Rackham Student Government Board Meeting: January 11, 2012

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Introductions

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. December 8, 2011*

V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy

VI. The RSG Executive Board
   a. Treasurer
   b. Vice President

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

VIII. Winter 2012 Goal Setting Session

IX. Open Discussion

X. 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 2012
### Representative Goal Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Issues</th>
<th>Student Services Issues (non academic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Issues</td>
<td>Social Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/Federal Issues</td>
<td>My Action Items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I will work with Committee ________________ to achieve ____________________.

I will work individually to achieve ________________________________.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
GENERAL BOARD MEETING
December 8, 2011
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
7:00 P.M.

Attendance

Present: Treasurer Mindy Waite, President Michael Benson, Representatives Heidi Alvey, Tien Huei-Hsu, Marisol Ramos, Rahul, Ann, Rob Gillizeau, Eli Benchell Eisman, Alex Toulouse, Associate representative Chris Thom

Absent and Excused: Patrick, Nina White, Alex Emly, David Cottrel

Absent and Unexcused: Grant Mandarino, Will Hutchinson

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

1. Michael welcomes the new board members who are sitting in as members elect. He acknowledges that the new members will need to attend the official orientation in January. Michael then takes attendance and we introduce ourselves.

2. Approval of the agenda, motion moved by Mindy, seconded by Eli. Motion is approved unanimously.

3. Approval of previous minutes: November 10 minutes. Heidi outlines her changes to the minutes. Heidi moves to amend the minutes as described. Seconded by Kaitlin, approved unanimously. November 17 minutes. Motion to approve by Heidi, seconded by Rahul. Eli mentions that he and Heidi emailed out prize winners from the voting initiative. Minutes approved with one abstention. December 1 minutes: Eli makes an edit to change Governor Snyder’s name to ‘Snyder’. Also changing Chris’ last name to Thom. Amend Chris’ statement to say “it might be a possibility for every student to have a mentor in their department.” Motion moved by Tien and seconded by Heidi, approved unanimously.

4. Darlene Ray Johnson: Graduate Student Ombuds person Darlene passes out a handout to illustrate her role and the Graduate Ombuds office. Darlene has worked with the University for 25 years, previously as the director of grad student affairs. She has now taken on a new role in the Ombuds office. She now works to support students in her new role via crisis management, academic integrity, dispute resolution, and generally works on behalf of grad students with disabilities. Darlene spends a lot of time speaking with students in a confidential and safe environment to talk about their graduate experience—not shared with anyone without their consent. Her role is to not offer solutions, but options and resources for students. She discusses a new model for mediation and conflict resolution policy, hoping that students can resolve many conflicts at the local level (within their school, department or college). Each school and college has a dispute resolution officer and Darlene asks if we know of our officers. Only one member of the board knows. Darlene asks that as feedback that the office should work on. She also serves as the University mediator for students. She is a trained mediator
and as a representative for students who experience traumatic events. She also helps students in crisis and maintain the student death notification policy. She also monitors allegations of misconduct and academic integrity. She also works on year round services such as continuous enrollment to provide PhD students to services over the summer. She also works on a slew of committees to represent graduate studies across campus.

