Vice President
   4 current Board members

   a. The Legislative Affairs Committee will collaborate with external 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 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.

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 single chair or co-chairs.

   c. Chairs are voted on in committee with the exception of the Budgetary Committee and the Legislative Committee 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, or as directed by the President or Vice-President.

f. Committees may be created on a temporary basis for special projects by either the President through an executive order, or by a majority resolution as approved by the Board. A resolution or executive order that creates an ad-hoc committee must specify the committee’s charge, composition, lifespan, chair, operating procedures, and privileges (financial, etc).

C. Committee Responsibilities.

1. Meetings

   a. Committees shall meet at least bi-weekly 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.

4. Oral Reports

   a. Each committee chair shall be required to report any and all committee activities to the Board at each general meeting.

   b. The chair of each committee shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of meeting attendance. 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 chair.

5. Budget

a. Each committee must present to the Treasurer a budget no later than the second regular meeting of the term. 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.

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**ARTICLE V**

A. Directors. The following positions are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board for a set term, as provided for by the President. Directors report directly to the Executive Board, under the general supervision of the Vice President. All actions
made by the directors contained in this article of the bylaws may be vetoed by a majority vote of the executive board or a 2/3rds majority of the Board unless otherwise noted.

1. Events Director: The Events Director shall:

   a. Be responsible for event calendaring, ensuring that RSG’s calendar of sponsored events is manageable given the number of seated representatives, as well as other external time commitments, including federal holidays and academic breaks.
   
b. Be responsible for event planning, by developing a process for committee chairs and representatives to develop their events and to present them for approval to the RSG board in a timely manner. This process should be developed in concert with the Treasurer and the Vice President who will have oversight respectively of the financial and communications aspects of the proposed events. Once approved by the executive board, the Events Director will meet with each of RSG’s committees to implement the new process.
   
c. Be responsible for coordinating and responding to requests from student groups to co-host events, whether in person or by email.
   
d. Be responsible for compiling and calendaring a list of events to be held at the beginning of each semester and present this document to the RSG Board by the second meeting of the semester.
   
e. Review all RSG sponsored events within 14 calendar days of an RSG sponsored event’s conclusion. The Events Director will work with the event’s planner(s) to construct a written report to the executives and the Board of the event which will, at a minimum, contain the following:
      
      I. A detailed ‘How To’ guide for future chairs or representatives on how to hold the event.
      
      II. A detailed financial accounting showing both what was budgeted and what was actually spent.
      
      III. Recommendations as to what went well and what could be improved upon should the event be held again.
      
      IV. Recommendations as to if the event should be hosted again by RSG or if there is a more appropriate host.
   
   f. Be an ex-officio co-chair of the following RSG Committees: Academic Affairs, Community Outreach and Social Action, Legislative Affairs and Student Life.
   
g. Have approval authority for all RSG sponsored events. Prior to an event being sponsored by RSG, the Events Director will review the proposal and will either approve or reject the event plan. Events may be rejected for any of the following reasons: incomplete proposal, overlap with other RSG events, lack of person power to successfully run the event or any other reason approved by another executive.
   
h. Have the power to modify event plans as necessary to ensure that RSG’s overarching theme(s) and messages are being delivered.
   
i. Report to the Executive Board.
   
j. Vacancy of this position due to resignation or removal will be filled by the President by or at the next regularly scheduled RSG Board meeting.
2. Elections Director.

A. Eligibility: The election director shall be a currently enrolled University student. The director may not run for office during their time of service. The director should, however, be a current Board member who is not up for reelection.

B. Appointment: The President shall appoint the election director no later than 39 days in advance of any general election.

C. Salary: If the Elections Director is not an RSG board member, 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.

D. Duties. The Election Director Shall:

   I. Report weekly to the president with updates on candidates and election progress.

   II. 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.

   III. Work with the Elections Committee to advertise the election to the student body including the ability to run for any open Board positions as encouraging maximum voter turnout.

   IV. Consult the Office of the Registrar to verify current enrollment numbers to determine the list of eligible voters and candidates. Once a year, this list should be used to apportion representative seats to the four Rackham divisions.

