Rackham Student Government Board Meeting: October 4, 2012

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. September 20, 2012 * (p. 2)
   b. September 27, 2012 * (p. 6)

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 – Update

VI. Committee Appointments - Update

VII. Election Forum – November 1, 2012

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs * (p. 9)    e. Student Life Committee*
   b. Budgetary                   (p. 15)
   c. Community Outreach & Social Action* (p. 12)
   d. Legislative Affairs         f. Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
          Steering Committee

IX. Resolution F-12-01: Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board

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: 6:34pm  
   a. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Alex Toulouse, Anna Belak, Brandon Erickson, Haven Allen, Dan Trubman, Heidi Pedini, Eli Benchell Eisman, Matthew Filter, Alex Gutierrez, Chris Tom, Lauren Knapp, Matt Waugh, Alex Emly  
   b. Absent: Evan Arthur, Vanessa Cruz  
   c. Excused:  

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
   a. Motion by Haven and seconded by Eli. Guest speaker has postponed his meeting so he will not be here tonight. Approved unanimously.  

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES  
   a. Minutes from 9/13/12: moved by Kaitlin and seconded by Alex T. Approved with the change as emailed by Alex Emly. Approved unanimously.  

IV. OFFICER REPORTS  
   a. President Michael Benson. Rackham is going to be asking all students to nominate people for honorary degrees (basically anyone, as long as they are not current politicians). Things are moving forward with our possible secession from CSG. Michael will be appointing 5 individuals from this board to serve on the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Steering Committee—Michael, Kaitlin, Alex T, Alex E and Chris Tom. Let Michael know if you’re interested in joining, the first meeting will be next week. Andrew Crawford has submitted his resignation from the board. Committee application form will be going out tomorrow and there are plenty of seats for all students interested in applying to be on a number of Rackham and UM committees. Applications will be due the following Monday. Also, there have been some issues with “Going Google” and how to increase accessibility options for students with disabilities. GEO has received some complaints and Michael has too.  
   b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. The next edition of the RSG Gazette will be going out on Tuesday, let Kaitlin know if you have any suggestions. Also we will be going through the second reading of the bylaws and since Exec did not receive any changes or protests via email so that process should go smoothly. Motion by Kaitlin to approve the new slate of committee chairs. Seconded by Heidi, approved unanimously.
c. **Treasurer Alex Toulouse.** $10,693 in the account, about $2,000 of pending charges going through and also a $500 dispute Alex is working with. We have also not received any funds for the Fall term—should be coming soon.

V. **RSG Fall Budget—Treasurer’s Budget Proposal**
   a. Budgets for all committees and board included in the packet. Alex T walks us through each committee’s requests and the allocated amounts. Also adding $500 for communications for the website redesign.
   b. Discussion over specific budget points continues. Haven moves to require the Academic Affairs town halls food be restricted by pizza. Chris objects. Alex E speaks on the ‘for’ side and Kaitlin speaks against. Alex E says that she feels that at a level of $7 a person it’s too high to spend three students’ fees on food. Kaitlin says that the budget was a slight overestimate and having just pizza at an event is not going to draw students. On a roll call vote of 4-9-2 motion fails. Alex E makes a motion to limit the food costs to $4 a person and Haven seconds. Objections. Haven and Alex T speak for, Kaitlin and Eli speak against. Haven speaks to that students should be coming to these events to ask questions and not for food. Eli says, last year the cost was $6 per student and as we had centralized the events and we’re only going to continue to draw more students as time goes on. Roll call vote. 5-9-1 the motion fails.
   c. Dan speaks out against allowing committees to come to the board after their events and requesting more money. Michael says that this year we will not allow this and specifically he has directed Alex T to work with the committees.
   d. Motion to call to question by Alex T and Matt Waugh seconds. The motion to end debate fails. Motion by Haven to split the events into 3 $400 events and not to allow for reallocations. Seconded by Matt F and objected by Chris. Vote: 3-9-4 motion fails.
   e. Haven makes a motion to require that Academic Affairs provides a detailed budget 3 weeks prior to this event to the board for approval. Seconded by Heidi. Vote fails 6-10.
   f. Matt asks for explanation regarding the SAGE fall summit. MB describes the purpose of SAGE coalition and higher education forum to be held at UMich this year. The 3000usd allocated is equal to the funds previously distributed.
   g. Heidi asks about the elections prizes. MB mentions that in the past enticements have been offered to increase participation. The funds to advertise could be used for Facebook ads, banners, fliers, buttons or tattoos. Especially for this election where a ballot proposal could be significant, we want to ensure maximum voter turnout.
   h. Dan asks regarding the discretionary fund. Alex T explains that he increased it this semester to account for the SAGE fall summit and the secession. 13-2-1 the budget is approved. Haven speaks with rights that he does not feel as if it is ridiculous to ask committees hosting large events to submit budgets prior to events.