**a. Questions for Darlene:** Heidi asks about the dispute resolution officers and is wondering if the office has considered contacting the student graduate council organizations within departments. Darlene would be interested in this to ensure that we know that these resources exist. There are also peer to peer resolution counselors. Rob asks about the new office for disability affairs and the recent GEO initiative and if she would have a conflict of interest on this issue. Darlene mentions that there is also a University Ombuds Tom Lehker. Eli asks regarding the academic dispute resolution board. He’s wondering how membership is determined for the board and the training that goes into it for these, if there’s a governmental standard for integrity (as we are funded by NIH, NSF, etc). Darlene indicates that board members are nominated by associate deans and the final list is approved by the dean and SACUA. Then the individuals go through training for policy. If there’s a special issue, Darlene offers special training related to this issue. She also says that the committee works very closely with the vice president for research to address academic integrity and ethics that involves funding they work together. Eli is wondering if the University is working towards putting forth a University wide ethical course and framework for all research wide departments (not just DI and DII). Pat McCune is working on this. Rob asked if hypothetically a union supporter is blacklisted from a department or advisor for being a supporter and how the ombudsman’s office could help. Darlene says that the process would likely go through dispute resolution, and that there are creative ways to address those issues to ensure protection of these students. Michael indicates that this would be highly situational and they would work together to ensure that the needs have been met. Michael asks a question about crisis management in light of the recent Virginia Tech shootings. Michael asks what would happen in these situations. Darlene says that the University has an emergency management committee that would meet immediately to address these situations. The central committee would contact a point person for each department and address the issue. The committee would then identify the needs (funding, housing, support, otherwise) and work closely with the students. Darlene’s email is rayj@umich.edu and is welcome for questions and concerns. In closing, Darlene mentions that in addition to supporting students individually, she is also advocating for graduate students as a whole. She mentions that she takes her role very seriously and it’s very important to her.
b. **Disability Issues:** Also in terms of advocating for graduate students with disabilities she has been working on this for a while and mentions that **GEO has negotiated as Article 22 a set of procedures for disability management.** Darlene says that many areas of the University have had conversations around this issue to look at making these accommodations for all graduate students, not just graduate student employees. Some feedback has been given to suggest that students don’t know where to go to receive assistance, especially for students and student employees. So Dean Weiss was wondering to see what we could do to enhance resources and space for students to go and identify with to receive a set of services. Services for students with disabilities serves all students (focus on undergraduates) and has limited resources. The office of institutional equity is a compliance office and is used for ADA coordination. So these places are inadequate, and Rackham has now stepped up to be the identified central office for disability, and Darlene is now the Rackham disability coordinator. She mentions that there has been a lot of training for administrative contacts in all of the schools and colleges for assistance and accommodations. She further describes her role for accommodation access and disability coordination. She also **describes Section 504 in ADA that relates to academic protection and employment protection of disabled persons.** The University is obligated by state and federal law to protect rights as students with disabilities. She mentions that there will be **several different resources, Rackham, Services for Students with Disabilities, Office of Institutional Equity and academic HR.** There are also administrative designees that are responsible for facilitating informal or formal requests. Another aspect of Article 22 was a central accommodation fund to help fund accommodations for students and comply with the law. **This will launch January 1, 2012.**  

5. Michael resumes the meeting and we move to officer reports. Michael’s report is that we will have the **final meeting and dinner next week for the current representatives.** The representative elects will receive an email about committee interests and time. Michael also mentions that some delegates recently went to Berkeley to advocate for SAGE. Christina, Alex T, and Nina went. Alex T says that there was a lot of talk about different campus climates and it was informative. Michael is setting up things for 2012.  

6. Mindy: we have $19,892 in the account. Mindy is working on typing up the bylaw changes and directs our attention to page 7 of the agenda for what the committees have requested for events. Most committees have spent their allocated amount, approximately 9-10 thousand dollars of the 15 thousand dollar requests. Also funding requests are posted online.  

7. The RSG Executive Board. Michael says that we might notice that we have been missing an executive for about a month, particularly the Vice President. Michael has not been able to contact him via phone or email for over a month. After a number of different attempts, we’ve heard back from him and there have been personal issues that this member has struggled with. **The Vice President has given his resignation.** Per the bylaws, an application will be put out tomorrow and then Michael will choose someone for approval by the board. We thank the past VP for
his service. Michael and Mindy have worked together to cover the work left behind and have worked together on this decision. **Applications will be due Friday, January 9.** Ann asks if this person would be interested in getting back involved, but as his seat is now vacated Michael is unsure of his future intentions. Next, we should be **nominating a new treasurer soon** as Mindy’s term is up. The treasurer runs the budgetary committee and keeps track of funds. At this point Michael is not prepared to make that appointment at this point. Mindy has agreed to stay on as treasurer for the next few weeks. Michael asks for a motion to approve Mindy for staying. Heidi moves, seconded by Tien. Approved with one abstention.

8. **End of term committee reports:**
   a. **Academic Affairs:** Approval of minutes, looking forward to GSBOR to submit to board. Town halls are also being planned. The vote regarding the 4.0 vs 9.0 GPA system is also being approached. Michael asks for two resolutions, motion to direct AAC to work with Rackham to advertise resolution officers for departments and programs. Tien moves, seconded by Heidi. Approved unanimously.
   b. **Budget:** Already discussed by Mindy. The semester has been fantastic for funding requests, approximately 16.
   c. **Communications:** One final newsletter being sent out this semester, email Mindy with blurb.
   d. **Student Life:** options for Piston games are March 6 (Lakers) or March 23 (Heat). Michael asks for a vote. The Lakers game wins 6-4 with votes.
   e. **Bylaw review committee:** the bylaws will be completed by the end of January under direction of the new VP.
   f. **COSAC:** looking to sponsor one social event and one service event. Minutes in the packet. APO service frat has contacted us because they’d like to co-sponsor events with us. This committee will be dissolved officially at the end of the calendar year, but Michael will extend the executive order that created this committee. Eli makes a motion to approve the minutes, Mindy seconds the motion and it is approved unanimously.
   g. **Legislative affairs:** minutes included in packet and have been approved unanimously.