   V. Email all eligible graduate students to seek candidates for representative and executive seats open in the election. This email should be sent multiple times and the first such email should be sent no later than 3 weeks prior to the start of the election.
VI. No later than 5 p.m. 5 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.

VII. Collect all candidate names and uniqnames and will submit them to the voting website no later than 3 days prior to the election, at which point a sample official ballot will be posted for public viewing.

VIII. Be available during the full voting period and answer all questions received from candidates and members of the Board. When answered electronically, the elections committee should be carbon copied on all responses.

IX. Notify the Board and all candidates of election results no later than 5 business days 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.

X. Award seats on the RSG Board to the candidates that receive the highest vote counts. No candidate shall win a seat if he receives less than 2 eligible votes.

XI. Ensure that in the event of a tie for a seat, the candidates will present themselves at the following RSG Board meeting. The Board will break the tie with a majority vote.

5. Removal: The Executive Board may remove the ED for failure to perform duties, as determined by a majority vote. Should the ED be removed, any promised salary shall be forfeited. The President will then appoint a new election director. Should the ED be removed from office within two weeks of the election, the President or his designee will fulfill the remaining roles of the Election Director without financial compensation. The treasurer will reallocate any forfeited salary accordingly.

ARTICLE VII

A. RSG Board. The RSG Board shall serve as the legislative branch of the graduate student government. The Board shall be chaired by the President and vice-chaired by the Vice-President. All elected representatives, in good standing shall have a vote on the Board. The Board shall consider issues of import to the graduate student body and shall offer its input and directives as it sees fit.
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 nominated by the President and confirmed 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. Failure to maintain active committee membership shall be cause for the President to vacate a representative’s seat.

5. Each Elected Member must plan, execute, or attend at least two non-meeting RSG events each academic term (fall, winter, and spring/summer). Failure to plan, execute, or attend at least two non-meeting RSG events per term shall be cause for the President to vacate a representative’s seat.

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.

c. Appointed Members

1. Appointed members are all non-elected members of RSG that have
been jointly nominated by the President or 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.

d. 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.
C. Operating Procedures

1. Board meetings shall be held weekly during the academic year (September – April) and bi-weekly during the summer months. Board meeting dates shall be determined by the President prior to the start of a term after consulting with the membership of the board.

2. No funds may be appropriated by the RSG board to purchase food or beverages for RSG members in conjunction with regularly scheduled board meetings.

3. The Board’s Agenda will generally include the following items:
   a. Call to Order
   b. Approval of Agenda
   c. Approval of Previous Minutes
   d. Officer Reports
   e. Director Reports
   f. Guest Speakers / Discussion
   g. Funding Request Appeals
   h. Committee Announcements
   i. Old Business
   j. New Business
   k. Open Discussion
   l. Adjournment

4. All Board agendas and their supporting documents will be published on the RSG Website in a timely manner.

5. The Board may adopt additional operating procedures on a term-by-term basis. All such operating procedures shall expire at the end of the term in which they were adopted. Operating procedures may be adopted by a super-majority vote of the Board at any point.

ARTICLE IX

A. Funding Guidelines.

1. The Board and its Budgetary Committee will consider funding requests for student organizations. Requests for event funding will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups may be requested to make a presentation to the Budgetary Committee, at the discretion of the treasurer.

2. The Budgetary Committee will not consider retroactive funding requests.
3. The Budgetary Committee will not consider funding requests submitted fewer than twenty one (21) days prior to an event. This restriction may be waived by the Treasurer on a case-by-case basis.

4. 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. The requesting organization may request a reallocation from the Treasurer within the appropriated monies. Reallocations will be reported to the Budgetary Committee and to the Board and should only be approved in the spirit of the committee’s original funding rationale.

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

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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)

9. The following will not be funded:

a. Alcohol
b. Drugs
c. Medication
d. Charitable contributions
e. Projects / Activities 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.

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. 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. The funded organization must provide itemized receipts verifying that the allocated fund were used appropriately and in accordance with the budgetary committee’s allocation decision as well as any approved reallocation requests. In the case where an itemized receipt isn’t available, proof must be provided and is subject to the Treasurer’s discretion.

3. Per Section A, Clause 3, items in funding reports not approved by the Budgetary Committee or approved by the Treasurer in a reallocation request will not be reimbursed.

