Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: October 18, 2012

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. October 4, 2012 ** (p. 2)
   b. October 10, 2012* (p. 5)

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

V. Accessibility of Technology Resolution – Preliminary Discussion

VI. Election Forum – November 1, 2012

VII. Potential Event Co-sponsorship with the Michigan Graduate Consulting Club:
    Using U-M Resources to Enhance your Consulting Career Development (p.13)

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs * (p. 8)
   b. Budgetary
   c. Community Outreach & Social Action
   d. Legislative Affairs
   e. Student Life Committee *
   f. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
   g. Steering Committee

IX. Individual Projects - Update

X. Open Discussion

XI. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:38pm
   a. Present: Representatives Anna Belak, Brandon Erickson, Chris Tom, Matt Waugh, Eli Benchell Eisman, Dan Trubman, Vanessa Cruz, Haven Allen, Treasurer Alex Toulouse, Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, President Michael Benson.
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Representatives Alex Emly, Heidi Alvey, Alex Gutierrez

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   a. Motion by Chris and seconded by Matt W. Motion to amend to add individual projects to item IX and seconded by Matt W. Approved with one abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   a. Minutes from 9/20/12—correct minutes included in the packet, motion by Eli and seconded by Vanessa. Approved unanimously.
   b. Minutes from 9/27/12—motion by Chris and seconded by Brandon.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Michael Benson. Starting next week we have a set of 5 confirmed guest speakers coming in over the course of the next few weeks. Please show up on time at 6:30pm due to having guests. The execs had a meeting with Dean Janet Weiss and she was very impressed with the amount of work that we’ve been doing.
   b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. A modified version of the newsletter went out this week just with events. First years are now on the list-serv. Also as Michael said, we met with Janet today and specifically Kaitlin introduced the concept of the Bill of Rights and gave her a copy as well as we discussed keeping Rackham open late at night, possibly with card access. Janet is supportive. We will also implement Pete’s idea to try to get a networked printer in the building. Another newsletter next week? Also drafting a flyer for the student t-shirt contest.
   c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse. $22,353 in the account, still trying to sort out a few errors with SOAS. This includes funds from the fall term. Alex also was with Janet in our meeting today and discussed the SAGE Fall summit, Janet was very supportive. Alex also brought up the issue of Master’s student funding and Janet is well aware of the issue and notes that Rackham is working on it.

V. Accessibility of Technology—Update
a. Michael reads an email update from the disability committee. Laura Patterson who is Chief Information Officer will be coming to our board next week and we will be able to discuss these issues with her at that time. We will also be offering her space in the RSG Gazette to distribute the information regarding disability accessibility.

VI. Committee Appointments- Update
a. Over 100 people have applied to be on various committees. Including many who are interested in joining the board. Michael and exec will be appointing committees. Also, thus far no one has offered to be the Elections Director so Michael appoints Kaitlin. Likewise, CSG has not set their elections date and if they do not by next week, we will need to set one next week.

VII. Election Forum—November 1, 2012
a. Planning is underway, 2 co-sponsors currently and looking for more. This includes Ford School CLOSEUP and SCOR. Hopefully we will get the Michigan Daily involved, too. We are expecting a large turn out so it should be great. Haven asks who we have confirmed. Motion by Dan and seconded by Matt to cancel the board meeting the week of the forum. Michael asks too that everyone from the board attend. The U requires we have 38 ushers for this event so we will be looking for those.

VIII. Committee Updates
a. Academic Affairs: Motion to approve the minutes by Chris and seconded by Kaitlin. Eli has one change to the minutes—6 i should read ‘Altonio’ instead of ‘Antonio’. Chris gives updates on the committee’s work. Kaitlin mentioned that in the meeting with the Dean she offered to schedule the Deans who will be attending each event.

b. Budgetary: funding requests coming through, sending out info to the student body soon.

c. Community Outreach and Social Action- big event on Saturday with Greening of Detroit. Motion by Eli and seconded by Chris to accept the minutes, approved unanimously. Event this weekend with FOCUS Hope has about 15-20 projected students.

d. Legislative Affairs- let Michael know if there’s anyone else to invite to the

e. Student Life Committee- Speed friending event this Saturday in the Union co-hosted with the Law school. Motion by Alex T to approve the minutes and seconded by Matt. Approved unanimously.

f. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Steering Committee- will meet next week.

