Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: June 22, 2011

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy
V. RSG Budget
VI. Funding Request: Vaughan Symposium
   a. Presentation
   b. Closed session deliberations
VII. Executive Orders
   a. Creation of an RSG Bylaw review committee
   b. Creation of an RSG Service opportunities committee
VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications
   d. Elections
   e. Legislative
   f. Student Life
IX. Open Discussion
X. Adjournment

NOTE: The Board’s July 6, 2011 meeting has been canceled
I. Call to Order
   a. Meeting Called to Order at 6:10pm.
   b. Members absent:
      ii. Unexcused: Eli Eisnian, Serge Farinas, Kristy Figel, Grant Mandarino.
      iii. Quorum Present
II. Approval of Agenda
   a. Motion by Alex Emly, Seconded by Tien-Huei Hsu. Approved Unanimously
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. Motion by Alex Emly, Seconded by Lily Mancour. Approved Unanimously
IV. Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Will be starting advertising to get non-board members to be part of committees.
      ii. Will be talking about GSRA unionization elections later this meeting.
      iii. Read the Ann Arbor Chronicle if possible.
      iv. The next SAGE call will be in the next two weeks.
      v. President’s Privilege to slate Mindy Waite, Rob Gillezeau, Heidi Pedini as liaisons to the federal, state, local legislature, respectively.
      vi. Motion by David Cottrell and seconded by Alex Emly, motion approved 7-0-4.
   b. Vice President
      i. The first committee meetings of the Spring/Summer went well.
      ii. Would like to view the Communications Committee as the Committee on Committees and Communication.
      iii. It is the job of the Vice President to serve as a support role in committees. Therefore, if chairs need any help or advice, please come talk to me.
      iv. Minor Corrections on Attached Committee List
      v. Chairs of Committees please provide me a brief blurb about your committee, projects, and chair office hours, etc.
      vi. Please try to recruit non-RSG board members to serve as members of committees.
      vii. In committee minutes, please note the location of the committee meetings.
c. Treasurer
   i. About $15000 in the bank.
   ii. Please sign up to bring snacks to Board Meetings.
   iii. The upper cap is about 20.00 per meeting.
   iv. We currently have money to give out to student groups.
   v. Please look at the flier that will be sent out to Rackham Students.
   vi. Committee Chairs please submit a budget to Mindy, or she will assign you a budget.

V. RSG Logistics
   a. Representative and Executive Office Hours
      i. See attached Representative and Executive Office Spreadsheet.
      ii. Mindy will make a form to briefly fill out after every office hour.
          It will be able to be done online.
   b. Fall Welcome Picnic, September 2, 2011
      i. Every year this is a co-sponsored by Rackham.
      ii. This is required if you are in town and will count for one event during both Summer and Fall event requirements.
      iii. We will need volunteers from 3-10, the event will most likely last from 5pm-8pm.

VI. Committee Membership and Chairs
   a. Josh Bow moves to approve Communications slate, seconded by Mindy Waite, passes unanimously.
   b. Josh Bow moves to approve committee recommendations for chairs of committees, seconded by Alex Emly, motion passes unanimously.

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
      i. Tien Huei-Hsu motions to approve minutes, seconded by Alex Emly, approved unanimously.
   b. Budgetary
      i. Will not be meeting until Budget requests are submitted.
   c. Commutations
      i. There will be a Communication Committee meeting in the next week.
   d. Elections
      i. No Report
   e. Legislative
      i. Motion to approve minutes by Kaitlin Flynn, approved by Alex Emly. Motion passes unanimously.
      ii. Slated liaisons for Presidents approval.
      iii. Discussed SAGE fall summit.
   f. Student Life
      i. Try to have 3 events a month, one cosponsored with Rackham, one family friendly, one bar night.
      ii. Will be trying to have committee meetings on Mondays.

VIII. Spring/Summer (Fall) Goal Setting Session
a. Possible Academic Goals
   i. Increase resources for professional development outside development.
   ii. Graduate Student Bill of Rights rough draft.
   iii. Town Hall meetings in the Fall
   iv. Deal with Issues with continuous enrollment
   v. Discuss possible change of the 9 point GPA scale.
   vi. Rackham Pre-doctoral fellowships standardizing to compensate for varying departments average GPA.
   vii. Study spaces for Masters Students.

b. Legislative Goals
   i. To get the SAGE fall summit organized.
   ii. Coordinate with MSA
   iii. Work along side with town citizens and unions.
   iv. Look at Government issues like EMF, Right to Work, City and Local Budgets.

c. Communications Goals
   i. Banner
   ii. Increases our presence on campus and awareness to Graduate Students.
   iii. Increase our Social Media
   iv. Newsletter

d. Financial Goals
   i. Spending money or allocating 80% of our budgetary committee budget to student groups.
   ii. Examine the $7 dollar fee to MSA from graduate students.

e. Student life Goals
   i. Get people appointed for collaborative events.
   ii. Fall Picnics.
   iii. Bill of Rights.
   iv. Whirleyball.
   v. Develop Departmental Committees for Social Events and support and foster relationships with such committees.

f. My Action Items
   i. Come up with one that you would like before next meeting.

