I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:16pm

   a. **Present:** Representatives Pat P., Michael B., Stefan T., David W., Malcom T., VP Mbagwu, President Saccone
   
   b. **Absent:** Chris Tom, Matt W., Matt K.
   
   c. **Excused:** Adam D., Yang W., David B.

II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   Moved to approve with amendment for appointments by Pat P., seconded by MB. Approved unanimously.

III. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

   Motion to approve by MB, seconded by Malcom T. Approved unanimously.

IV. **Appointment of Representatives**

   Phil would like to appoint David Malewski as a representative to the Board. He has been a great logistical coordinator towards many committees last term, and a great asset towards the SAGE trip last term. It is my pleasure to appoint him to RSG.

   Motion by David W., seconded by MB.

   Pat P.: Just curious, why did you not run in the election?

   David M.: I was taking on a lot of responsibilities with research, and made an agreement not to run for positions etc. Some of those requirements have now passed (prelims), and I can definitely put in the time.

   Phil: Happy to have you here.

   MB: There were a few open seats due to non-acceptances and other issues.

   Phil: With no further objections, we will now proceed to the roll call vote.
V. Introductions

Round of introductions for all current and new members of the Board.

Phil: Feel free to email any of the execs if you have any questions, etc. Welcome to the Board!

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone

Spring/summer is generally somewhat slower than in the fall and winter. We have more time to reflect and plan ahead. We run fun social events, as well as brainstorm for the larger issues in the fall and winter. There are some previous/pending issues that RSG has been working on during the Winter term. VAWA, and GSI/GSRA background checks.

VAWA resolution is public knowledge and we can resend that out to the student body. Chuky and I are scheduling a meeting with the provost to discuss that and the instructor evaluations, and background checks. We garnered lots of support for this, but they seem to be dragging their feet on this. Before we get the provost, we are meeting with an associate dean to get more information. We’ll have more to say on that as things progress.

b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu

Review of the committee slates. Motion to approve by Chuky M., seconded by David M.

VOTE
Approved 8-0-0

c. Treasurer (Vacant)

We have about $22,000. Ran under budget during the Winter term. Detailed budget summary forthcoming next meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Academic Affairs Committee

Phil: Last semester was a big success in taking care of the AA prior.

b. Budgetary Committee

Chuky: This committee is concerned with supporting events, resources, and professional development relevant to grad students. We did a great job getting out
the money to student orgs last term. We also have pending funding apps, so new budgetary committee will hit the ground running.

Motion to receive and approve minutes by Chuky, seconded by David M. Approved unanimously.

c. **Elections Committee**
   
   N/A

d. **Communications Committee**
   
   Phil: This is currently a standing committee, but is a very important one as it is our primary correspondence with the student body. This includes the newsletter and email list servers. We need to think of the website and newletters as a critical tool at our disposal for the benefit of the student body. Those with ideas of how to improve Communications don’t hesitate to raise them, can also be used as a recruitment tool for the Board. We need someone to take up the newsletter responsibilities, VP is primary responsible for committee and newsletter but it will be a group effort.

   Phil stresses the importance of your input, so please contribute!

e. **Legislative Affairs Committee**
   
   Michael B: This committee tackles advocacy of issues on local, state, and federal level. Dave M has done a phenomenal job tracking state issues. Some of these issues directly affect grad students, others more indirectly. We’ve met with members of administration to discuss these, we’ve also coordinated with MSU to jointly advocate on state issues. Medicare and healthcare changes as a result of Affordable Care Act are being tracked and worked on. There is plenty more that is ongoing, so I’m glad there is large interest. MB covers more issues.

   Phil: In the near future, there’s a student loan refinancing (targeted at undergrads) bill that is being passed through the Senate. We, along with SAGE, are pushing for support of this bill, but also emphasizing the necessity of a graduate student component/corollary. We also have SAGE Fall Summit and Day on the Hill, many things going on and it’s very exciting.

   MB: If you have any separate issues that, please bring them up so the committee/board can also track and support.

f. **Student Life Committee**
   
   Phil: We already have an event coming up, Tiger’s Game. It’s always a fun time, and we do need volunteers/chaperones. We also have Day in the Park event
coming up, taking place at Gallup Park later in the summer (late June). We should also budget for Happy Hours for the summer.

