RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17th, 2015  
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING  
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE  
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:11 pm  
a. Present: Representatives Aaron, Nate, Brandon, Caitlin, Katie, Lu, Kyle, Dough, Vice-president Rodriguez, President Mbagwu  
b. Absent:  
c. Excused: 

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
Moved by Chuky  
Seconded by Katie  
Approved unanimously  

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES  
Motioned by Abneris  
Seconded by Nathan  
Approved with one abstention  

IV. OFFICER REPORTS  
a. PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
Chuky: Welcome all and thank you for serving on RSG! Most of you are returning members so I’ll keep the intro short. RSG works to advocate pertinent issues that affect graduate students.  
Branden: Will we do a recap of current issues?  
Chuky: yes! We will be doing that during the priority sec  
Chuky: To talks a bit about the Rackham Fall Welcome, we had the info fair in the morning and the social. This was held about two weeks ago. We had over 150 people sign up for interest in RSG in the info fair in the morning. We are very hopeful for filling up the remaining seats. The fall social went very well. We had a great number of our board volunteer. We had 850 students attend. We had a DJ, a bounce house and field games. Our feedback was mostly good. Something people wanted to see more arranged games. Anyone want to share their experience from the event?  
Katie: It was really fun to see new students and current students. I think a point of improvement I think would be to promote this event with the administration and departments so that they will encourage students to attend.  
Nate: how many departments actually promote the fall welcome?  
Lu: Also some departments hold their own orientations at the same time, maybe we could aim to avoid those time conflicts.
Chuky: Student appointments email went out. The entire student body is eligible to participate in SACUA. Students get to serve on different issues. I would encourage this board to apply to those too. You can find those applications in the same application we included applications to the RSG open seats.

Katie: Who reads these committee applications? Are they looking for students that have experience in the areas they are interested in?
Chuky: There is no requirement to have previous experience. The reviewers are actually RSG exec. Generally looking for someone who has shown some leadership and a well rounded application.

Kaitlyn: What's the timing for filling the remaining chairs?
Chuky: We are looking to have them done at least for the next board meeting. This timeline is flexible however.

Chuky: Our next agenda item, we have been working with SAPAC in the past. They put together an online training and they asked for RSG reps to try out that training. I will hand it over to Katie who attended this focus group so we can get her feedback.

Katie: SAPAC is rolling out a training for graduate students to better understand what constitutes sexual assault/harassment and to improve their prevention training. The clery act does not necessarily include graduate students so that’s when our input is needed. In the focus group, there was a lot of changing the language of the training and making it more approachable. It is interactive and enjoyable to take. They have attempted to make it as easy to go through the training, and in my opinion they have done exactly that. However, I am not entirely sure who will be taking this training. If it will be incoming students or current students. The program is called Haven: Understanding Sexual Assault. It will include situations where student might encounter sexual assault or harassment.

Chuky: Just to add to that, this is for students and because of the close relationship between grad students and faculty we might want to support this training as we have in the past. However, to me it is important to get the training to cover the faculty as well.

Next agenda item, at the beginning of the summer there was interest to do a team building seminar. I’ve been in contact with them. This is an interactive workshop and it will be free of cost.

Kaitlyn: do we know more about them? I am curious.
Chuky: I don't know much about their organization but the workshop consist of several group activities that ultimately lead to team building and good practices for a group that works together constantly. Are you all interested in doing that still?

There are no objections.

Last piece, we had a couple of resignations during the summer. The first was David Barton he has been of the board for two years. He was very active as a board member, especially on the Budgetary Committee. He will be missed. The second was Montana he was division one rep and he found that his work schedule wouldn't allow him to serve as a representative this term.

b. VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Abneris: Hello all, I wanted to talk to you all today about Rackham Volunteer Corp. This is a fairly new division of the office for graduate success. I have personally been part of this organization and I have to encourage you all to join and to tell your constituents. You only need to sign up for two volunteer opportunities and the time commitment for each is 4 hours. These two take place throughout the semester. They also give you food and transportation for being there and we have a nice dinner at the beginning and end of each term. I think that if you’ve ever wondered how to get more involved in the Ann Arbor community this is a nice start.
Secondly, I wanted to talk about our First Generation Students group. We will be continuously meeting throughout the semester and the idea is to create a support system for incoming grad students. We already had a dinner and we are planning on creating an email with first gens that are interested in mentoring. The email will have the first gens elevator pitch and the contact information for said person. The idea is that if I put my elevator pitch in there people will see it and think Oh! She is a first gen that’s also a scientist and/or a latina, for example, and contact me. We want to create this space because it’s not easy starting a degree much less continuing a graduate degree and to have no one that can relate to what you are going to. Specially when parents can't really understand what challenges you are facing.

c. TREASURER’S REPORT

Chuky: We are doing well financially. We have 38,000. We are trying to make sure we give that out this term. Please make sure to see the packet and do a budget memorandum for committees. If you have any receipts for expenses during the summer please send them to Buke.

V. COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

Chuky: The committee slates are in the agenda packet that I shared with all last night. Does anyone motion to approve the committee slates or are there any questions/suggestions?
Kyle motions to approve the committee slates
seconded by Aaron
Chuky: This is a roll call vote. I will call the roll.
Lu: yes
Katie: yes
Branden: yes
Doug: yes
Nate: yes
Kaitlyn: yes
Aaron: yes
Kyle: yes
Abneris: yes
Chuky: yes
Approved unanimously
Chuky: One last point. Those that are in bold please schedule the first meeting time. First two agenda items for committees are to elect a chair and to select a budget

VI. PRIORITIES FOR RSG
a. SUMMER PRIORITIES
   i. GSI training: We are looking to improve GSI training across the board. It is different in each department. There is no consistency for what the training offers. What we are trying to do is have departments submit their training and the planning for training. We want to know if they are using CRLT or if they are doing their own what are they teaching their new GSIs.
   ii. Professional development and networking workshops (alternative career mentoring)
   iii. International student extended internship: graduate international students have visa issues when attempting to do an extended internship (coop). More specifically, master’s students.
   iv. Student survey: we are trying to push this out by the end of this fall. We are really looking for people who are dedicated and want to push this forward.
   v. Congress newsletter: We want to keep our congress updated on everything and not just talk to them about graduate student issues once a year when we go to DC.
   vi. Inclusive family housing: spearheaded by Lindsay. It’s an initiative to have more inclusive language in the family housing complexes on campus.

b. NEW IDEAS
   i. Work on increasing our division diversity. It would be great to see more efforts on our part to increase our representation on of the humanities and have them come to our board and bring their insight.
   ii. Advertise our budget better and emailing graduate student organizations to use our resources to their advantage.
   iii. More joint grad students and professional students events
   iv. Focus more on a local and state level legislation and not invest all of our efforts into federal issues.
   v. Recently, there was a proposal to lower the speed limit to 25 mph I would like to see someone in legislative represent how this would affect grad students lives.
   vi. Find a way to facilitate dual degrees and help dual degree students
   vii. Finding ways to better cater to Master’s students needs.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

   a. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
      Abneris motion to approve the previous committee minutes
      Seconded by Kyle
b. BUDGETARY COMMITTEE
Motion to approve the previous minutes by Kyle
Seconded by Dough
Approved with one abstention

 VIII- OPEN DISCUSSION:
Cuky: we will be holding a BWW mixer after next board meeting next week to socialize among ourselves. Are there any questions or more for open discussion? I motion that we adjourn.
Seconded by Nathan

ADJOURNMENT at 8:15pm.