VI. **RSG Bylaws 2nd reading**
   a. Motion by Chris and seconded by Kaitlin. Haven motions to add an amendment requiring itemized budgets for RSG committee events for board approval 3 weeks in advance into the operating procedures. Haven’s motion is seconded by Dan.
Chris objects and asks if this is a necessary addition to the bylaws given the additional strain it would put on the board meetings. Alex E says that if a chair doesn’t have a budget for a large event it is a very unwise practice. Heidi agrees that it is not unreasonable to request this but feels that an individual bit-by-bit budget might restrict some event planners choices. Matt Filter says that perhaps people are concerned about going over so perhaps we could have a middle ground to prevent people from going over. Chris says that people can be involved in the budget process via committee meetings. Haven comments that he still does not feel it is ridiculous to have budgets in advance for events and there are some committee members on the board that have gone over in the past and he would like to prevent that from happening. Kaitlin mentions that the point of having the Event’s Director position is to alleviate these issues and in this case we will absolutely ensure that the pre-event reports and budgets are included in the agenda packets to the board. The bylaws are approved unanimously. (wahoo!)

VII. Fall Semester Visioning
   a. Kaitlin asks for suggestions for Fall semester. Heidi suggests an event associated with the Humane society but without busses since it would be costly. Pete would like to see printers in Rackham. No further event suggestions but they are welcome year round!

VIII. Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs: Chris makes motion to approve minutes. Second Haven. Approved with 1 abstention. Conflict resolution, Grad student bill of rights and town hall all being planned. Anna is the new co-chair.
   b. Budgetary- Requests will be sent out in the next few days.
   c. Community Outreach and Social Action- Alex E: Would like to work with professional schools and co organize events with Student Life. Motion to submit minutes. Second by Heidi. Approved unanimously. Pete: 10/6 lined up for Focus: HOPE event. Many Michigan students already involved with the organization. Pete would like to see this be a sustained effort and do this event as cheaply as possible. Cosac hoping for events to be more long range.
   d. Legislative Affairs- Alex T: motion approve minutes. Second by Heidi. Approved with 2 abstentions. Planning for the candidates forum and SAGE going forward.
   e. Student Life Committee- Alex E: fewer cosponsored Rackham events and cutting costs for these events. Asks for any family friendly cheap events. Social speed friending being organized with the law school and potentially medical school followed by a bar night at Conor O’neils hopefully. Motion to accept minutes. Second Chris. Approved unanimously.

IX. RSG Major Fall Events (Non-Social)
   a. Haven motions to postpone to next meeting. Second Dan.
   b. SAGE Fall Summit- Nov 30-Dec 2
   c. Academic Town Halls
   d. Ann Arbor Lease Forum
   e. Election Issues Forum

X. Open Discussion- Discussion about the RSG board member social continues.
XI. Adjournment- Motion by Chris, seconded by everyone. 8:15pm
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:39pm
   a. Present: Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson, Anna Belak, Brandon Erickson, Matthew Filter, Alex Gutierrez, Chris Tom, Matt Waugh, Eli Benchell Eisman, Dan Trubman, Evan Arthur, Vanessa Cruz, Pete McGrath, Alex Toulouse
   b. Absent: Lauren Knapp
   c. Excused: Alex Emly, Haven Allen, Heidi Pedini

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   a. Motion by Eli, seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   a. Minutes from 9/20/12—motion to postpone as the incorrect minutes were put in the packet by accident.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Michael Benson. Michael is meeting tomorrow with the president of the Public Health student council regarding our secession. Additionally Michael has contacted the School of Social Work student council and they are also enthusiastic. Michael has also received a number of applications for the various University committees. Michael will be appointing an Elections Director soon so if you are interested let Michael know. Also execs will be meeting with Dean Weiss next week to discuss the GPA issue and Bill of Rights. Another issue that has come up regarding the Rackham Emergency Funds as the current process requires a recommendation letter from the student’s department and a student might not be willing to share this information with their department. Next Tuesday at 6pm first meeting of GPSASC.
   b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn. Newsletter went out this week, committee info email next week. Chairs send Kaitlin your blurbs ASAP.
   c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse. $10,680 in the account, still trying to sort out a few errors with SOAS. Still have not received funds from the fall term.

