RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
07/16/2015
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:30 P.M.

I. Call To Order 6:37pm
   a. Present: Doug, Lu, Lindsay, David B, Kyle, Sriram, Michael B, Abneris, Chuky
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Nate, Katie, Buke

II. Approval of the agenda
Motioned Chuky
Seconded by Kyle
approved unanimously

III. Approval of the previous minutes
motioned by Lindsay
seconded by Doug
approved unanimously

IV. Officer Reports
   a. President:
Chuky: Not much of an update. We were approached by IT office to appoint a grad student to
their counsel. We’ve usually appointed someone in the past so if you are interested please let me
know. I can reach out to Mike Hand so that those interested can have an idea of what the position
entails. We are looking to appoint someone before the end of August. We do have an open
application for everyone but at least one of the position should be filled by RSG
Lindsay do you know what this position would entail?
Chuky: I can give you more information if you are interested.
Lindsay: I would be interested in more information.

   b. Vice-president
Abneris: Not much to update on the VP side of things. I will give several updates as chair of
AAC and SLC. On the VP side I can say that I recently was part of a focus group to create a new
division or committee for First Generation Graduate Students. This group was composed of other
student leaders in Rackham from SCOR, RSG, several International Student Organizations etc.
We sat down and shared our stories and difficulties in graduating from undergraduate degrees
being first generation and applying/pursuing a graduate degree. Rackham Office of Graduate
Student Success wanted our feedback and suggestions on how they could make this transition
easier for incoming graduate students. My suggestion as a first-gen was to create a separate
orientation for first gens at fall orientation. Have us sit down and talk about our experiences and how we worked through our difficulties as first gent. In this orientation incoming first generation students could talk to us in a more one-on-one environment. Maybe in the future even before fall orientation. I will keep you posted since I know some of you expressed in the past that you were also first generation students and wanted to stay involved. On our social media presence I am working on increasing our following on Facebook since it’s not even 1% of the students we represent. Also I am working on a Newsletter that should be out by the end of the week.

c. Treasurer
Chuky: Since Buke is away I’ll just give an update on the finances. We have ~$24000 in our account and only one funding request pending this summer.

V. Committee Reports
a. Academic Affairs:
Lindsay: Kyle meet with the CRLT and I will let him talk a little more about that shortly. AAC is working on hosting a speed networking event with approximately 10 speakers. A mix of faculty, think-tank PhDs, corporate research PhDs, PhDs with start ups etc. In this event we would have approximately 10 students per table participating. The idea of the event is to give graduate students an idea of what carrier alternatives they have when thinking about post graduation work. We’ve also talked about advocating for Increasing the travel grant allowance or at the very least make if a cumulative grant where you can apply more than once a year as long as you don't exceed a certain grant amount. I think that is what we have to update on for now. Kyle do you want to talk about your meeting with CRLT?
Kyle: Yes, we did get an opportunity to meet with the CRLT a couple of things we learned were that the stopped doing education research.
Abneris: Yes, the registrar’s office is doing it instead.
Kyle: Yes. Also, each department sets their own evaluations they are not standardized. CRLT publishes training operating procedures and a GSI training procedures. These are extensively researched manuals which are available online and they gave us copy of. We looked them over and we saw they are very indepth and helpful. CRLT also offers mandatory training (for engineering) or hybrid variants with other schools such as LSA. LSA does not participate in the mandatory training, they offer it on an opt-in basis for each department. However, the resource is available.
Chuky: How does that work? Why is engineering mandatory and others are not?
Kyle: Apparently it’s part of the GEO contract. Also there is no mandatory sexual harassment seminar which is unacceptable. Last thing is that CRLT does a training for GSMS. Since they are the ones who essentially develop training for GSI in departments like chemistry we think the best option would be making this GSM training mandatory. We will be meeting with GEO next week and get some more information about the engineering department and see if we have similar concerns regarding GSI training.
Abneris: CRLT has numerous resources we could that we could make the graduate student body aware of. Like, special training for post-docs and one on one consulting. In addition there were numerous seminars that specifically answer questions like for example grading.

MB: you mentioned that you don't know how widespread the problem is psychology, material sciences, physics, chem and some other departments to my knowledge give personalized GSI trainings. Also I agree that you should go meet with Tabby.

Lindsay: I also asked Aby about the course evaluations resolution

Abneris: Yes, I mentioned it to Chuky. Could you give us an update on that?

Chuky: RSG made a resolution on 2013 for the publishing of the course evals. The data is already available but it’s not published. It was brought to the faculty and dean meeting. Usual pushback.

MB: Board approved the resolution it was taken to the provost. It’s in the registrar's office and it should be public in the winter. All the resolutions we’ve passed since 2009 are available on our website.

b. Budgetary

Chuky: Budgetary committee will be meeting next week. We have one application. Get the word out there that we have funding.

c. Legislative Affairs

MB: LAC next week is canceled. We will be meeting three weeks from now. We will start bylaw review. We will be looking to reconvene in three weeks. Lots going on. Notes will be given on the next meeting.

d. Student Life

i. Review of Karaoke

Abneris: The karaoke night was a complete success. We even got positive feedback on facebook. Everyone that came expressed that they thought it was a great event and everyone got a chance to mingle and network with students from other departments which was my favorite part. But I’ll let Sriram tell you more about it because he was the star of the night.

Sriram: We had about 40 people at all times. I would estimate that about 55-60 people were there. We had a great time and the event was a success.

ii. Social events

Abneris: we have more social events coming up but for next week I am trying to get a Meet Up on the books. However, everyone is out of town and I have handled the previous events so if anyone wants to help me out it would be very much appreciated. If I am not able to make this work our next event would be our band night.

iii. Northwood university family housing

Lindsay: The issue is that the language on the current housing contracts does not necessarily include same sex couples, unless they are married or in a domestic partnership. Most universities like ours have more flexible language. We would like to make it explicitly inclusive so that non nuclear families can be included.
MB: I would talk to the division of student life housing. Specifically the director of Northwood.

VI. Open discussion
MB: a lot of our meetings aren't on the RSG website and if the chairs can put it on the calendar. Lindsay: are social events included? MB: There is an extra calendar for social events

VII. Adjournment
MB: motion to adjourn. Seconded by Sriram. No objections