IX. Individual Projects
a. This is something Michael wants to bring back. Michael encourages people to take on individual projects for each rep to extend their service to the board. We go around the board and each rep shares their individual project ideas. Basic synopsis: Vanessa- tuition equality for undocumented students. Chris- non-discrimination policy. Anna- conflict resolution and elections forum. Pete- dedicated group study space for grad students in general, also working to have a long term relationship with a non-profit, Focus HOPE. Haven- finding funding for SAGE. Matt- working with DPC for the debate watching party. Discussion ensues
about Master’s study spaces and how the undergrads are taking over a lot of the spaces that grad students would normally use, thus Master’s students don’t have enough space, particularly in Rackham and the Ford School. Brandon-working on legislative affairs, make engineering center career services available to LSA students. Dan- echoes issues of study spaces and would also like to organize a trip to the Windsor Ballet. Eli will be working with Master’s student study space as he has contacted the dean of Library services as well as working with AAC and Darlene Ray Johnson.

X. Resolution F-12-01: Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board
   a. The board voted to disband the continuous enrollment dispute resolution board over the summer. Chris has drafted a board resolution to this effect. This will be postponed for 2 weeks. Motion by Anna and seconded by Matt. Approved unanimously.

XI. Open Discussion- Michael hands out the old housing committee flowchart and informational flyer regarding housing issues and flowchart for dispute resolution. DPC has been successful. Anna asks if there will be information online regarding the SAGE fall summit.

XII. Adjournment- motion to adjourn moved by Pete and seconded by Matt. 7:39pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:36pm
   a. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Eli Benchell Eisman, Alex Gutierrez, Brandon Erickson, Heidi Alvey, Pete McGrath
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Alex Toulouse, Alex Emly, Dan Trubman, Anna Belak

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   a.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   a. Minutes from 10/4/12—No quorum

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Michael Benson. Financially we have just under $22,000 in the bank given our first installment of the Fall semester. Half of the board is out sick, sadly. Over 100 people have applied to sit on the various committees for appointments, including 6 people who have applied to serve on our board. The Michigan Daily has signed on to co-sponsor the election forum on November 1. The format has also changed, there will be a debate as well as providing information. Proponents and opponents will be speaking in the Rackham Auditorium on November 1 as well as candidates for local, state and federal office and their designees available to speak afterwards.
   b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. Newsletter going out this week, committee chairs or anyone let me know if there are any updates to include. Also, tonight is the second of our co-sponsored events with the DPC for the VP debate watching.
   c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse. Out sick.

V. Guest Speaker/Discussion: Laura Patterson—Chief Information Officer & Associate Vice President
   a. Accessibility of Technology update: Laura starts by discussing the Google Accessibility issue. Background: a few years ago the U initiated a large program called Next Gen Michigan to bring Michigan up to date with technology and IT for teaching and administration. The goal was to consolidate IT services and build a shared infrastructure to make these issues more efficient and supportive. The first step was to work with various individuals across campus to choose a collaborative platform, which drove everyone to the selection to Google and Box.
Migration started last spring. Now what has come forward is the serious issue of accessibility. The National Association for the Blind had come forward and pursued justice to Google in the past (via a Northwestern lawsuit). Google responded by promising to make their services accessible to all people. Based on that statement, the UM team made the decision to move forward. A few weeks ago Google released an announcement giving all the things that they have worked on to make the services more accessible. The UM team then tested the changes and determined that the improvements were not sufficient to address the concerns of students on campus. Laura draws a diagram of the old and new systems. Basically, students with disabilities could put Assisted Technologies programs to put in front of the old Blue Mail to allow them to access their mail. Under the new Google system, students with disabilities can use AT with the interfaces for Gmail as Outlook or MacMail. The problems are: first, Google’s approach to making Chrom accessible, they implemented a long term strategy to create a new AT called Chrome Vox to work in a cloud environment/web interface. Google responded to Michigan’s claims that the services were not improved and offered to continue to improve. Google also claims that Chrome Vox is actually an easier technology to learn, but students shouldn’t be forced to make the change. Secondly, in the Google system, it is not just mail, but calendar, docs/drive, sites, contacts, chat, etc. So all of these services need to be made accessible too. Currently, if students are using AT with either Outlook or MacMail, mail and calendar are accessible. But what is the biggest priority for UM? Docs/Drive? Or webmail? Laura asks for our input and suggestions here. Laura also clarifies that there is offering to set up AT and