V. Fall Semester Visioning
   a. Printer in Rackham—Pete’s idea last week was to add a printer in Rackham. Vanessa mentions that you can send documents currently to CSCAR on the 3rd floor. This issue is tasked to the Academic Affairs committee.
   b. Pay schedule for people on fellowships is a little strange and that affects students. We can work to make this standardized. Chris brings this up, and also mentions
that another student had an issue with Cobra—the student’s health insurance was cancelled and this has been tasked to the Student Life committee. Approval of these tasks moved by Kaitlin and seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously. Will put on website next week.

VI. Tutoring Resource
   a. Task to the Academic Affairs—come up with a signup sheet for graduate students to volunteer to be tutors, list their rate, etc. This is a service we could provide to the student body to allow for connecting students to tutors and also to provide a good service to both graduate students and undergraduate students. Eli brings up that the Science Learning Center already does something like this, as well as some programs have limits on how much you can work outside of your program. Michael says that we will work to make sure that students follow their contracts in this regard.

VII. Accessibility of Technology
   a. Council of Graduate Student Disability Issues have brought to both RSGs and CSGs attention that some of the technology improvements from the Google switch have caused a disability disadvantage. The GEO and Patrick O’Mahen have introduced a resolution to CSG to put forward this issue. CSG and RSG have requested that the Go Google switch is pushed back to the end of the academic year. Brandon asks if the students with disabilities could also opt out much like the Medical and Engineering schools for privacy and security issues. Michael mentions that this is one option. The Student Life Committee is tasked with ensuring our support goes through.

VIII. Election Forum- November 1
   a. We are hosting an election forum on November 1. Michael passes around a sample ballot with tick marks next to the candidates who we will be inviting, as well as proponents and opponents for all of the ballot issues. This will likely take place in the larger Rackham auditorium and we will also be inviting candidates and such to mingle afterwards. $650 are budgeted for this event. The cost to rent the room is $1000. We are thus looking for co-sponsorship. Dan asks if someone has asked CSG about a co-sponsorship. Michael says not yet but we could. Both graduate and undergraduate students will be invited. Both proponents and opponents will be speaking just on an informational basis.

IX. Co-sponsorship: Domestic Policy Corps—Election Events
   a. Matt describes the DPC. Essentially it is a voter information drive for all of campus. The goal is to help register voters, voter engagement, debate watching parties, should be really inclusive, housed in the Ford School, all schools are invited. Voter engagement is the name of the game and this culminates in a final watch party with NPR. The Legislative Affairs committee recommends a co-sponsorship of $500. We will be asking the board for co-sponsorship, but then the DPC will submit a funding request to the budget committee. Motion to have RSG cosponsor is moved by Pete and seconded by Matt. Approved with two abstentions. If you’re interested in helping volunteer to register voters, let Matt know. The Legislative affairs committee has been tasked to work with DPC to come up with a voter FAQ that we can send out to all of the students next week.
b. **General Co-sponsorship Policy** Alex T and the Student Life committee are tasked with developing a policy/procedure on co-sponsorships between RSG and other groups.

**X. SAGE Fall Summit**

a. **Brief update:** Congressional Research Service’s report on how the Sequester will affect Higher Education Tax Benefits. Also Michael will be leading a small delegation to meet with our Representatives. Let Michael know if you’re interested in attending, especially if you are a Michigan resident. Also included in the packet is a sheet from UW showing the financial squeeze for graduate students and helps with their state level advocacy.

**XI. Committee Updates**

a. **Academic Affairs:** Did not meet, nothing new.

b. **Budgetary:** nothing to report, funding requests being sent out this weekend.

c. **Community Outreach and Social Action—** Greening of Detroit event this weekend, coming in at just under budget. Focus HOPE event is next weekend and we will be advertising.

d. **Legislative Affairs—** motion by Alex T and seconded by Chris to accept the LAC minutes. Committee is extremely active, focusing on election forum as well as will be hosting a leasing forum with the city later in the next month. Also planning on sending a variety of graduate students to Lansing to advocate on a variety of issues—likely be doing this in early March.

e. **Student Life Committee—** Speed-friending event next Saturday with the Law School as well as cosponsoring a bar night the following night.

f. **Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Steering Committee—** first meeting next Tuesday at 6pm in this room.