9. **Open Discussion:** MSA university council minutes included in our packet.
10. **This is the last formal meeting of the term.**
11. **Adjourned at:** 8:23pm.
Rackham Student Government Winter 2012
Representative Committee Assignments

**Academic Affairs**
1. Eli Benchell Eisman (I)
2. Tien-Huei Hsu (I)
3. Kaitlin Flynn (I)
4. Andrew Crawford (II)
5. Ben Curtiss-Lusher (III)
6. Haven Allen (III)
   Michael Benson

**Legislative Affairs**
Michael Benson (Chair)
1. Lauren Knapp (I)
2. Alex Toulouse (II)
3. Cassandra Yaple (II)
4. Nina White (II)
5. Rob Gillezeau (II)
6. Andrew Crawford (II)
7. Daniel Trubman (III)
8. Ben Curtiss-Lusher (III)

**Budgetary**
Mindy Waite (Chair)
Michael Benson
1. Eli Benchell Eisman (I)
2. Lauren Knapp (I)
3. Patrick Rooney (II)
4. Daniel Trubman (III)
5. Marisol Ramos (III)

**Student Life**
1. Kaitlin Flynn (I)
2. Christopher Tom (I)
3. Alex Toulouse (II)
4. Alex Emly (II)
5. Heidi Pedini (II)
6. Anna Wagner (II)
7. Patrick Rooney (II)
8. Cassandra Yaple (II)
9. Peter McGrath (IV)
   Michael Benson

**Communications**
Vice President (Chair)
Michael Benson
Treasurer
1. Christopher Tom (I)
2. Heidi Pedini (II)
3. Alex Toulouse (II)

**AdHoc: Community Outreach and Social Action**
1. Eli Benchell Eisman (I, Chair)
2. Tien-Huei Hsu (I)
3. Alex Emly (II)
4. Cassandra Yaple (II)
5. Nina White (II)
6. Marisol Ramos (III)
7. Peter McGrath (IV)
   Michael Benson

**Elections**
*Treasurer* (Chair)
1. [Rep from Div III]
2. [Rep from Div I]
3. [Rep from Div II]
4. Peter McGrath (IV)
5. *Elections Director*

**AdHoc: Post-Graduate Careers**
1. Patrick Rooney (II, Chair) * (Per EO)
2. Cassandra Yaple (II)
3. Nina White (II)
   Michael Benson
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tue 10 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</th>
<th>Tue 10 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</th>
<th>Tue 10 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</th>
<th>Tue 10 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</th>
<th>Wed 11 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</th>
<th>Wed 11 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</th>
<th>Wed 11 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</th>
<th>Wed 11 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</th>
<th>Thu 12 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</th>
<th>Thu 12 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</th>
<th>Thu 12 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM</th>
<th>Thu 12 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lauren knapp</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Benson</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tien-Huei Hsu</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Wagner</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaitlin Flynn</td>
<td></td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter McGrath</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Curtiss-Lusher</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Tom</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marisol</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex T</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Yaple</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Trubman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heidi</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eli Bentchell Eisman</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK (OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>(OK)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haven A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R S G
Rackham Graduate Student Government
Bylaws Excerpt

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

Article VI: Duties
Board Procedures
Board Obligations

Article VIII: Funding Guidelines
Article IX: Resolutions

ARTICLE III

A. Committee Descriptions.

1. Budgetary Committee (BC)
   Composition: 6 - 8 members
   Required Members: Treasurer (Chair)
                     President
                     Vice President
                     4 current Board members (minimum)

   a. The BC shall be required to maintain five representatives for the purposes of divesting Student funds democratically. In the event the BC falls below the required five members, the BC 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 BC is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and authorizing all funding requests from Student organizations by majority vote up to, but not in excess of, $700 dollars. Requests made for over $700 shall be presented to the Board during a RSG general meeting for approval, with recommendations by the BC.

   c. The BC, with the action power described in III.A.1.b of the Bylaws, is required to maintain informal minutes. These informal minutes shall include the individual voting records of all members for all funding requests. Informal minutes shall be taken by the treasurer. Informal minutes shall be kept for three years before disposal. Informal minutes shall be presented to the Board upon request from the President.
d. The BC 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. The president, vice president, and treasurer shall have signing power over the RSG accounts.

f. Disbursement of all RSG funds shall necessitate a pledge procedure. Student organizations granted funding by the Board shall be required to produce itemized receipts to the BC prior to receiving funds.

g. 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.

h. 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.