Student life is a very important committee and one of the RSG’s main functions (along with student org funding). It mainly serves to improve quality of life for grad students.

VIII. Break out session: RSG Priorities

Phil: I’d like to take suggestions on what RSG should be involved in. Broken it up into the 5 categories.

Academic Issues
Pat: What was the GPA scale issue?
MB: Explains the change from a 9.0 gpa scale to a standardized 4.0 gpa.

Phil: There was also an academic issue with GSI-ing and having grading responsibilities while also trying finish classes. Will get more info on it, Ryne Peterson was covering it prior.

Pat: It seems like the…

MB: Standardizing the definition of what it means to be a “PhD Candidate.” This affects many things including tuition. We also covered continuous enrollment in the past, it would be good to follow-up and see how many people have used this and its effect and then do a reevaluation.

Phil: There is a big pressure from the acceleration of advancement to Candidacy to offset tuition costs associated with pre-Candidacy. Some departments take the quals late into their 3rd year, after coursework, teaching, etc. I think it’s something that we should definitely look into, I just don’t anticipate them making a lot of moves in this space.

MB: Masters students’ office space is also another issue, but likely won’t be resolved due to constraints on individual departments. There is a new dean of the libraries (?) so this could be low-hanging fruit for the AA committee to look into over the summer.

Student Services Issues (non-academic)
Phil: On north campus they are removing/closing some of the essential services such as CAPS, registrar, potentially fin-aid, and other. We can also look into professional resources, especially for non-engineering students.

David W.: The centralization of departmental staffers/administrators. This affects grad students in multiple ways. Gives anecdotal evidence regarding issues with finding and getting scholarships.
Phil: When this was first brought up, it was clear that there were potential avenues that grad students could be affected. Also when the faculty were protesting this, grad students input was not requested so it would be difficult to get an “in” to the conversation. It is important to get evidence and stories like David’s to show a clear impact.

Pat: Some of the communication needed for building or manufacturing necessitates person-to-person communication and not email. We need persons with “domain knowledge” on site to tackle some of these problems. There is a loss of productivity trying to go through centralized mechanisms for non-standard needs.

Phil: We can definitely poll the student body for more input on these things. I am leaning towards doing a poll in the fall as opposed to summer.

MB: I would recommend against it – sometime in the past we got a large turnout on a summer survey and I think we should go for it.

Pat: It’s important to figure out how far along on the rollout of the this centralized system we are.

Phil: Do we know when this rollout is supposed to be completed?

MB: It was set to be completed during the winter term, but apparently there was relatively strong opposition from the faculty which delayed things. As it stands now, folks that were going to be moved to Shared Services are still going to but potentially at a later date.

Phil: All in all, we need to get a better handle on what’s going on with the centralization/shared services. Let’s continue to talk to people in our programs and our administrators about this issue.

Phil: Another Academic Issue – RSG’s relationship with the President’s Office needs to be improved and we have an opportunity to do so with the new President. This is someone who we would like to bring into the Board once a year.

[INSERT VAWA, INSTRUCTOR EVALS, ETC INTO AA PRIORITIES here]

Local Issues
MB: Continuing to strengthen our (already strong) relationship with the city. Creating a housing advisory group to advise local developers as to what “young professionals” want in their projects. Also, planning to host an election forum in the fall on state-wide ballot proposals.

Social Events
Suggestions: More adult themed events, dance party, coffee time event, RSG “talk to your constituents” event, and more. Send RSG reps to strategic points on campus with coffee and bagels. Perhaps in the summertime is a prime time to reach constituents.

Pat: Perhaps we can make a pamphlet with our current issues that we’re tackling and request input from constituents on what else we can cover.

State/Federal Issues
Phil: I recommend that LAC puts something together for this category and report it back to the Board.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION
None.

X. Dissolve Winter 2014 Board
Motion to dissolve W14 board retroactively on May 1st by Pat, seconded MB. Approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by MB, seconded by Pat. Approved unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 8:25pm.