IX. Individual Projects
a. Description
   i. Projects that you will work on personally.
   ii. If you need a budget, please let Mindy know.

b. Assignment
   i. Think about what you would like to do as an individual project.

c. Semester Plans
   i. Each representative would meet with the Executives to discuss and update individual projects.

X. GSRA Update
a. The Board of Regents voted to allow the right to organize to GSRAs.
b. We will continue to serve as education source for students.
c. We will serve as a clearinghouse to deal with student complaints during the election.
d. However, what role can we serve legally?
e. Will maintain neutrality during the election, and legislative committee will draft a response for any complaints RSG receives about the unionization election, for approval by the communications committee and the board.

XI. Open Discussion
a. None

XII. Adjournment
a. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Joshua Bow
Rackham Student Government
Vice President

ATTACHMENTS:

Corrected Committee Lists with Chairs
Bold signifies chair/co chairs
* Delineates ex officio

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**Budget**

- $3,500 Funding requests
- $3,500 Total

**Communications**

- $55 Festifall/Northfest
- $450 Embroidered polos
- $60 12 $5 gift cards for newsletter trivia prize
- $40 4 $10 gift cards for Twitter/Facebook drive
- $605 Total

**Academics**

- $300 box, banner, misc
- $300 Total

**Legislative**

- $100 supplies & Lansing travel
- $100 Total

**General**

- $200
- $200 Total

**Reserve**

- $300
- $300 Total
Academic Affairs Committee Meeting 6-16-11

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Attendance: Tien Heui-Hsu, Eli Eisman, Michael Benson, Josh Bow, Inger Bergom, Kaitlin Flynn

Absent: David

1. Introductions

2. Graduate Student Bill of Rights Discussion

   a. Purpose—to be available for grievances and academic disputes, declare rights of graduate students and have expectations set early

   b. Necessity of the employment piece within the bill of rights—GEO contract covers mostly, however GSRAs are (currently) not under contract and other Master's students, etc have differing circumstances.

   c. The current focus of the bill of rights is to serve academic purposes and disputes.

   d. We all agree on language of financial part of GSBoR—section 8

   e. Administration—generally supportive, but we can determine the degree of “teeth” the BoR can carry (ie: punishable defenses, etc)

      i. Once we have drafts, we can move towards discussing and negotiating with the administration our rights and an idea of how the rights would be implemented

      ii. Grant proposes floating BoR at student events (maybe Town halls?) to get input. We also have an online forum available.

      iii. Michael proposes to finish up by the end of the calendar year and be able to move forward in 2012

         1. Perhaps submit to Rackham Board by November 2011

   f. One right of interest—3—the right to know the endpoint of a graduate program

      i. Eli raised the problem of program specific issues (publishing in the sciences vs. writing a thesis/book in the humanities)

      ii. Michael informs us of Rackham’s new initiative to take review of students every 4 years to judge progress

   g. Next meeting of subcommittee: June 28 at 7pm, Borders on Liberty upstairs café
3. Town hall preparations
   a. Banner- returned to the Academic Affairs committee, communications committee will compile draft and give to committee
   b. Suggestion box- bringing to social events, committee members signup on google docs
   c. Drafted email for the deans, Mindy and Tien sent recently

4. Service project collaboration
   a. Students have become interested in setting up departmental mentorship program for the (many) programs that do not have a mentoring set-up
   b. Along with this, a number of high schools or community organizations that could benefit from a graduate student mentorship
      i. IE: tours in a lab, discussion
   c. Proposing to set up a coordination with Detroit Partnership and other campus organizations to encourage graduate participation
   d. Michael proposes the formation of an ad hoc Service committee
      i. Great idea! If interested in serving, contact Michael

5. Committee meeting times
   a. Time is not convenient for Eli
   b. Time has been changed to 7pm on Thursdays
   c. Website has electronic capabilities we’re not pursuing currently

6. RSG fall welcome picnic is Sept 2
   a. Big event! Lots of grad student turnout
   b. How could we best engage with the students? Talk with student life.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm

8. Next meeting on 6/30 at 7pm at Border’s
Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting 6/15/11

Espresso Royale Basement

Meeting start 6:06pm

Attendance: Michael Benson, Kaitlin Flynn, Josh Bow, Mindy Waite, Serge Farinas, Tien Huei-Hsu, Heidi, Sam Nolan