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

j. Disbursements of over $700 shall require the signature of the treasurer with the approval of at least one other authorized.

k. Final funding amounts for each accepted Student organization request of $700 or less shall be determined by a majority of the BC.

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

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

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

2. **Student Life Committee (SLC)**
   Composition: Open Enrollment
   Required Members: 3 current Board members

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

   b. The Student Life Committee shall present funding requests directly to the Treasurer. 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.

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

3. **Academic Affairs Committee (AC)**
   Composition: Open enrollment
   Required Members: 3 current Board members

   a. The Academic Issues Committee shall address program 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.

4. **Elections Committee (EC)**
   Composition: Open enrollment
Required Members: Vice President or Treasurer (Chair)* (The Vice President shall chair the committee in the fall term. The Treasurer shall chair the committee in the Winter term.)

- 4 current Board members (1 from each Division)
- 1 Election Director

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 shall propose any changes to RSG’s election policy no later than 6 weeks prior to a given election.

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

5. **Communications Committee (ComCom)**

Composition: Open enrollment

Required members:
- Vice-President (Chair)
- 2 current Board members

a. The Communications Committee shall facilitate bidirectional communication between RSG and the student body. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining and managing the RSG website as well as publishing a monthly electronic newsletter.

b. The Communications Committee shall solicit applications – from within RSG as well as the general student body – to serve on various Rackham and University boards, panels, and committees desiring graduate student representation.

d. The Communications Committee shall, at the request of the President or Vice President, assist in the vetting for appointed members.

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

6. **Legislative Affairs Committee (LegCom)**

Composition: Open enrollment

Required Members:
- President
- Vice President
3 current Board members

a. The Legislative Affairs Committee will collaborate with external lobbying organizations such as the Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) coalition and the Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students (MAGPS) to promote the legislative agenda of the student body.

b. The Legislative Affairs Committee will work with the Ann Arbor City Council to promote the 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 chair or co-chairs. At least one chair, per committee, must be a current elected representative or executive of RSG.

c. Chairs are voted on in committee with the exception of the BC and ComCom and will be presented to the Board for Confirmation by its (the Board’s) 3rd meeting each semester.

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

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

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

C. Committee Responsibilities.

1. Meetings

   a. Committees shall meet at least twice monthly and at the discretion of the chair.

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

2. Reports

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

   b. Reports must contain attendance records for the committee’s meetings and activities.

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

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

   e. The chair(s) of each committee may appoint a vice-chair from within the committee’s membership. The vice chair shall be responsible for taking minutes and for chairing in the elected chair’s absense.

3. Budget

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

D. Recall of Committee Members.

   1. Any committee member including the chair may be removed from their position on the committee by a majority vote of the Board in the event of:
a. Failure to report committee activities to the Board for two consecutive meetings (where committee activities have occurred).

b. A motion by another member or chair of the committee, and a majority vote by the Board.

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

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

**ARTICLE VI**

A. Board Procedures.

1. Membership

   a. Elected Members

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. Appointed Members

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

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

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

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.

ARTICLE VIII

A. Funding Guidelines.

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

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

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

4. The Board and its BC will not consider funding requests submitted fewer than fifteen business days prior to an event. This restriction may be waived by the Treasurer on a case-by-case basis.
5. All monies appropriated for a funding request will be for specific items originally listed in a submitted budget. Where budget items are originally approved but have less or no expense actually incurred, excess appropriated funds will be forfeited. Funds cannot be reallocated to budget items not previously approved by the Board.

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

7. The following are likely to be funded:
   a. Academic events
   b. Cultural events
   c. Proposals that are well written with a detailed budget, including expenses and expected/secured income
   d. Events which are public and held on campus
   e. Community service events involving or benefitting graduate students
   f. Projects that may need start-up funds but which will become self-sustaining in a short period of time
   g. Events that involve more than 100 graduate students and/or have at least 25% graduate student participation
   h. Programs designed to enhance quality of life for the Student body.