b. Discussion from the board: Heidi asks if Laura has met with GEO’s disability caucus. Laura says yes and she has also met with the Graduate Student Disability Committee. Heidi suggests putting this specific question in front of those committees for more input as the GEO caucus has a great working relationship with students with disabilities. Heidi asks regarding 6 months timeframe and mentions that it is longer than a semester and might be hard for students with disabilities that will go an entire semester without accommodations. Michael offers to send out an anonymous webform to all graduate students. Lauren seconds the survey as a good idea. Eli mentioned that he found the ITS documents during Google migration to be very helpful. Eli mentions too that the documents are the most collaborative form between teachers and students and that might be the highest priority. Laura asks about chat and if that would be an issue for faculty members who could only hold office hours via chat. Michael mentions that there would need to be a policy made to prevent faculty from holding office hours. Kaitlin asks about the GoogleDocs requirement. In a meeting with Laura, Phil Hanlon said that he would send out an email to faculty saying that they could not require students to use GoogleDocs until the accessibility issue was fixed. Kyle mentions that Docs projects are collaborative, but Mail and Calendar are intensely personal and if that is hindering students, Mail should be the top priority. Michael asks if there is anything the EECS students could do to assist in this venture. Also, given the timeline update, ITS will leave BlueMail up for a little longer for
students to access their mail until they figure out what priorities to ask Google to pursue.

c. **Other issues:** Michael asks about reducing printing costs such that the number of impressions could be impressed and asks for an update. Laura says that she really doesn’t have an update—the office has been directing efforts elsewhere. Eli brings up the suggestion of having a computer lab or a printer in Rackham. Laura is very receptive. Michael also mentions about having a CAEN image to make it available on all University machines. Michael asks about interfacing our GPA scale change with IT services. Laura explains the complexity. Eli asks about specific software for departments and making it accessible to all University departments. Laura says that there is a project to look at software licensing and is aimed at increasing accessibility and decreasing costs. Michael asks about accessibility to journal articles over MWireless on North Campus. This is a North Campus specific issue—Kyle talks on issues he’s had logging into his servers as well. Laura mentions that they are addressing this by putting up MWireless all over campus. Pete asks about the clunkiness of CTools and how some students in his department have issues. Laura welcomes emails: lmpatter@umich.edu of any concerns and questions.

VI. **Open Discussion-** Eli mentions that the bar night for H4H will be postponed. Pete also hosted a great event with Focus HOPE last week. Michael suggests a resolution to prohibit faculty/instructors from mandating the use of Google Docs. Heidi offers to draft this resolution. Pete asks about changing the meeting time slightly. Pete offers to work on the RSG logo.

VII. **Adjournment-** adjourned.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:09 pm

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Chair Chris Tom, Co-chair Anna Belak, Unofficial Vice-Chair Kaitlin Flynn, Secretary Alex Gutierrez, President Michael Benson, Eli Benchell Eisman, Pete McGrath

Present: Chair Chris Tom, Co-chair Anna Belak, Unofficial Vice-Chair Kaitlin Flynn, Secretary Alex Gutierrez, Eli Benchell Eisman, Pete McGrath

Excused: President Michael Benson, Pete McGrath

Unexcused:

III. CURRENT INITIATIVES & TASKS

a. Town Halls/Lunch with the Deans – see Appendix for available dates
   Either Nov. (15th & 16th) or (19th & 21st) depending on Dean of Engineering availability. Need to email this dean along with Laura Patterson (CIO / associate VP) about attending the town halls.

b. Printers in Rackham and Rackham building hours
   Building hours extended. Printers pending. Dean Weiss rocks.