Absences: Rob Gillezeau, Abbie Garrity

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Reviewal of Agenda
   a. Agenda approved.
4. Previous minutes approved
5. Chair updates
   a. New members: wahoo! Abbie, Sam and Denise (next week)
6. City Update
   a. Read the Ann Arbor Chronicle!
      i. Candidate debate hosted by Ann Arbor Dems for city council candidates. Unbiased analysis posted online
      ii. Michigan Daily article, candidates forum will be headed up by Tien and Kaitlin to put together, hopefully by July
         1. Need to include budget and have proposal for board by next week
         2. Probably have somewhere in Rackham
         3. Publicity!! Invite general public and campus
         4. Hopefully try to have a meeting before the next board meeting
7. State Update
   a. MSU alleges that they haven’t been able to get a hold of us, Michael used creative means to acquire Heather Smilde (SAGE officer) and Stephen’s (MSU RSG president) contact information.
   b. Drive for recall of Gov Snyder has already started—signatures can be given at the Farmer’s market from 8am-3pm.
   c. Recall petition about to start this week for recall of the “Emergency Federal Manager” law. Ann Arbor Education Association has put together some information.
   d. Will be able to provide information to the student body soon (will bring up in general meeting next week).
8. Federal Update
   a. Some research funding updates, information will be sent out
   b. Initiatives to increase humanities funding is starting up
   c. SAGE coalition is aware of Iowa state legislator that refused to listen to graduate students trying to lobby to refuse the cutting of funding for public institutions. Resolution is being drafted by SAGE president’s board and will be presented to general board meeting next week.
d. Subsidized loan email will go out soon (regarding fighting against the president cutting subsidized loans for graduate education)

9. Discussion
   a. PILOTs/for profit on non profit demand
      i. Fire department issue update: the general issue is that the university does not pay for fire services but uses a lot. State law on the books states that universities cannot direct funding to the local community without having their budgets cut by Lansing. In a sense, this is an issue of ‘legality’. But we could push State congress for this.
         1. Ways around this issue? Buy equipment?
      ii. Payments in lieu of Taxes
         1. For instance, Pfizer building (North Campus Research Complex) acquisition by the University meant that city lost taxes
         2. This is an option for ways that the University can give back to the community
      iii. For profit/not for profit
         1. University could donate to city by taxing the for profits on non for profit land (IE Subway and Wendy’s in the Union do not pay taxes, UM could charge)
         2. Republican controlled State would likely be more in favor of PILOTs
      iv. Should be able to have information from city administrators by next committee meeting
   b. SAGE Fall Summit
      i. Likely held first weekend of December (voting this week on date)
      ii. Gives us a lot of time to decide who will go. Thursday through Sunday
      iii. Number of people going will depend on Fall budget (2-3 most likely)
      iv. What issues do we want to pursue?
         1. Research funding, funding for humanities (continued efforts)
         2. Accountability of delivery of funds
         3. Making tax law more accessible
   c. City administrator meeting
      i. Happening in a few weeks
      ii. Mayor and city admin
      iii. Heidi and Mike are definitely going, likely a Friday (mayor open office hours)
   d. Voter Registration Email
      i. City clerk Jackie B. is currently reviewing revised version that Tien sent
      ii. Will be sent out ASAP afterwards
   e. Prop 2
      i. SMES-G meeting—put together a proposal on services they provide in the past 2 years since proposal passed
      ii. Issue: some services the University used to provide but were cut after affirmative action was ruled unconstitutional
iii. Example: orientation for minority students and others to build community
iv. SMES-G are hoping that University would set aside block chunk of money to target different people and still provide this sort of community building event
v. SMES-G may also be applying to RSG for event funding in the future
vi. There are MANY other organizations that serve these interests: RMF, SCOR, AGEP

10. SMART goals
   a. Initiative by Josh to establish goals that are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely for each committee
   b. Candidates forum—need to have it done by the end of July (perhaps third week in July)
   c. State level PILOT proposal
   d. Research how other public universities contribute to their communities

11. Committee assignments
   a. Look at public university relationships with the city
   b. Start doing research
   c. Ask city clerk to describe the relationship with the university regarding public services

12. Open Discussion
   a. How is SAGE trying to ‘sell’ the funding for humanities?
      i. Societal benefit
      ii. Green initiatives?
      iii. Understanding business and tax issues
      iv. Educating the public on what matters
      v. Social sciences generally easier to push than ‘soft’ humanities
   b. Washtenaw community action team is putting together a public forum for 6/25 to educate people and get petitions out there for citizens veto of emergency financial managers bill (PA4 bill)