8. The following are not likely to be funded:
   a. Parties
   b. Events not open or easily accessible to the entire UM community
   c. Publications which do not positively impact the UM community
   d. Events that, in our judgment, should be receiving funds from some other obvious, appropriate source
   e. Club sports
   f. Proposals from social fraternities or sororities
   g. Proposals from lobbyists
   h. Capital goods
   i. Activities exclusive to the membership of one organization
   j. Film and photo development/photographers/videographers
   k. Loans
   l. Political lobbying

9. The following may require additional information prior to consideration:
   a. Food
   b. Honoraria
   c. Travel
   d. Requests from the Central Student Government.
   e. Guest Speakers (biographies, prior speaking engagements)
10. The following will not be funded:
   a. Alcohol
   b. Drugs
   c. Medication
   d. Charitable contributions
   e. Class projects
   f. Human resources (coaches, secretaries, employees)
   g. Late fees/penalties of any type
   h. Proposals with non-itemized budgets
   i. Plaques/trophies/prizes
   j. Scholarships/stipends/awards
   k. Events intended for participation by the entire graduate student body if that event is scheduled for a day that is identified as a major holiday on the calendar of University sanctioned holidays.
   l. Proposals from individual students (RSG will only accept funding requests from MSA-registered organizations)

B. Organization Funding Reports

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

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

**ARTICLE IX**

A. Resolution Types.

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

B. Format.

1. Every RSG resolution shall contain the following:
   i. A title.
   ii. A unique resolution number, assigned by the Vice President in his/her role as the chair of the ComCom
   iii. A set of descriptive clauses, explaining the rationale for the resolution and providing support for any operative clauses contained within the resolution.
   iv. A minimum of one operative clause directing action in the case of a BR or stating an opinion in the case of a SB.
      1. The first operative clause in a BR shall have a format “Therefore be it resolved by the Rackham Student Government on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school that”
      2. The first operative clause in a SR shall have a format “Therefore, on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate school and articulated by its elected representatives, it is the sense of the Board that”
   v. The signature upon final vote by at least one executive officer attesting to the vote count and that the process to consider a resolution as outlined in this article and in Roberts Rules of Order was followed.
   vi. The signature of the President or the Vice President approving the final passage of the resolution. The Officer not chairing shall have the authority to approve or veto.

C. Voting

1. All voting members of the Board shall be able to vote on RSG Resolutions.
2. The President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The president may vote when not chairing.
3. The Vice President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The vice president may vote when not chairing.
4. The Treasurer, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote on final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The Treasurer may vote when not chairing.

D. Student Body Input

1. Upon a motion, second, and majority vote by the Board any resolution may be postponed to a time certain to allow for formal input from the student body.
2. Unless waved by a 2/3rds majority of the Board, a vote to adopt a BR will be out of order unless a public hearing on the BR has been advertised and conducted.

E. Public Hearings

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

F. Executive Veto

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

G. Publication

1. Upon the final adoption and approval of a resolution, a signed version 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, MSA, and members of the Student Body (upon request).
H. R. 3433

To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide transparency and require certain standards in the award of Federal grants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 16, 2011

Mr. Lankford (for himself, Mr. Issa, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Meehan, and Mr. Pierluisi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to provide transparency and require certain standards in the award of Federal grants, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reform and New Transparency Act of 2011” or the “GRANT Act”.

SECTION 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

1. Short title.
2. Table of contents.
3. Grants transparency requirements.
SEC. 4. Report requirements relating to grants.

SEC. 5. Plan for improving the single audit process.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) GRANTS TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 73 the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 74—GRANTS TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS

“§ 7401. Definitions

“In this chapter:

“(1) GRANT.—The term ‘grant’ means an award of Federal financial assistance through a grant agreement or cooperative agreement making payment in cash or in kind to a recipient to carry out a public purpose authorized by law.

“(2) COMPETITIVE GRANT.—The term ‘competitive grant’ means a grant entered into through the use of merit-based selection procedures for the purpose of allocating funds authorized under a grant program of an Executive agency.

“(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘Executive agency’ has the meaning provided by section

•HR 3433 IH
105 of title 5, except the term does not include the
Government Accountability Office.

“(4) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the Re-
covery Accountability and Transparency Board or
any successor entity.