**XII. RSG Major Fall Events (Non-Social)**

a. **Recap:** every board member is required to plan, execute, volunteer at 2 non-meeting events over the semester. The big ones especially are the Fall Summit, Academic Affairs Town Halls, Ombuds training, etc.

**XIII. Open Discussion—** Pete offers about the focus: HOPE event, Kaitlin appreciated the event last week for board members after the meeting. Pete asks specifically about having Rackham open late again during finals week and Michael said that Janet liked it last year. Michael runs through the speakers.

**XIV. Adjournment—** motion from Pete and seconded by Evan for adjournment at 7:42pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:07 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: Chris Tom, Anna Belak, Alex Gutierrez, Eli Benchell, Kaitlin Flynn, Michael Benson
Excused: Pete McGrath
Unexcused:

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Fill out Doodle for new meeting time
Alex G needs to fill out poll. Chris to forward Doodle to him. Meeting will still occur at 8p at Espresso Royale for now.

IV. CURRENT INITIATIVES & TASKS

a. Town Halls/Lunch with the Deans $1200 budget, 2-3 meetings?
2 meetings: North campus and combined med/central campus. Some departments can be represented at both meetings by different deans. The discussion can be held with all attending deans simultaneously (no dividing the session between departments). Planned for end of November.

b. Standardizing pay schedule for fellowships to once a month
Different depending on each fellowship. Some are scheduled by department/college individually. Already trending towards standardization… slowly. It should still be put forward as an issue. Anna will take point on writing a resolution.

c. Printers in Rackham for grad students
Bring it up to Provost, CIO, and Dean Weiss and other invited speakers as an topic to be pursued. Printers and computer lab in Rackham building is desirable. Particularly useful for master’s students who don’t have a lab to take care of printing needs.

d. Remove ‘Letter of Recommendation’ requirement from the Rackham emergency fund
Find out what other schools do in this regard to decide whether or not reform is necessary. Research other SAGE schools to see how it should proceed. Email to Chris by Friday (along with survey question).

e. Signup sheet for graduate student tutors
Host information about applying tutors on RSG website as public information. We will not be screening applicants nor facilitating hiring. Name, program, subjects taught, up to what level (intro, 200, 300, etc), experience (# semesters), and desired rate.

f. **Building open late during finals**
   This is likely already in progress, since it happened last semester, but we will check with Janet.

g. **Funding for non-traditional doctoral students**
   Bring up with Janet and push for additional funding for master’s and non-traditional students. Chris will write a memo to the execs so that they can bring it up with the Rackham executive board. He will also follow up with Jill McDonough.

h. **Class fees for candidates**
   Possible course/class/credit bank system so that graduate classes, some of which are offered only sporadically, can be taken two at a time without financial penalty. Come up with better name for program.

i. **Conflict Resolution**
   i. **Conflict Resolution Board**
   ii. **Subcommittee on SAGE conflict resolution** – Chris will join the calls & email discussion. Anyone else that wants to get involved can.
   iii. **Student Ombuds training**
       Late October/early November. Darlene will schedule once names are sent.
   iv. **Disbanding Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board**
       Discuss with board.

j. **Graduate Student Bill of Rights**
   Brought up with Janet on Thursday. Janet with Chris and/or Kaitlin to work together post-discussion.

V. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

a. **Reopen the Resolution to expand the Non-Discrimination Policy**
   Committee has a number of things already slated to work on. Discussion postponed until after Grad Bill of Rights work is done.

VI. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. [Chris] Doodle poll re: new meeting times
b. [Michael] Send out email to student body re: student ombuds
c. [Michael] Get in touch with deans/deans secretaries regarding town hall
d. [Michael] Discuss provost about GSBoR language
e. [Michael] Discuss conflict resolution implementation with Dean Weiss
f. [Everyone] Email Chris re: 5 questions
g. [Chris] Forward Doodle to Alex G and add to email list
h. [Chris] Write memo to execs re: non-traditional fellowship funding
i. [Eli] Message Antonio about deans regarding town hall
j. [Anna] Fellowship payment schedule standardization resolution
k. [Everyone] Email Chris by Friday re: other schools’ emergency fund requirements
l. [Chris] Work on course/class/credit bank system.
m. [Eli] Follow up with deans

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 8:50 p

VIII. APPENDIX
   a. Berkeley’s Emergency fund
      i. 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).
I. Call to order
   a. 8.09

II. Roll call of members
   a. Present: Graduate students Kevin Olikara, Rahul Singh (CoChair), RSG Representatives Pete McGrath, Eli Benchell Eisman (CoChair), RSG President Michael Benson, RSG Treasurer Alexis Toulouse
   b. Absent (excused): Representatives Heidi Alvey, Alex Emly, RSG Vice President Kaitlin Flynn
   c. Absent (unexcused):