13. End of meeting 7:00pm
Student Life Committee Meeting
6/13/11 8:00 pm at Amer’s Deli on State St

Members Present:
- Alex Toulouse
- Josh Bow
- Tien-Huei Hsu

1) Budget: Finalized the budget for the summer to be submitted to the Budgetary Committee:
   - Tigers Game: 750
   - Ice Cream Social: 1500
   - Pinball Pete’s: 300
   - Elbell Day: 500
   - Fuller Pool: 300
   - Dominick’s: 400
   - Fall Picnic: 750

   **Total: 4500**

2) Calendar: Selected tentative dates for events not already scheduled. Also assigned people to be in
   charge of overseeing each event’s organization.
   - Pinball Pete’s: 6/23 or 6/30 -> Amit/Heidi
   - Ice Cream Social: 7/16 -> Josh and Natalie
   - Dominick’s: TBD -> Alex T
   - Elbel Day: 7/30 -> Alex E
   - Fuller Pool: 8/14 -> Michael
     - Food Drive with Pool: -> Tien
   - Tigers Game: 8/20 -> Natalie

3) Event Ideas:
   - Tien suggests doing a food drive with the GSC of PIBS for the Fuller Pool event. She will
     contact them and get back to us.
   - Suggestion to organize more service events. Ideas include a Day in the Arb or volunteering with
     the Ronald McDonald House.
   - Mini Classes: One idea for the fall is to talk to local organizations and organize a few classes to
     be taught to graduate students as a discount package that RSG would then advertise. Ideas are
     wine tasting, yoga, cooking, dance, and art classes.
   - Top of the Park: Decided better just to advertise it in the newsletter than to try to sponsor a
     movie showing.

4) Ice Cream Social Logistics:
   - Plan is to buy lawn games: 4 cornhole/beanbag games and a few frisbees to be kept by RSG for
     events.
   - Suggested that we take names and give tickets for the canoe subsidy.
5) Commencement Issue:
   - Decided to bring the issue up with Dean Homer Rose before proceeding further with the issue.

6) Adjournment
AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE RSG 2011 BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The Rackham Student Government (RSG) Board has traditionally reviewed and amended its bylaws annually during the spring and summer months;

AND

WHEREAS, The RSG Vice President serves as the chief operating officer of the graduate student body as well as the parliamentarian of the RSG Board;

AND

WHEREAS, Article 1, section D of the RSG bylaws (BYLAWS) defines the process by which the Board may amend its operating procedures and bylaws;

AND

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

Section 1. That a bylaw review committee (BRC) be created, effective immediately.

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

Section 3. BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Composition. The BRC shall be composed of a minimum of 4 members of the RSG Board, including the Vice President who shall serve as the chair of this committee. Any member of the Board may join the BRC and shall have voting rights, subject to the conditions outlined in subsection C.

B. Quorum. A quorum shall exist when half plus one of the committee members are present.
C. Voting Rights. All members of the Rackham student body are eligible to vote on this committee. Voting rights may be obtained at any point in time, following the committee’s formation by:

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

2) Attending a minimum of 60% of the committee meetings and discussions.

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

D. Charge. The BRC shall review all aspects of the RSG bylaws and will, by September 10, 2011 present to the Board a set of recommended amendments. The committee’s review should focus on RSG’s interactions with the student body, including but not limited to RSG’s financial structure, RSG’s external communications strategy, the RSG Board’s composition, and RSG’s use of the Constitution of the Student Body of the Ann Arbor Campus of the University of Michigan.

E. Renewal. The Board may, by a simple majority vote extend the timeline for the BRC up to the end of the 2011 calendar year. Any motion to extend the timeline of the board must include a new dissolution date.

F. Reports. The BRC will submit regular reports to the Board on its progress and will seek feedback from the same. The Vice President is tasked with ensuring regular input on the BRC’s activities is gathered from the Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Student Government
Executive Order: EO-11-2

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER CREATING THE RSG SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The Rackham Student Government (RSG) has hosted and participated in community service events sporadically over the past two years; AND

WHEREAS, Graduate students, including members of the RSG Board, have requested that RSG provide more community service opportunities; AND

WHEREAS, The student life committee (SLC) has previously coordinated all of RSG’s community service events; AND

WHEREAS, The RSG Vice President serves as the government’s chief operating officer and in this role oversees each of RSG’s standing committees; AND

WHEREAS, Vice President Bow noted that the SLC is currently operating at capacity; AND

WHEREAS, The nature of some of the students’ requests would include linking academic programs and individual students with young students enrolled in local public schools, an activity that enters into the RSG Academic Affairs (AAC) committee’s jurisdiction; AND

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

Section 1. That a service opportunities committee (SOC) be created, effective immediately.