ARTICLE X

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.
   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 of the 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 approving or vetoing the final passage
of the resolution.

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.

3. The Vice President, 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.

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 within 1 week of passage by the Board shall be in full force and approved. Resolutions vetoed by the 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 of 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, CSG, and members of the Student Body (upon request).
Taxes and fees — and how they may impact you

Affordable Care Act update for insured and self-funded plan sponsors

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes a number of provisions that affect both insured and self-funded plans. Those provisions include four new taxes and fees, which we expect to impact the cost of plans going forward. The responsibility for paying the new taxes and fees will fall on both health insurers and plan sponsors.

This flyer discusses these four new taxes and fees. While we are still awaiting final regulatory rules and guidance on how each of these taxes and fees will be calculated and paid, we want to help you stay up to date based on what we know at this time. We will provide you with updated information about how we expect them to impact your health plan as additional regulatory guidance becomes available.

New taxes and fees coming soon

These four ACA-mandated taxes and fees are expected to impact health plan(s):

- Health Insurer Fee
- Transitional Reinsurance Program Contribution
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Fee (also known as the Comparative Effectiveness Fee)
- High-Value Plan Tax (also known as the “Cadillac Tax”)

Because the new federal fees will impact the cost of plans going forward, we feel it’s important for you to understand each fee. By doing so, you can better anticipate and plan for the expected impacts. Research conducted by the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) in November 2011 suggests that insured premiums will increase by at least 2-3 percent as a result of the Health Insurer Fee alone. Milliman recently published a report for the Society of Actuaries that indicates an increased premium estimate of $73 to $78 per member per year (PMPY) for the Reinsurance Contribution.¹

For 2014 this works out to approximately 4 percent of premiums for the combined Health Insurer Fee and Reinsurance Contribution for a representative group plan.

The chart on the next page offers a summary for each of the four fees.

Other ACA taxes are expected to impact health plans indirectly

In addition to taxes and fees on health plans, the ACA also imposed new annual taxes on pharmaceutical companies with more than $5 million in sales, beginning in 2011. Between 2012 and 2019 the aggregate tax ranges from $2.8 to $4.1 billion, and continues thereafter. Beginning in 2013, the ACA also imposes an excise tax of 2.3 percent on the sale of any taxable medical device.

To the extent that the pharmaceutical and medical device companies incorporate the impact of these taxes into the cost of drugs or medical devices, they will affect your premiums and/or claim costs.
Learn more about ACA

Visit our website for more about the ACA, its many requirements, and how we are preparing for the changes ahead.
Part III

Department of Health and Human Services

45 CFR Parts 144, 147, 150, et al.
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Health Insurance Market Rules; Rate Review; Proposed Rule
 requirements applicable to the
individual market (§ 147.145(b)(1)).
Consistent with that policy, this
proposed rule would provide student
health insurance coverage with
exceptions from the Affordable Care
Act’s guaranteed availability and
renewability requirements to ensure that
enrollment in these policies is limited to
students and their dependents.

Under this proposed rule, student
health insurance coverage would be
included in an issuer’s individual
market single risk pool, as described
below. Nonetheless, given the
differences between the student health
insurance market and other forms of
individual market coverage, we solicit
comment on whether the final rule
should allow issuers to maintain a
separate risk pool for student health
insurance coverage. We also seek
comment on whether the final rule
should provide any modifications with
respect to the generally applicable
individual market rating rules in
connection with student health
insurance coverage.

E. Single Risk Pool (Proposed § 156.80)

Section 1312(c)(1) and (2) of the
Affordable Care Act states that a health
insurance issuer must consider all of its
enrollees in all health plans (other than
grandfathered health plans) offered by
the issuer to be members of a single risk
pool in the individual market and small
group market, respectively. 59 This
requirement applies to health plans both
inside and outside of an Exchange for
both markets. Section 1312(c)(3) of the
Affordable Care Act provides a state
with an option to merge its individual
and small group markets, in which case
all non-grandfathered plans’ risk would
be merged. To support the accuracy of
the risk adjustment methodology, we
propose that states that intend to merge
their individual and small group market
pools in 2014 inform us no later than 30
days after the publication of the final
rule. Lastly, section 1312(c)(4) of the
Affordable Care Act renders
inapplicable any state law requiring
grandfathered health plans to be
included in the single risk pool(s).