c. Remove ‘Letter of Recommendation’ requirement from the Rackham emergency fund
   - See Appendix for responses
   After reviewing several other SAGE institutions, it is apparent that Rackham is already providing more than is usual and it is appropriate to require a ‘Letter of Recommendation.’ However, it is reasonable to loosen the requirements by opening up other venues or resources for acquiring this letter, eg from Ombuds, advisor, or other faculty or staff.

d. Signup sheet for graduate student tutors
   Need to figure out where to host the website and database. Find out who manages the Rackham website or someone else to develop and manage this page. There’s no reason to collect data from people when we don’t have the infrastructure to post/support it. Perhaps we can pair with CSG, since the service will be primarily for the academic benefit of undergrads, presumably.

e. Funding for non-traditional doctoral students
   Chris talking to people. In progress. No details to report. Essentially going to relegate this to Chris’s project.

f. Class bank for candidates
   In progress. Chris will meet with President Benson to figure out whom to
g. **Conflict Resolution**  
No quorum at last RSG board meeting. It appears that the proper order to create the CRB is post-GSBoR, when the mandate to enact the CRB is present.
   i. **Conflict Resolution Board**
   ii. **Subcommittee on SAGE conflict resolution**
   iii. **Student Ombuds training**
   iv. **Disbanding Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board**

h. **Graduate Student Bill of Rights**  
No progress yet; need to set up the meeting with the deans to figure out implementation. Janet has a copy of the BoR.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION

V. ACTION ITEMS
   a. [Michael] Send out email to student body re: student obmuds
   b. [Michael] Discuss provost about GSBoR language
   c. [Everyone] Email Chris re: 5 survey questions
   d. [Chris] Follow-up with Jill McDonough re: non-traditional funding
   e. [Anna] Fellowship payment schedule standardization resolution
   f. [Chris] Work on course/class/credit bank system.
   g. [Chris] Email engineering dean and Laura Patterson about availability for our tentative town hall dates.
   h. [Chris/anyone?] Find out who is the Rackham webmaster or website management group.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 8:42 pm

VII. APPENDIX

a. **Potential Dates for Town Halls**
   i. § Tue., November 13\textsuperscript{th} – Deans Weiss, Blair, and Hitchcock
   ii. § Thur., November 15\textsuperscript{th} – Deans Weiss and Hitchcock
   iii. § Fri., November 16\textsuperscript{th} – Deans Weiss and Chavous
   iv. § Mon., November 19\textsuperscript{th} – Deans Weiss, Blair, and Hitchcock
   v. § Wed., November 21\textsuperscript{st} - Deans Weiss and Hitchcock
   vi. § Mon., November 26\textsuperscript{th} - Deans Weiss and Chavous
   vii. § Tue., November 27\textsuperscript{th} - Deans Weiss, Blair, and Hitchcock
   viii. § Thur., November 29\textsuperscript{th} - Deans Weiss, Blair, and Hitchcock
   ix. § Fri., November 30\textsuperscript{th} - Deans Weiss and Chavous

b. **Emergency Funds:**
   i. Berkeley (Chris)
      1. **Emergency Loans** are available to help students with cash flow problems during the academic year. All registered
students can apply for a short-term, interest-free loan of up to $775, which takes about one hour to process and is repayable within 60 days. There is a $20 application fee for all emergency loans (212 Sproul Hall; 510/642-0470).

ii. Ohio State (Kaitlin)
1. They do not have emergency funds specifically for graduate students but have some for all students. There is no letter of recommendation required unless you are an international student (and need an immigrant coordinator) but you do have to pay the loan back. I think in Rackham it's a grant. They do not have grants like we do.

iii. UT Austin (Anna)
1. "Entirely dependent upon donations, the Student Emergency Fund provides limited emergency financial assistance to a small number of currently enrolled UT Austin students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses because of temporary hardship related to an emergency situation. Some funds are counted as income and are subject to federal taxes. Funding comes from the generous donations of fellow UT Austin students at the annual Party on the Plaza event, as well from faculty and staff support via the Hearts of Texas Campaign. Average award amounts range from $25-$150 per student.

   a. Applicant must be a currently enrolled student at The University of Texas at Austin and have temporary financial hardship resulting from an emergency situation
   b. Other possible resources have been considered and are either unavailable or insufficient
   c. Applicant must be able to provide sufficient documentation of financial hardship

iv. UNC Chapel Hill (Alex)
1. UNC Chapel Hill Emergency Fund: The fund is managed by the "Division of Student Affairs and Scholarships and Student Aid." This funding does not have to be repaid. REQUIREMENTS: 1) Must show financial hardship from an emergency, accident, or unplanned event. 2) Must be currently enrolled. 3) Emergency loans must have been considered and are insufficient/unavailable. 4) Complete all questions and submit supporting docs (financial aid). Average range of funding: $300 - $600. Larger requests require more reviews and personal meetings.

2. UNC Chapel Hill Emergency Loan: Loans are interest-free, short-term loans. They cannot be used to pay University charges, such as tuition (planned expense). Repay by first day of last month of the semester in which the loan is
borrowed. No noted request ceiling. Late fees: $15/month. Application processed in 2-3 days.

v. **University of Wisconsin (Eli)**

Emergency or Crisis loans up to $500 are available to any student who demonstrates the need. Funds are made available through external donations and are restricted to payments outside of the University system (i.e. not for use in covering tuition, fees or fines). Multiple loans are available, though previously obtained funds must be paid off in full. Individuals must currently be enrolled as students to apply for the program and funds awarding are subject to the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students.
I. Call to order 7:22 PM

II. Roll call of members
   a. Present: Evan Arthur, Michael Benson, Matt Waugh
   b. Absent (excused): Alex Toulouse
   c. Absent unexcused: Kaitlin Flynn

III. Law School Social: Conor’s Dec 1
   a. 9:00 – 11:00
   b. We need to spend $1500 to have it for free, but Caroline at Conor’s said that as long as we have it full the whole night, it doesn’t really matter if people are buying things at the other bar
   c. Alex E needs to check and make sure that Sat Dec 1 is still good to go
   d. We should also invite Business and Med schools.

IV. Other Updates / Open Discussion
   a. MB is getting AE access to the SPH and Social Work folk lists. Also Public Health.
   b. Director for the office for disabilities wants to meet with the student life meeting. And the rest of the board if they can come. He can’t come to general board meetings. **Nov 14 meeting he will be invited.**
   c. Director of the university unions is coming to a board meeting. We’ll discuss things to talk to her about at the next meeting on Nov 14.

V. Other Events:
   a. Bringing back Blue Lep Bar night – Tuesday Nov 13
   b. Pistons: Dec 7
   c. 10/24: Study Break happy hour, Brown Jug or ABC side room – move around budget from either Law social or another bar night. AE is going to get in contact with ABC about getting the side room – 5-7 or 6-8
   d. Ice Skating – Feb 3
   e. Bowling – St Patrick’s Day

VI. Conclusions
   a. We are going to have a busy meeting on Nov 14.
   b. Matt had fun going home for homecoming.
   c. Michael forgets lots of reasons why people miss meetings.
   d. Evan has never ridden a yak.

VII. Action Items
   a. Matt Waugh is calling Blue Lep about having a bar night on Tues, Nov 13 from 8-10. They already do half off (need to make sure it starts at 8) which is easy peasy
   b. Alex Emly is calling ABC about having a happy hour next Wednesday, Oct 24. Renting the side room

VIII. Adjournment 7:37PM
Dear graduate students interested in consulting:

As you consider and prepare for a potential career in consulting, I would like to invite you to attend the following information session designed to assist you in your professional development:

"Using U-M Resources to Enhance your Consulting Career Development"

Wednesday, October 24, 4-5 pm Common Room in the lower level of Rackham's West Wing

We will discuss the available resources on campus that are potentially helpful for strengthening the skills required for consulting, including opportunities to diversify your resume, resources at the Ross School, Kresge Library, And The Career Center.

I have worked on U-M’s campus in career and professional development for the past 23 years, as well as worked in industry and have managed my own business. Currently I lead out professional development for Rackham Graduate School. I will share my insights and knowledge of the industry and U-M campus, and look forward to hearing your insights and learning more about you.

Sincerely,

Paula Wishart