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

A. Composition. The SOC shall be composed of a minimum of 2 members of the RSG Board. Any member of the Rackham student body, or the broader university community may join the committee.

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

C. Charge. The SOC will work collaboratively with the SLC and the AAC to provide a diverse array of service opportunities to the graduate student body.

D. Leadership. The Board will elect a chair or co-chairs to lead this committee. Nominations and elections shall take place during a regular board meeting. The committee chair(s) may a vice-chair, a secretary, and as many project managers as they deem necessary to meet their charge.

E. Budget. The committee is eligible for a budget. Upon election, the committee chairs should contact the RSG Treasurer to devise a funding plan, including collaborative funding with the SLC, AAC, other entities within the University, and external non-profit organizations.

F. Renewal. The Board may, by a simple majority vote extend the timeline for the BRC up to the end of the 2011 calendar year. Any motion to extend the timeline of the board must include a new dissolution date.

G. Reports. The BRC will submit regular reports to the Board on its progress and will seek feedback from the same. The Vice President is tasked with ensuring regular input on the BRC’s activities is gathered from the Board.

H. Dissolution. The SOC will exist until through December 31, 2011.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

____________________________________
Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Student Government
President Benson’s Address to the Ann Arbor City Council on June 20, 2011

Hello Mr. Mayor and members of Council,

My name is Michael Benson, and I live on Stone Road in the 2nd ward. I am a 4th year PhD candidate and currently serve as the president of the graduate student body at the University of Michigan. Last week in Iowa, a group of students took a significant step to participate in the legislative process by testifying before their state senate’s education appropriates committee. During his opening statement, the ranking republican on the panel dismissed the undergraduate and graduate student leaders by noting

“I do not like it when students actually come here and lobby me for funds. That’s just my opinion. I want to wish you guys the best. I want you to go home and graduate. But this is political theater, leave the circus to us OK? Go home and enjoy yourselves. I want to thank you for joining us and though I have to concede, your time speaking before us is kind of a tad intense. It’s probably a pretty new experience. You probably prepared for it for days and you sat there in front of us trying to make sure your remarks were just right, and that’s a good thing. But actually spending your time worrying about what we’re doing up here, I don’t want you to do that. Go back home. Thanks guys.”

I’m pleased to say that Ann Arbor is not Iowa and thank you for inclusively listening to all comers… even those that raise issues far beyond the scope of this Council’s jurisdiction. You listen, and that is appreciated. However, we’re not perfect. Looking to the official vehicle that Council created in 2005 to relate with the students, a pre-curser to the now popular mutually beneficial committee model, this body hasn’t met, to my knowledge, since 2009. Under the current student relations committee model, the Mayor appoints and the Council approves only two members of this committee. The remaining 5 seats are left to the Michigan Student Assembly president to appoint, without a city confirmation process. I propose eliminating this model, and reconstituting the committee with a broader scope and a more inclusive constituency. If the council wants to have a student – city relations committee, then lets include all students, including a representative from each of Ann Arbor’s high school student bodies, and dedicated representatives from the University’s graduate and professional student body. The term student is a very broad descriptor, and principally limiting the membership to U of M undergraduates serves to neglect our older and younger students. The expanded committee membership that I’m proposing tonight should include: a representative from each of Ann Arbor’s high schools, a few University undergraduates, a few graduate and professional students, as well as others with a vested interest in the City’s relationship with all of its students. In this approach, the mayor would nominate individuals from within the student classes I’ve noted perhaps by collaborating with partners such as the MSA president for the U of M undergraduates and a faculty student council advisor for the high school students. This new appointment
process will bring additional credibility to the committee as well as a needed level of accountability. This committee should meet monthly, at a minimum and should strive to find mutually beneficial solutions to the issues raised by both the City and the students.

Students young and old in Ann Arbor have a vested interest in the success of our city, and so too should the city have a vested interest in all of its students. Speaking on behalf of the graduate student body at the University, I know that we’re committed to working with City and the city as a whole, to ensure that our voices are heard and I’m hopeful that you will consider this proposal.

Thank you, and let's ensure that Ann Arbor takes steps away from Iowa, rather than toward it.

President Benson gave a printout of http://www.senate.iowa.gov/democrats/depublican-message-to-students-shut-up to all of the council members in attendance, including the mayor.
Good morning everyone! My name is Michael Benson and I am a fourth year PhD candidate studying radar remote sensing in the University’s Radiation Laboratory.

As the president of the Rackham student body I have the special joy and privilege of welcoming you on behalf of the thousands of current students to the Maize and Blue, to the University of Michigan, to tradition, to community, and specifically to Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Welcome.