The proposed rule would largely
codify the statutory language and clarify
that the single risk pool requirement
applies on a state-by-state basis and
only to forms of non-grandfathered
individual and small group market
coverage subject to PHS Act section
2701. Thus, excepted benefit and short-
term limited duration policies, for
example, would not be subject to the
single risk pool requirement. Also, this
requirement would not be enforced
against health insurance coverage issued
to plans with fewer than two
participants who are current employees
(for example, retiree-only plans) (see 75
FR 34538, 34539–40 (June 17, 2010)).

Section 1312(c) of the Affordable Care
Act represents a change from current
market practice. Today, issuers often
maintain several separate risk pools
within their individual and small group
market business, often as a way to
segment risk and further underwrite
premiums. For example, the NAIC’s
Small Employer Health Insurance
Availability Model Act (1993 Version),
adopted by a majority of states, allows
issuers to maintain up to nine blocks of
business in the small group market,
subject to a limitation that the index
rates between the blocks not vary by
more than 20 percent. A 2004 study by
the American Academy of Actuaries
noted that the current regulatory climate
in most states allows issuers to open
and close books of business in the
individual market at will, effectively
causing many long-term policyholders
in closed blocks to face very high
premium increases at renewal because
issuers can refuse to pool their claims
experience with that of the newer or
healthier policyholders. 60

Beginning in 2014, issuers are no
longer able to deny coverage based on
applicants’ health status and are limited
in the types of rating factors they can
apply in setting premiums in the
individual and small group markets.
Without a single risk pool rule, these
prohibitions against traditional
underwriting could incentivize issuers
to find ways to segment the market into
separate risk pools and charge
differential premiums based on
segmented risk, a de facto mechanism
for underwriting. As a result, this
statutory requirement that an issuer
consider all of its enrollees in all plans
(other than grandfathered plans) offered
by the issuer to be members of a single
risk pool in the individual market or
small group market, respectively,
prevents issuers from creating separate
pools in order to segment high risk and

59 By law, issuers are required to transition all
non-grandfathered small group and individual
market coverage issued prior to January 1, 2014, to
the appropriate single risk pool in the first plan year
(small group market) or the first policy year
(individual market) beginning on or after January 1,
2014.

60 American Academy of Actuaries’ Rate Filing
Task Force, Report to the NAIC’s AH&H Working
Group of the Life & Health Actuarial Task Force,
at 3–4. See also NAIC, White Paper: An Exploration
of Potential Regulatory Measures Intended to
Prevent Individuals of Later Durations of Non-
Group Major Health Products from Receiving
Higher Rate Increases than Those at Early
low risk enrollees. While risk adjustment will address some risk segmentation, the single risk pool requirement provides another layer of protection against adverse selection among plans and protects consumers by requiring issuers to consider the risk of all enrollees when developing and pricing unique plans.

To implement the single risk pool protection, we propose that the claims experience of the enrollees in all non-grandfathered plans of an health insurance issuer in the individual or small group market within a state (or both, if the risk pools of the individual and small group market are merged within a state) be combined so that the premium rate of a particular plan is not adversely impacted by the health status or claims experience of its enrollees. For rates effective starting January 1, 2014, a health insurance issuer would use the estimated total combined claims experience of all non-grandfathered plans deriving from providing essential health benefits within a state market to establish an index rate (average rate) for the relevant market. The index rate would be utilized to set the rates for all non-grandfathered plans of the issuer in the market. After setting the index rate, an issuer would make a market-wide adjustment to the index rate based on the total expected market-wide payments and charges under the risk adjustment and reinsurance programs in a state.

The premium rate for any given plan could not vary from the resulting index rate, except for the following factors:

- The actuarial value and cost-sharing design of the plan;
- The plan’s provider network and delivery system characteristics, as well as utilization management practices. This factor is intended to pass savings onto consumers where issuers are able to negotiate better discounts, construct efficient networks, or manage care more efficiently;
- Plan benefits in addition to the essential health benefits. The additional benefits must be pooled with similar benefits provided in other plans to determine the allowable rate variation for plans that offer these benefits; and
- With respect to catastrophic plans, the expected impact of the specific eligibility categories for those plans.