“(5) PROPOSAL ABSTRACT.—The term ‘pro-
posal abstract’, with respect to a grant proposal,
means a summary containing key elements of the
grant proposal.

“(6) GRANT REVIEWER.—The term ‘grant re-
viewer’, with respect to a grant—

“(A) means any individual who reviews,
evaluates, or participates in the decision to se-
lect a grant applicant for award of the grant;
and

“(B) includes—

“(i) a peer reviewer;
“(ii) a merit reviewer; and
“(iii) a member of a technical evalua-
tion panel or board or a special emphasis
panel.

§7402. Merit-based selection procedure require-
ments in awarding grants

“(a) MERIT-BASED SELECTION PROCEDURES RE-
QUIRED.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an Executive agency shall use merit-based selection procedures in awarding grants.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN GRANTS.—An Executive agency is not required to use merit-based selection procedures in awarding a grant if the grant is a block grant or formula grant for which Federal funds are required to be allocated in accordance with a distribution formula prescribed by law or regulation, or any other grant in which the allocation methodology for the grant funds is mandated by law.

“(b) REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIFIC MERIT-BASED SELECTION PROCEDURES.—Each Executive agency shall establish and make publicly available specific merit-based selection procedures for each grant program of the agency required under subsection (a) to use such procedures.

“(c) MERIT-BASED SELECTION PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The merit-based selection procedures required under subsection (a) shall promote the use of competition, and may be tailored to the particular requirements, objectives, and authorities of the agency. The procedures may address matters such as consideration of unsolicited proposals, standards for obtaining a competitive pool of appli-
cants, and exceptions for safety, security, or other circumstances.

“(2) Specific matters included.—The merit-based selection procedures required under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to a grant, the following:

“(A) Advance notification of the grant opportunity.

“(B) A clear statement of the purpose, duration (including anticipated grant continuations), and eligibility requirements of the grant.

“(C) A description of the manner in which applications or proposals for the grant will be evaluated, ranked, and selected for award, including the weighting of any evaluation factors or criteria that will be considered.

§ 7403. Pre-award evaluation requirements

“(a) Evaluation required.—Before awarding a competitive grant, an Executive agency shall conduct an evaluation of the ability of the prospective grantee to successfully carry out the grant.

“(b) Matters covered.—The evaluation required by subsection (a) shall include a review of the following:
“(1) Financial Management System.—The capability of the financial management system of the applicant to account for funds.

“(2) Internal Controls.—The internal financial and administrative control systems of the applicant.

“(3) Compliance with Reporting.—The capability of the applicant to comply with Federal reporting requirements for recipients of Federal funds.

“(4) Past Performance and Integrity.—The past performance and record of integrity of the applicant.

“(5) Other Qualifications and Competence.—The ability of the applicant to successfully carry out the purposes of the grant.

“(c) Simplified Evaluation Procedure for Certain Applicants.—In conducting the evaluation required under subsection (a) with respect to an applicant, an Executive agency shall minimize the burden on any applicant that has previously received a significant volume of Federal grants, and shall consider any existing findings with respect to that applicant under the single audit process under chapter 75 of title 31 related to the matters in subsection (b).
§ 7404. Website relating to Federal grants

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall upgrade any existing or proposed public website for finding Federal grant opportunities and applying for such grants so that such website may serve as a central point of information and provide full access for applicants for competitive grants. The website shall capture in one site, or provide electronic links to, other relevant databases.

(b) NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE GRANT FUNDS AVAILABILITY.—At the time an Executive agency issues a solicitation or otherwise announces the availability of funds for a competitive grant, the agency shall post on the grants website maintained under this section relevant information about the grant opportunity, including the following:

(1) ANNOUNCEMENT AND PURPOSE.—The grant announcement and purpose of the grant.

(2) GRANT PERIOD.—The time period for performance of the grant and whether the agency anticipates that the grant will be continued.

(3) AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS.—The amount of funds available for the grant.

(4) ELIGIBILITY.—A statement of eligibility requirements of the grant.
“(5) AGENCY POINT OF CONTACT.—Contact information for the Executive agency, including the name, telephone number, and electronic mail address of a specific person or persons responsible for answering questions about the grant and the application process for the grant.

“(6) EVALUATION FACTORS OR CRITERIA.—A clear statement of the evaluation factors or criteria that the agency intends to use to evaluate and rank grant applications or proposals submitted, including the weight to be applied to each factor or criterion.

“(7) DISCLOSURE OF THE PROCESS AND STANDARDS FOR SAFEGUARDING AGAINST CONFLICTS.—A description of the process and standards to be used by the agency to determine that each grant reviewer does not have a prohibited conflict of interest, as defined by applicable statute or regulation, with respect to the evaluation or review of a grant application or proposal, or the decision to award a grant.

“(8) DEADLINE.—The deadline for submission of grant applications or proposals.

“(c) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The grants website maintained under this section shall, to the greatest extent practicable, allow grant applicants to—
“(1) use the website with any computer platform;

“(2) search the website for all competitive grants by purpose, funding agency, program source, and other relevant criteria;

“(3) apply for a competitive grant using the website;

“(4) manage, track, and report on the use of competitive grants using the website; and

“(5) provide all required certifications and assurances for a competitive grant using the website.

“(d) GRANT AWARD INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each competitive grant awarded by an Executive agency, the agency shall post on the grants website maintained under this section the information described in paragraph (2). Except as provided in paragraphs (2)(B) and (3), the information shall be posted within 15 days after an Executive agency notifies an applicant that the applicant has been selected to receive a grant award and shall be updated as necessary while the grant to the recipient is being performed.

“(2) INFORMATION POSTED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the information described in this sec-
tion with respect to each grant awarded by an Executive agency is the following:

“(A) Executed Grant Agreement.—A copy of the final grant agreement, including the terms and conditions and the time period for performance of the grant.

“(B) Copy of Proposal, Application, or Plan.—Subject to paragraph (3), a copy of any proposal, application, or plan submitted for the awarded grant, including any amendment to the proposal, application, or plan (whether made before or after the award of the grant).

“(C) Award Decision Documentation and Rankings.—Documentation explaining the basis for the selection decision for the grant, the number of proposals received for the grant, and, with respect to the proposal that resulted in the grant award, the numerical ranking of the proposal by grant reviewers, if numerical rankings were assigned.

“(D) Justification for Deviating from Rankings.—In any case in which the award of the grant is not consistent with the numerical rankings or any other recommendations made by grant reviewers, a written jus-
tification explaining the rationale for the decision not to follow the rankings or recommendations.

“(E) DISCLOSURE OF PEER REVIEWERS.—The name, title, and employer of each individual who served as a peer reviewer for the grant program concerned, during the six-month period preceding the award of the grant.

“(F) DISCLOSURE OF OTHER GRANT REVIEWERS.—The name, title, and employer of each individual who served as a reviewer (other than a peer reviewer) of proposals or applications for the grant, regardless of whether the individual is employed by the Federal government or not.

“(3) EXCEPTION TO POSTING REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2)(B), if the head of the agency determines, with respect to a particular grant award, that posting the proposal, application, or plan at the time described in paragraph (1) would adversely affect an applicant, the agency—

“(A) may post a proposal abstract or executive summary; and
“(B) shall post the complete proposal, application, or plan by a date to be determined by the head of the agency, in consultation with the applicant, but not later than three years after the date of the grant award.

“(e) GRANT PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—Unless otherwise prohibited by law, with respect to each grant awarded by an Executive agency, within 60 days after the end of the period for completion of the grant, the agency shall post on the grants website maintained under this section the following information:

“(1) The final report or other final written product required under the terms of the grant.

“(2) Other related data or results of the grant that the agency considers to be of value to future researchers or in the public interest.

“(f) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF GRANT SOLICITATION FORECAST ON THE GRANTS WEBSITE.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than November 30 of each year, the head of each Executive agency shall post a forecast, in accordance with paragraph (2), of all grant solicitations that the agency expects to issue for the following calendar year. The forecast shall be based on the best information available and shall not be binding on the agency.
“(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The forecast shall include, to the extent practicable, the following for each expected grant solicitation:

“(A) SUBJECT AND PURPOSE.—A brief description of the subject and purpose of the grant, organized by the organizational unit of the agency.

“(B) POINT OF CONTACT.—Contact information for the organizational unit or individual responsible for the grant, if known, including name, telephone number, and electronic mail address.

“(C) NOTICE PUBLICATION DATE.—The expected or actual dates for the issuance of the grant solicitation and application and the grant application submission deadline.

“(D) AWARD AMOUNT.—The estimated amount of the average grant award, the estimated maximum and minimum amounts of the grant award, if applicable, and the estimated total number of grant awards to be made.

“(g) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the publication of information otherwise exempt under section 552 of title
“(h) TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION.—To the extent practicable, the grants website maintained under this section shall—

“(1) make the information described in this section available in its original format;

“(2) make the information described in this section available without charge, license, or registration requirement;

“(3) permit the information described in this section to be searched and aggregated;

“(4) permit the information described in this section to be downloaded in bulk;

“(5) permit the information described in this section to be disseminated via automatic electronic means;

“(6) permit the information described in this section to be freely shared by the public, such as by social media;

“(7) use permanent uniform resource locators for the information described in this section; and

“(8) provide an opportunity for the public to provide input about the usefulness of the site and recommendations for improvements.
"§ 7405. Debriefing

"If requested by an applicant for a competitive grant, for each grant award made in an amount in excess of $100,000 pursuant to a merit-based selection procedure, an Executive agency shall provide the applicant with a timely debriefing explaining the basis for the agency’s award decision, including, if applicable, the decision not to award a grant to the applicant.”.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 73 the following new item:

“74. Grant Transparency Requirements .............................. 7401”.

(b) Guidance for Merit-Based Selection Procedures for Grant Programs.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue and disseminate guidance to aid Executive agencies in establishing merit-based selection procedures for agency grant programs, as required by section 7402(c) of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) Deadline for Merit-Based Selection Procedures for Grant Programs.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Ex-
ecutive agency shall carry out the requirement of section 7402(c) of such title, as so added.

(d) Report on Merit-Based Selection Procedures for Grant Programs.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subsection (b) and the actions taken by Executive agencies to establish merit-based selection procedures under subsection (c).

SEC. 4. REPORT REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO GRANTS.

(a) Undisbursed Grant Funding Report.—

(1) Guidance.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to Executive agencies instructing each agency to identify amounts of undisbursed grant funding remaining in grant accounts for which the period of availability to the grantee has expired and report to the Office of Management and Budget on the status and resolution of such funding.
(2) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report summarizing the information reported by Executive agencies under subsection (a) and describing the actions the Director or Executive agencies plan to take with respect to the undisbursed grant funding identified in the information so reported.

(b) GRANTS WORKFORCE REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the Federal grants workforce.

(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall address—

(A) the size of the Federal grants workforce and expected trends in Federal employment;
(B) adequacy of training opportunities for
the Federal grants workforce;

(C) whether the Federal Acquisition Insti-
tute or any other existing entity engaged in ac-
quision workforce training should be made
available for grant training;

(D) whether a warrant system similar to
that used in the Federal acquisition system
should be established for Federal officials au-
thorized to award grants;

(E) the use by executive agencies of sus-
pension and debarment actions taken against
grantees during the three-year period preceding
the date of submission of the report, and the
level of agency resources assigned to the sus-
pension and debarment functions; and

(F) any recommendations for improving
the Federal grants workforce.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive
agency” has the meaning provided by section 105 of
title 5, United States Code, except the term does not
include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) FEDERAL GRANTS WORKFORCE DEFINED.—
The term “Federal grants workforce”, with respect
to an Executive agency, means all employees of the agency who spend some or all of their time engaged in—

(A) grant planning;

(B) preparing grant solicitations, Notices of Funding Availability, or other requests for grant proposals;

(C) evaluating or reviewing grant applications, including serving on a peer review board;

or

(D) monitoring or administering grant performance by grantees.

SEC. 5. PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE SINGLE AUDIT PROCESS.

(a) PLAN FOR IMPROVING THE SINGLE AUDIT PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan on improving the single audit process required under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, that includes each of the following elements:
(1) A centralized Federal Government oversight structure for the single audit process to monitor Federal agency implementation of single audit requirements under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) Simplified alternative single audit requirements for non-Federal entities with expenditures for smaller Federal awards.

(3) A proposal to shorten the single audit cycle, including the time periods for completing the audit and for Executive agency resolution of the audit.

(4) An identification of any necessary legislative changes to implement any proposal under the plan.

(5) A description of key milestones for implementation and necessary steps to complete implementation.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the plan is submitted under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the implementation of each element of the plan.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning provided by section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term “non-Federal entity” has the meaning given that term under section 7501 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) SINGLE AUDIT.—The term “single audit” has the meaning provided by section 7501(a)(18) of title 31, United States Code.

(4) SMALLER FEDERAL AWARD.—The term “smaller Federal award” means a Federal award of less than $1,000,000 or such other amount specified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.