You are here today to embark on a journey that the majority of your incoming class will not share. Over the course of the next weeks and months, you will get a head start on your graduate studies while simultaneously being exposed to some of the greatest minds this institution has to offer. While this is happening you will have the advantage of committed SI mentors, regular seminars to help you put your work in context with the general work of the University, and summer in Ann Arbor. It will be an exciting time! For those of you that didn’t notice, Ann Arbor’s iconic summer festival will be starting today and running for three weeks. I encourage you to check it out.

But I digress, let’s get back to you. Today, you start a new adventure; an adventure that will include hard work, new friends, expanding the frontiers of human knowledge, and earning a graduate degree or two along the way. The work required will often be exciting and challenging but at times might be tedious or boring. Don’t loose hope in these dark times! You have already achieved a great deal just by being here, and its clear that the faculty think that you have what it takes to succeed. So, I’ll offer a few pointers.

Over the course of the next few years, there will always be more work, it’s a certainty of graduate school. However, you shouldn’t let the work consume you entirely. The university and the surrounding communities are great places to live and offer countless activities and opportunities to those that seek them out. So, seek them out! (like the summer fair or the art fair) In fact, there are over 1,200 student organizations in the university alone; many of these cater to graduate students. From a sailing club to countless club hockey teams, to a LGBTQ cultural group, to your student government, there’s an extracurricular opportunity for everyone. My best single piece of advice to you is this: work hard, its why you’re here. But make time to play and avail yourself of the opportunities as they come along. It will help keep you grounded and sane.
Your Rackham Student Government is but one of many resources available to you here. We serve as a conduit between the student body and the Rackham / University administration. We work on your behalf to make your time in Michigan the best it can be. If you see something in your program or in the University as a whole that you want to change, let us know, we’d love to help! We also host a number of social events to help you mingle with students from across Rackham. Starting next week, you will receive a weekly newsletter from your truly (ok, well not exactly me) with all sorts of great information ranging from upcoming events to meetings that you might want to attend.

For the technologically minded in the audience, your student government is online and on the social media circuit. Check out our website at rsg.umich.edu and if you’re feeling adventurous, follow us on twitter or like us on facebook. I’ll let you in on a little secret. We’ve been collecting cool gifts from around Ann Arbor and were going to start picking a facebook liker or a twitter follower each week to give a gift to. The rest of the student body doesn’t know this yet so…. If you follow us or like us by next Tuesday, there is a very good chance that one of you might be our first winners!

Looking towards the start of the academic year, I’d like each of you to take out your smart phones or calendars. I invite you all to attend our Welcome picnic on Friday September 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 5pm in Ann Arbor’s beautiful Island Drive Park. Were going to have live music, plenty of food, a moon bounce disguised as a dinosaur, volleyball, tug-of-war, and much more. Don’t worry, if you didn’t get all of that you’re going to hear a lot about it as September approaches. However, I hope to see each and every one of you there!

Before I yield the podium to our next speaker, I’d like to thank you again for listening to me today. I know that you’re getting a lot of information in a relatively short period of time and you’re bound to be a little overwhelmed. Don’t worry its natural. So, for the next 10 seconds, I’d like everyone in the room to take two really deep breaths. Go ahead, I’ll wait. Good. Now, if you only remember one thing from my talk today, I hope its that every graduate student should find a balance between their academic work, a social life, and everything else; it’s possible you just have to make an active commitment to achieve this balance.

Thank you all again, I look forward to seeing you on campus, in your labs, in the libraries, and/or at one of our many social events this summer.

Welcome to Michigan and Go Blue!
Rackham Student Government Funding Application

Organization Name: Chemistry Symposium Organizing Committee
SOAS Account #: U009456
Registered with MSA? Yes  No

Primary Contact Name: Elaina Zverina
Title: Chair of Chemistry (Vaughan) Symposium Organizing Committee
Email: ezverina@umich.edu
Phone: 734-615-3847

Secondary Contact Name: Vishalakshi Krishnan
Title: Treasurer
Email: kvisha@umich.edu
Phone: 734-615-4221

Please check any of the following that describe your organization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic/Professional</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts/Expression (Visual, Performance, and/or Exhibition)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural/Ethnic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications/Journalism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science/Technical</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the overall purpose/mission of your organization and the planned initiatives and activities intended to uphold said objective(s).

The Vaughan Symposium at the University of Michigan provides an opportunity for student and postdocs to showcase their research to one another. Through participants presenting their work to the department as a whole, students foster collaborations, inspire new avenues of research, and nurture a growing sense of community within the department. The symposium has become an annual tradition within Michigan’s Department of Chemistry.