The index rate, the market-wide adjustment based on total expected payments and charges for the risk adjustment and reinsurance programs, and the variations for individual plans would have to be actuarially justified. Furthermore, all such actuarially justified adjustments would have to be implemented by issuers in a transparent fashion, consistent with state and federal rate review processes. We seek comment on the approach described above, and on the proposed plan-specific adjustments to the index rate. This proposed rule would apply both when rates are initially established for a plan and at renewal. We expect that percentage renewal increases generally would be similar across all plans in the same risk pool, but might differ somewhat due to the permitted product differences described above. We are considering allowing additional flexibility in product pricing in 2016 after issuers have accumulated sufficient claims data. We request comments on this approach.

F. CMS Enforcement in Group and Individual Insurance Market (Various Provisions in Parts 144 and 150)

Part 150 of title 45 of the CFR sets forth our enforcement processes for all of the requirements of title XXVII of the PHS Act with respect to health insurance issuers and non-federal governmental group health plans. The scope of part 150 includes our processes for enforcing the requirements of title XXVII of the PHS Act added by the Affordable Care Act, given that the statutory enforcement provisions that part 150 implements, PHS Act sections 2723 and 2761, apply to all of parts A and B of title XXVII.

This proposed rule would make a number of conforming changes in various sections of parts 144 and 150 intended to clarify the applicability of enforcement procedures to the PHS Act requirements added by the Affordable Care Act. For example, we are proposing to replace the term “HIPAA requirements” with “PHS Act requirements” throughout part 150 to make clear that the part 150 processes would be used for enforcing not only the requirements emanating from HIPAA, but also the Affordable Care Act and other legislation enacted subsequent to HIPAA. Similarly, the proposed rule would add, where appropriate, references to part 147 (that is, the Affordable Care Act’s group and individual market requirements) alongside references to parts 146 and 148 (the group and individual market requirements pre-dating the Affordable Care Act). While these proposed changes should clarify to stakeholders our interpretation concerning part 150, the lack of these revisions in part 150 currently in no way prejudices our continued use of part 150 in connection with enforcing the requirements of part 147 prior to the issuance of a final rule.

G. Enrollment in Catastrophic Plans (Proposed § 156.155)

Section 1302(e) of the Affordable Care Act outlines standards for offering catastrophic plans, which we propose to codify in § 156.155. In paragraph (a)(1), we propose that a plan be a catastrophic plan if it meets all applicable requirements for health insurance coverage in the individual market (including but not limited to those requirements described in 45 CFR parts 147 and 148) and is offered only in the individual market. In proposed paragraph (a)(2), we specify that a catastrophic plan does not offer coverage at the bronze, silver, gold, or platinum coverage levels described in section 1302(d) of the Affordable Care Act and in proposed paragraph (a)(3), we clarify that a catastrophic plan does not provide coverage of essential health benefits until the enrolled individual reaches the annual limitation in cost sharing in section 1302(c)(1) of the Affordable Care Act. Proposed paragraph (a)(4) codifies the statutory requirement that a catastrophic plan must cover at least three primary care visits per year before reaching the deductible. We do not propose here to prohibit an issuer from imposing cost sharing in connection with these primary care visits so long as other applicable law (for example, PHS Act section 2713) permits.

In paragraph (a)(5), we propose codifying the statutory criteria identified in section 1302(e)(2) of the Affordable Care Act that lists the individuals who are permitted to enroll in a catastrophic plan. In paragraph (a)(5)(i), we propose that individuals younger than age 30 before the beginning of the plan year are eligible to enroll in catastrophic plans. If an individual enrolled in a catastrophic plan reaches age 30 during a plan year, we propose that the individual can remain enrolled in the catastrophic plan for the remainder of the plan year. In paragraph (a)(5)(ii), we propose that the second group of individuals eligible to enroll in a catastrophic plan are those who have been certified as exempt from the individual responsibility payment because they cannot afford minimum essential coverage, or they are eligible for a hardship exemption.

In paragraph (b), we propose to codify the exception found in section 1302(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Affordable Care Act by proposing that a health plan may
December 26, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students welcomes this opportunity to provide the Department of Health and Human Services (the “Agency”) with our comments on the Proposed Rule Regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Health insurance market rules; rate review (the “Proposed Rule”) (45 CFR Parts 144, 147, 150, 154 and 156, November 26, 2012) issued pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“ACA” or the “Act”); specifically Proposed 156.80; section III.D “Applicability of the Proposed Rules under PHS Sections 2701, 2702 and 2703 and Section 1312(c) of the Affordable Care Act to Student Health Insurance Coverage.

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is a national organization comprising more than 530,000 graduate and professional students at more than 85 schools across 37 states. Collectively, we advocate for graduate and professional student interests and issues that affect higher education in the United States. We believe that the proposed rule could have a significant impact on graduate and professional students around the country if implemented as proposed.

First, NAGPS wishes to express its support within the proposed rule for the expansion of health care coverage to individuals with pre-existing conditions and for ending discriminatory practices that previously made health insurance more costly for certain populations including women. We commend the Agency’s efforts to implement regulations to end these practices and to provide equal access to affordable health care for all people. In our recognition of this effort we wish to highlight this is a practice that has been employed in Student Health Insurance Programs (SHIPs) for some time. SHIPs are not individually underwritten; therefore none of the limiting and discriminatory factors are applied to students. Any student who enrolls is covered and none of these factors determine the rate the student will be charged for that coverage.

This unique approach leaves NAGPS to be concerned about the unintended consequences and market disruption that will be caused by application of the individual market single risk pool regulations to student insurance. The Agency recognized the unique character of student health plans in providing an exception from the ACA’s guaranteed availability and renewability requirements to ensure that enrollment in these policies is limited to students and their dependents. We urge the Agency to continue to recognize student insurance as a unique product, affirm the previous determination regarding national aggregation, and allow for separate pooling and experience ratings for SHIPs.
Any concerns regarding benefit levels in student insurance policies are alleviated by application of Essential Health Benefits and corresponding annual dollar limits required by the final rule issued by the Agency in March 2012.

Student Health Services at Institutions of Higher Education offer a unique blend of primary medical care, mental health services, and health education and promotion strategies with a generally stable source of prepaid funding, which includes student health insurance reimbursements. This care model has been widely replicated throughout managed care and worksite employee health and wellness programs for their cost containment benefits (Brindis and Reyes, Journal of American College Health, 1997).

Further, Student Health Services play a critical role in shaping future healthcare access patterns and expenditures. *Healthy People 2000* recognizes that Institutions of Higher Education are one of the few environments outside the military service where large numbers of young adults can be targeted with information, education and training regarding healthy lifestyle choices.

The proposed regulation will threaten the aforementioned well-established care model for students as many rely on student health insurance reimbursement to fund their operational costs. Including SHIP policies in the individual single risk pool may cause premiums for SHIP coverage to increase. This could cause many Institutions of Higher Education to discontinue their SHIP coverage as they attempt to balance the total cost of attendance with the provision of Student Health Services and a SHIP. At the least, if premiums were to rise, this could affect more broadly the financial capacity of an entire university or college, since many SHIPs are underwritten by other finances within a school. This could ultimately influence other university programs or financial aid available for students. Furthermore, if SHIPs are pooled with other areas, student health centers might be stretched thin by providing primary care services for a population they are not currently serving. The end result of implementation could be an increase in uninsured students who could not afford higher premiums and lack of operational funding to continue to offer Student Health Services on campus.

NAGPS opposes any regulatory guidance that reduces the ability of college health services to design and offer ACA compliant student insurance plans that assist them in their mission of caring for and educating their student population while providing the maximum available access to a wide variety of health care services. We respectfully request that the Agency affirm the previous guidance regarding national aggregation, and allow for separate pooling and experience rating of Student Health Insurance Plans.