III. Greening of Detroit Event Recap
    This event was phenomenal. Special thanks to Alex for organizing the event and Rahul, Kevin and Lauren for helping with logistics.
    Some quick numbers:
    We had 34 total participants the day of the event, down from 58 registrants and 44 total confirmants. Along with 176 other volunteers planting today as part of Greening of Detroit's fall planting season (which takes place Saturdays from September through November), our site was able to pitch 26 trees in just 2 hours(!) contributing to the 94 total planted today (!!).

IV. Upcoming events
   a. Focus:HOPE (Pete)
      i. Event advertisement in RSG Events email 3, Oct 2012
      ii. 7 current registrants including Pete
      iii. Transportation will be provided by participant carpooling
      iv. Hot and Ready pizzas are being provided by Focus:HOPE
      v. **Action Items**
         1. Pete to provide Eli updated flier for email 4, Oct 2012
   b. Habitat For Humanity (Eli)
      i. Fundraiser at the Brown Jug
         1. Push to have wristbands available beforehand for a discounted rate otherwise buy at the door
      ii. Build day
         1. Will have either 2 half build days with two groups, or one extended build day depending on the number of interested voluteers.
         2. Advertise tailgate? No
      iii. **Action Items**
          1. Confirm with Brown Jug- Eli
          2. Purchase wristbands- Alex
          3. Advertise Fundraiser and Build day by RSG Gazette for 8, Oct 2012
c. Food Gatherers (Eli)
   i. 27, Oct 2012
   ii. Advertise only to previous COSAC registrants by 22, Oct 2012

V. Open discussion and event ideas
   a. Humane Society
      i. Heidi will contact to discuss potential volunteer opportunities
   b. Winter event ideas
      i. A2 Natural Area Preservation parks cleanup
      ii. H4H
      iii. DP Day with Detroit Partnership
   c. Advertise for other volunteer organizations
   d. Understanding Why? is preferred to knowing How?

VI. Adjourn
   a. 8.31
I. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
   a. Present: Alexis Toulouse, Evan Arthur, Michael Benson
   b. Absent (excused): Alex Emly
   c. Absent (unexcused): Matt Waugh

III. Airline Discounts for Students:
   a. Evan will look into organizations or groups at the university that have
gotten discounts and report to committee if on process to determine if it
would be possible to arrange something for students.

IV. Law School/Rackham Social
   a. Alex E has not heard back from Connors yet
   b. A happy hour on Saturday was suggested but idea was turned down
because of the football game that afternoon.
   c. COSAC bar night is Saturday 10/13 so it will be difficult to have 2 bar
nights in the same week.
   d. We will need to discuss with the law students to coordinate an event at a
later time.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 pm
RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, The Rackham Graduate School (Rackham) implemented a policy of continuous enrollment (the policy) for PhD candidates in the Fall of 2010; AND

WHEREAS, The Rackham Student Government serves as the official student government of the University of Michigan’s graduate school1; AND

WHEREAS, The policy was discussed and improved during AY09, the academic year preceding the policy’s implementation2; AND

WHEREAS, The RSG Board worked in collaboration with Rackham to include a dispute resolution board in the final version of the policy; AND

WHEREAS, the continuous enrollment dispute resolution board (CEDRB) has been in continuous existence since September 2010; AND

WHEREAS, over the course of academic years 2010 and 2011 no grievances reached the CEDRB3; AND

WHEREAS, The Graduate School employs an Academic Dispute Resolution Policy for all academic grievances that do not arise out of the adoption of the Continuous Enrollment policy; AND

WHEREAS, Rackham’s Academic Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedures are available to Rackham students who have a dispute or disagreement with faculty or staff about the equity and fairness of decisions or procedures that affect their academic standing, the conduct of their research, and progress toward the degree. Such issues may arise regarding fair and equal treatment in the conduct of a class, in the pursuit of the student’s research, and in the grading or evaluation of academic work and research. Other issues may

1 http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/dispute_resolution/continuous_enrollment_dispute_resolution_process/
2 Academic Affairs Committee Minutes from 2009 and 2010
3 Email from Dean Janet Weiss to President Benson, Dated April 2012
concern the equity and fairness of program, department or Rackham policies⁴; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** in her April 2012 communication to the RSG Board, Dean Janet Weiss has suggested that the CEDRB be disbanded; **NOW ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** that Rackham’s Continuous Enrollment Policy be amended to remove all references to the Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board and to replace them with the Rackham Dispute Resolution Board; **AND BE FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution, a copy of the updated policy, and a comprehensive, plainly written explanation of the removal of the CEDRB be sent to all current PhD candidates and pre-candidates within 90 days of the policy change’s effective date; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** that the President of the graduate student body is empowered and directed to work with the Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan to put into place policies and procedures that reflect the will and intent of this resolution.

---

⁴ http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/dispute_resolution/academic_dispute_resolution/
AUTHORS

Christopher Tuck Mung Baker Tom
Representative (Division 1), Rackham
Student Government
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Eli Benchell Eisman
Representative (Division 1), Rackham
Student Government
Chair, Community Outreach and Social
Action Committee

ATTEST

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under
the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at
the top of this resolution is accurate.

______________________________
Kaitlin Flynn
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

I, Michael Benson, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto
this resolution on this the _______ day of _____, 2012.

______________________________
Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body
Rackham Student Government
Housing Committee

Because all aspects of a graduate students life may be impacted by difficulties with housing, the following is a basis for assisting students that are uncertain how to address difficulties with housing and should provide some general guidelines for resolving problems related to housing. The housing needs for graduate students often differ from the housing needs of undergraduate students, RSG has endeavored to provide a flowchart for resolving housing conflict issues. It should be noted that RSG is not the primary venue for addressing housing issues and that RSG cannot and should not provide housing location services.

LINK TO FLOWCHART

Important offices and considerations while searching for answers to housing concerns

Office of the University Ombudsman

If at any time during your on-campus housing resolution process you feel that a conflict is not being resolved correctly, feel free to contact your student Ombuds directly. The Ombuds Office is where students can discuss current or anticipated disputes and conflicts with the University, as well as concerns and complaints in a confidential, informal and safe environment. The Office offers informal dispute resolution services, provides resources and referrals, and helps the University’s diverse students understand their rights as they consider available options.

Robert B. Holmes
Ombuds
6015 Fleming Administration Building
503 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1340
Ombuds-DSA@umich.edu
http://www.umich.edu/~ombuds/
734-763-3545

Office of the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students has the primary goal of enhancing the university experience for all students. As such, the Dean of Students may advocate for students in situations where individual offices on campus cannot provide broader assistance. Housing issues, both on and off campus, can have a severe effect on a students life. Should other avenues have failed, the Office of the Dean of Students may be able to provide assistance.

Office of the Dean of Students
Michigan Union, Room 3000
deanofstudents@umich.edu
http://www.umich.edu/~ stu/dean/
734-764-7420

Sometimes, when an issue arising on campus disrupts a students academic life, the student’s issue is best advocated for by the Dean of their program. If the suggested contacts are not successfully resolving your complaint, consider requesting assistance from your own Dean. While the following list is not exhaustive, most graduate students will find themselves as members of the following schools or colleges:

Graduate Student Housing Resolution Flowchart

1. Have you experienced or are you at risk for domestic violence or sexual assault?
   - Yes: SafeHouse Center
     4100 Clark Rd
     Ann Arbor MI
     734-995-5444
     SafeHouse provides advocacy and shelter to victims of domestic violence in Washtenaw County.

   - No

2. Do you suspect that you are subject to housing discrimination?
   - Yes: Sexual Assault and Awareness Center
     715 North University
     Suite 202
     Ann Arbor MI
     734-963-3333
     http://umich.edu/~SAPAC/
     A campus office which provides many services for survivors of sexual assault and those at risk for sexual assault.

   - No

3. Do you live on campus?
   - Yes: Northwood Community Center
     734-764-9998
     The central office for resolving Northwood Community concerns.

   - No: Northwood Director
     734-647-2235
     Should contacting the Community Center fail to provide adequate resolution, the Director may be able to provide a more thorough investigation.

4. Director of Housing and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
   734-764-7401
   If the Northwood administration does not satisfactorily address concerns, the Director of Housing should be contacted

5. Housing Information Office
   Off Campus Housing
   Conflict Resolution
   734-763-4105
   Providing general advice and mediation services for students with off-campus housing conflicts.

6. Student Legal Services
   2304 Michigan Union
   530 S. State, #549
   Ann Arbor 48109
   734-763-9920
   Fax: 734.936.0844
   http://studentlegalservices.dsa.umich.edu/
   Student Legal Services (SLS) is a full-service law office available to currently enrolled students at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor campus.