The Vaughan Symposium is a one-day meeting consisting of six oral presentations by students representing each of the subdivisions within chemistry; two poster session including graduate students, post-docs and undergraduates (~100 posters); an industrial research presentation from the sponsor (Dow Chemical 2008 – present); and a keynote presentation by an individual selected by the organizing committee (Prof. Edward Solomon from Stanford University is the 2011 speaker).

# of active student members: 15
# of graduate student members: 15

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”. 
Average attendance at group meetings (Board, committee, event planning, etc.): 15
Average attendance at similar events: 15
Average graduate student attendance at similar events: 15

How often does your group meet? Once a month

Does your group charge dues to members? Yes No

Do all of your activities/events take place on campus? If yes, where do you prefer to hold your programs? If not, where else do they take place?

Yes. All activities take place in the Chemistry building atrium and large lecture hall.

Does your group engage in political activity, i.e., electoral, partisan, etc.? If so, describe this activity.

No

Does your group engage in lobbying efforts? If so, describe these efforts.

No

Does your group work with any University department or other student organizations in any capacity? If so, please describe this collaboration.

Chemistry department has been a sponsor for the symposium, covering most of the cost of running the symposium.

Is your group affiliated with a national, parent, and/or umbrella organization? If so, please describe this relationship and how it plays a role in your organization's functioning.

No.
Event Description

Event name: Vaughan Symposium 2011
Event date(s): July 28, 2011
Event location: Chemistry building

1. Briefly describe this event. What is its overall purpose?

The Vaughan Symposium is a one-day meeting consisting of six oral presentations by students representing each of the subdivisions within chemistry; two poster session including graduate students, post-docs and undergraduates (~100 posters); an industrial research presentation from the sponsor (Dow Chemical 2008 – present); and a keynote presentation by an individual selected by the organizing committee (Prof. Edward Solomon from Stanford University is the 2011 speaker).

2. Describe how this event will affect our campus and the graduate student body.

The Vaughan Symposium at the University of Michigan provides an opportunity for student and postdocs to showcase their research to one another. Through participants presenting their work to the department as a whole, students foster collaborations, inspire new avenues of research, and nurture a growing sense of community within the department. The symposium has become an annual tradition within Michigan’s Department of Chemistry with over 20% being outside the chemistry department.

3. Describe how this event will include other groups or departments.

Any student or post-doc at the University of Michigan is eligible to participate. Thus, students who do not normally interact with other members of the Chemistry department (PIBS, Chemical Biology, LSI, BSRB, Med School etc) have a chance to network and learn about research that goes on in the rest of the department.

4. With which other groups or departments are you sponsoring this event, if any?

Graduate Student Council, Department of Chemistry
Dow Chemical Company sponsor awards, but that money cannot be used to actually run the symposium.

5. If your organization is traveling, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community.

N/A

6. If your organization is purchasing food, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Also, what is the approximate food cost/attendee?

This is a one whole day event filled with talks and poster presentations, which leaves no time for people to go out to get their own food. This also greatly facilitates interactions between the speaker, faculty, students, and Dow sponsors. It is also an added incentive for participation by students and post-docs.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”. 
7. If your organization is bringing a speaker, performer, DJ, photographer (or any other paid individual for services rendered), explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Please explain how the amount he or she will be paid was determined based on similar services. Additionally, attach a short biography to the end of this application.

The speaker is entirely student selected, so they always feel welcomed by the students and we have had very good success with past speakers. We only reimburse speaker's transportation and lodging cost and pay for his dinner with students, and in the end we present them with a commemorative plaque. There is no honorarium.

This year's keynote speaker is Prof. Edward Solomon from Stanford University. Edward I. Solomon grew up in North Miami Beach, Florida, received his Ph.D. at Princeton (1972) and was a postdoctoral fellow at The Ørsted Institute in Denmark and at Caltech. He started his career at MIT in late 1975, became a full professor in 1981, and joined the faculty at Stanford in 1982 where he is now the Monroe E. Spaght Professor of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of Photon Science at SSRL. He has been a visiting professor in France, Argentina, Japan, China and India. He has received ACS Awards in Inorganic Chemistry, Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry, and the Ira Remsen Award, the Centenary Medal from the Royal Society of Chemistry (UK), the Wheland Medal from the University of Chicago, the Bailar Medal from the University of Illinois, the Frontiers in Biological Chemistry Award from the Max-Planck-Institute (Mülheim), the Chakravorty Award from the Chemical Research Society of India and the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Stanford. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow in American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society.