Sincerely,

Matt Cooper  
President and CEO  
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students  
president@nagps.org

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Dear Ms. Tavenner:

On behalf of the American College Health Association (“ACHA”), I write in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (CMS-9972-P) in which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) solicited comments on its proposed rules concerning health insurance market rules and rate review. ACHA is a non-profit national health association that represents multidisciplinary college and university health professionals whose principal collective interest is to advance the health of the nation’s 20 million college students. Comprised of more than 2,800 physicians, nurses, and other clinical providers, mental health providers, health promotion professionals, health administrators, pharmacists, and support staff on over 900 student health centers, ACHA has long supported the provision of high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health coverage through college and university sponsored student health insurance plans (SHIPs). Specifically, I am writing in response to the Department’s request for comments1 on whether the final rule should allow insurance issuers of college student health insurance to maintain a separate risk pool for student health insurance coverage (SHIC); and, whether the final rule should provide any modifications with respect to the generally applicable individual market rating rules in connection with SHIC.

As the Department has acknowledged, “…there are between 1.1 million and 1.5 million enrollees”2 in student health insurance coverage. Given our knowledge of the market and foreseeable impacts, we feel it essential that SHIC plans not be included in an issuer’s individual market single risk pool to determine premium ratings. Doing so would greatly threaten the viability of these plans by rendering

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1 Federal Register / Vol. 77, No. 227 / Monday, November 26, 2012 / Proposed Rules, III, D. Applicability of the Proposed Rules Under PHS Sections 2701, 2702, and 2703 and Section 1312(c) of the Affordable Care Act to Student Health Insurance Coverage. Page 70600.

premium pricing cost prohibitive. This would essentially diminish institutions’ ability to offer comprehensive coverage tailored to the needs of college students.

Student health insurance pricing is based on consideration of several factors, including the experience rating of the plan, its partnership with low cost, high quality care through on-campus health services, and the size and demographics of the student population within the institution. Many student health plans are designed to coordinate with services available on campus, which provide access to primary care, mental health care, and health promotion services, further contributing to their low cost and affordability for students. These considerations would be obviated if issuers were compelled to include SHIC in a single individual market risk pool.

The Department has repeatedly acknowledged that the intent of Congress was to ensure that SHIPs would remain viable, citing that “… if particular requirements in the Affordable Care Act would have, as a practical matter, the effect of prohibiting an institution of higher education from offering a student health plan otherwise permitted under Federal, State or local law, such requirements would be inapplicable pursuant to section 1560(c).” The Department has already recognized the uniqueness of SHIPs, which are dependent upon the insured’s status as a student at the respective institution, and thus applied the rationale articulated in the rule of construction -- section 1560(c) of the ACA. Student plans have been exempted from HIPAA guaranteed availability and renewability requirements applicable to the individual market per 45 CFR Part 147, §147.145(b)(1), and issuers must aggregate and report the experience from student policies on a national basis, separately from other policies for purposes of federal MLR reporting per 45 CFR Part 158, §158.120(d)(5).

Furthermore, the Department has also recently proposed in a pending rule to treat student health plans as a separate group that would not be subject to risk adjustment charges or receive risk adjustment payments. Thus, it would be entirely consistent to likewise exempt SHIC from the single individual market risk pool.

Given the importance of quality health insurance coverage in ensuring student success, we respectfully request that SHIC be exempted from inclusion in an issuer’s individual market single risk pool in the final rule. We ask the Department to sustain these important products as high-quality cost-effective options for college students by allowing SHIPs to remain in a separate risk pool for purposes of premium rating. We thank the Department for the opportunity to comment and would be pleased to provide additional information that would be helpful as the final regulations are developed.

On behalf of college health professionals across the country, we thank you in advance for your attention to these views.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Haubenreiser, MA, FACHA
President
American College Health Association

3 Ibid, I. Background, Page 16454.
SENATE BILL No. 41

January 16, 2013, Introduced by Senators CASWELL, JANSEN and COLBECK and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 280, entitled "The social welfare act," (MCL 400.1 to 400.119b) by adding section 105c.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

SEC. 105C. (1) THE STATE SHALL NOT EXPAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY TO NONELDERLY INDIVIDUALS WITH INCOME AT OR BELOW 133% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES AS DIRECTED UNDER THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, PUBLIC LAW 111-148.

(2) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES" MEANS THE POVERTY GUIDELINES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES UNDER ITS AUTHORITY TO REVISE THE POVERTY LINE UNDER SECTION 673(2) OF SUBTITLE B OF TITLE VI OF THE OMNIBUS BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1981, 42 USC 9902.