Professor Solomon's research is in the fields of Physical-Inorganic, Bioinorganic, and Theoretical-Inorganic Chemistry. His focus is on spectroscopic elucidation of the electronic structure of transition metal complexes and its contribution to reactivity. He has developed new spectroscopic and electronic structure methods and applied these to active sites in catalysis. He has made significant contributions to our understanding of metal sites involved in electron transfer, copper sites involved in O₂ binding, activation and reduction to water, and in structure/function correlations over non-heme iron enzymes.

8. If your organization is applying for capital goods (anything that can be reused after the event has taken place), explain why such goods are integral to the event.

None

9. Who is eligible to participate? (Keep in mind the more diverse the graduate student participation, the more likely RSG will fund)

Graduate and undergraduate students and post-docs who work with faculty affiliated with the Chemistry department.

10. How many participants do you expect? ~200

11. Are your date and location confirmed? Yes No

12. Will you charge admission? Yes No

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
If so, how much per person?

13. Will this be donated to charity? Yes No
   If yes, what percentage will be donated?

14. How do you intend to advertise, in particular to graduate students?

   Email, website (http://www.umich.edu/~vvaughan/), flyers.

15. To what other funding bodies have you applied and/or have received funds from? Please note each funding body here, the amount for which you applied, the amount that was granted, and to what purpose you intend to put those allocated funds. Requests of funding for the majority of events cost solely to RSG will rarely be fully funded, please seek out additional funding sources as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Granted</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry Dept</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td>Run symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSC</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Run symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dow Chemical</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Awards – not to be used for running event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. If RSG does not fully fund your event in the amount requested, how do you intend to cover those costs? Will the event still be held?

   The event will still be held, but committee members (graduate students) might have to volunteer to pay for necessities out of their own pockets without being reimbursed, which was the case last year. This year’s speaker’s flight ticket is ~$500 more expensive than last year’s because he is flying from California. Last year we ran out of food halfway through lunch, and therefore we made an increase in the allotment of funds for the food.
# Event Budget

List all expenses. Please use the notes section below each category to explain costs in greater detail. Be sure to cover ALL costs, not just those you are asking RSG for funding for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from RSG</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advertising &amp; Publicity</strong> <em>(Please attach a copy of emails/fliers to the end of this application.)</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Posters/fliers</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Office supplies (please specify): folders, frames, name tags</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Printing &amp; Publications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities &amp; Equipment Rental</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Equipment (please specify):</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We use easels from Chem.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Room rental: held in Chem.</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker honorarium</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker travel</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker lodging</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other: speaker plaque</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lodging</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vehicle Rental</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gas</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Goods</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• T-shirts</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food:</strong> breakfast, lunch, coffee</td>
<td>$2700</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other:</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$5450</td>
<td>$1200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please remember to attach a mock-up version of the flier, publication, or t-shirt design with the RSG logo or “Sponsored by the Rackham Student Government” statement to your application.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.

Q: Why are there white boxes around the images on my shirt? Will they show up when the shirts are printed?

A: Sometimes a white background square appears around an image on the shirt template. The graphic designers have simply placed your original image in the template for your approval. The white boxes will not print on the shirt, only the image itself will appear.

Q: The shade of the print/garment color doesn’t look exactly like I’d expected. How do I know what the exact color will be?

A: The color that will be printed is written on the approval. Because monitor settings vary, it’s impossible to create the exact color in the template that will be printed. Contact your salesperson via phone or email if you have concerns about the color, and they will show you the various ways to ensure the color printed on your items is what you wanted.

Q: How do I know how big/small the design will be?

A: The exact dimensions of the design are listed on the art approval. Due to many factors, we cannot show you an exact to-scale representation of what your shirt will look like. The dimensions are either our standard dimensions or those you established with your salesperson. If you have questions or concerns about the size of your design, please contact your salesperson via phone or email.

Q: Why does that garment not look exactly like the one I picked out?

A: The image on the template of your garment itself is simply an approximation of one style of an item. Your actual item is listed on the art approval. The template version is there for your reference only and to quickly confirm we’re putting your design on the correct type of garment. If you’re concerned you might not be getting the correct garment, please contact your salesperson via phone or email.

Common Questions:

Please look over this approval page and verify that the following is correct:
- Spelling
- Color Schemes
- Sizing Specifications
- Location

****PLEASE BE AWARE that after artwork (INCLUDING DIMENSIONS) has been approved, it is authorized for printing and therefore must be treated as final approval with no further changes to be made. Please verify that all artwork and dimensions are correct before giving final approval.****

Original: Job Name: 34499_Pecrum
Garment: T-Shirt
Color/s: Navy
Location: Full Back
Size: 10” x 12.5”
Ink Colors: White

Back:
Location: Full Front
Size: 10” X 4.5”
Ink Colors: White

Department of Chemistry Graduate Student Council
Department of Chemistry
RACKHAM
MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY