Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: August 12, 2014

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. July 29, 2014
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Chuky
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Vacant
V. Individual Projects
VI. Student Body Poll
VII. Conflict of Interest for Students
    a. Students for the committee
VIII. Committee Reports
    a. Academic Affairs
    b. Budgetary
    c. Communications Committee
    d. Legislative Affairs
    e. Student Life
       i. Fall picnic
IX. Open Discussion
X. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes July 29 (p. 2)
LAC Minutes July 29 (p. 7)
SLC Minutes July Aug 5 (p. 10)
Individual Projects Form (p. 12)
I. **CALL TO ORDER**: 7:12pm  
   a. **Present**: Representatives Mike Hand, David Barton, Dave Malewski, Pier Davis, Malcom Tariq, Pat Pannuto, David Weinreich, Michael Benson, President Saccone,  
   b. **Absent**: Representatives Sidney Ellington  
   c. **Excused**: Representative Stefan Turic, Vice President Mbagwu  

II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
Michael Benson moved approval. Seconded by Dave M. Approved Unanimously  

III. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
Motion by David B. seconded by MB. Approved unanimously with 1 abstention.  

IV. **OFFICER REPORTS**  
   a. **President Michael Benson**  
   Welcome everyone! It’s been a while but I’m really happy to see you. We’ve had a very busy summer even though the Board hasn’t meet much this month. We’ve had a fuller pool event, a bar night, and more. We also helped to advertise for Cedar Point which got rave reviews from those that went. In addition we sent out a packed edition of the gazette. Since our last meeting, I met with Provost Martha Pollack. The main topics of our meetings were VAWA, instructor evaluations, and the inclusion of a student representative for the search to find Dean Weiss’s successor. The Dean of the graduate school affects our lives more than most graduate students know. It’s imperative that a graduate student be on the committee. On the upside, I did get a solid commitment to go ahead with the instructor evaluations. It seems that the provost does want to give deans and department chairs the opportunity to weigh in, but at the same time she wants to move forward with this. Vice Provost Holloway is taking the lead on this issue from the central administration. Our current timeline is to have this up and running by January.  

   We passed a resolution last semester regarding university sexual assault training; including faculty in the new mandate for young faculty and students. The provost was unwilling to commit to requiring all faculty to go through such training but
did suggest working with the director of SAPAC to look into the effectiveness of such training for faculty. We can talk about this more in open discussion if people want to bring it up.

I also got a firm commitment from the provost that there will be at least one graduate student on the search committee. And I pushed to ensure that the Dean will be appointing the student.

I would like to thank our former vice president, Kaitlin Flynn, for helping with the last Gazette.

b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu

c. Treasurer VACANT

**Phil:** We currently have $19,102.49 in our account. We are on or below budget in just about every area. Things are going very well.

V. **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**

**Phil:** As some of you might have been gathering from my emails, I’ve been reflecting a bit on how RSG is managed. I’m really interested in letting up the reigns in letting representatives take the lead on projects. I think we’re getting a little top heavy and I see this as a way to help fix that. We keep trying to put together a session where we talk about what’s important to us. We haven’t done that for the last two semesters. We’re going to do it now. We need to know what drew you to RSG and we need to capitalize on that. The student life committee has done a great job pulling items together for their committee. Everyone needs to have an individual project. However you don’t have to have an update each week. Sometimes there won’t be. Also, this fall, we’re going to be surveying the student body. If you have a suggestion for how you think we should go about this, please email me. We’re going to try to get this out very early in the new semester.

**Academic**

- Transparency in how course and degree requirements are created (PAT)
  - Motivation is funding in certain areas in CSE.
  - Pipeline for feedback from students.
- Course Bank for Candidates (Sidney)
- Accurate and up to date coursebook (Michael B.)
  - For planning purposes (Who last taught and when. Also when will it be taught next, for real.)
- Financial offer to students changed midway through (David W.)
- Instructor Evals (Mike H.)
- Journal Access (Mike H.)
- Research Oriented Seminars (Mike H.) How to handle paper or author issues.
  - ENGIN DOES THIS.
• Streamlined interface to see where credits were applied for students here for multiple degrees (Mike H.)
• COLA for Stipend (Sidney)
• Flexibility in cognate requirements.
• Standard allotment for time for students to do professional development activities.

Local / State / Federal
• Realtors force students to leave their apartment for ~ 2 weeks. (Sidney)
  o 11.5 month leases charged for 12 months
• Partnership AAATA and the University (David W.)
  o Grad students can’t get out of Ann Arbor
• Detroit Connector after bars close (Pat)
• Student Police Relations (Sidney)
  o “AAPD are harsh on students”
• Medicaid (David)
• Non-Partisan Local elections (Pat)
  o Ann Arbor is one of only three municipalities in the state that has partisan local elections.
  o If you want to vote in the democratic primary for mayor you can’t vote in any of the republican primaries.

Student Services
• Better Summer Busses (Mike H.)
  o 20 minutes between campuses
• Later Campus Buses (Pat)
  o Night ride doesn’t fill the need. We need an hourly bus 24/7.
• Gym and Recreation Facilities (Pat)
  o Auctioning on the new plan re the North Campus moving it to the top of the list.
• Football Ticket priority discussion (Michael B)
• Pierpont Bus stops (Dave W)
  o Stops are spread out
  o Better Shelter
  o Indication for where the next bus is coming
• Central and Medical Campus bus stops (need pinch point)
• More restaurant Diversity (Michael B)
• Pedestrian Management at State and South U (Pat)
• Does each college have a graduate student group? (Phil)
• College or school level graduate organization/advocates.

Social Events
• Community Events (Pat)
We organize teams and advertise to the student body to join
- Subsidize a bit
  - Poker Night (Dave W.)
  - Casino Night (Michael B.)
  - Grad Student Formal (Pat)
  - Lions Game / Preseason (Michael)
  - Pinball Petes
  - Nature Walks
  - Community Service Events
  - Shakespeare in the Arb.
  - More exclusive Rackham stuff—more
  - Movie night
  - Wine tasting
  - Dancing night.
  - Introduce RSG reps at events
  - Roller rink

**Communications**

- Contacting more student associations and coordinate happy hours.
- Can Rackham promote us...... advertise our committee meetings, and our existence.
- Weekly blogger for RSG stuff.
- Department orientation with RSG stuff.

**VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a. **Academic Affairs Committee**
   David B: We met today. We’re going to look into candidacy requirements across different programs and will decide if we need to do anything. **Motion** to receive and approve the minutes. **Michael** Seconded. Approved unanimously.

b. **Budgetary Committee**
   **Michael:** Nothing to report.

c. **Communications**

d. **Legislative Affairs Committee**
   **Phil:** Last week I directed the LAC to start a phone campaign to lobby against the passage of HR. 3393 the *Student And Family Education Tax Simplification Act.* The bill would take the majority of higher education benefits and combine them. The issue is that the bill would limit such benefits to 4 years. At the SAGE level,
the chairperson, Katie Lavoie from UNC and I directed the SAGE members to do the same. Many schools did this including Michigan, Ohio State, and UNC. It was introduced in the Senate and we’re going to be keeping a tight eye on this. Also, so everyone knows, we’re going to review the bylaws tonight. We will have some recommendations for the Board shortly. If you have changes that you’d like to see in the bylaws, please email me or Michael.

Michael: I move that we receive and approve the committee minutes in the packet. Seconded by Dave M. Approved unanimously.

e. Student Life Committee
Kyle: Um, so there were some social events last week. I briefly attended the bar night bust mostly went and got nametags. Benson said the pool was wet.

Mike: We made a suggestion box.

Kyle: In your packet there is a spreadsheet of the categories that we previously brainstormed in a prior board meeting and committee meeting where we talked about progress on issues. If there is an issue that doesn’t have a person’s name assigned, it’s up for grabs. Feel free to contact me or Mike to take charge. I move that we receive and approve the minutes. Michael Benson seconds.

Mike H: I object, I was excused for the meeting.

Phil: Is that friendly to the mover and seconder?

Kyle: Yes

Michael: Yes

The objection was withdrawn and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

David M. moved that we adjourn seconded by Kyle Lady. Approved Unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 8:07pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:15p

a. Present: Representatives David Malewski, Patrick Pannuto, Michel Benson, David Barton, President Phil Saccone

b. Absent: Alex G

c. Excused: Vice President Chuky M

II. Chair’s Report
Michael: Stuff is happening
Phil: I gave the SAGE report at the Board meeting. I would like to hear from everyone that was assigned to make a phone call and what response was given.

Dave M: Made the phone call. Didn’t have a good connection. Sent emails.
Pat: Didn’t make the phone calls.
David B: Didn’t make any phone calls
Phil: I spoke with people Justin Amash, Huizinga, and Benesheck (sp).
Amash voted no!
Michael: I spoke with the folks in Camp’s office as well as Rep. Levin’s office.

Phil: The bill didn’t pass with a huge majority. It wasn’t a clear party-line vote.

III. Regent’s election forum with SCOR
Phil: As some of you may know, there is a regents election coming up. There is one person, Regent White, who is up for re-election. There is another seat open, that is going to be an open seat. This is critically important for students and the university as a whole. I was approached by GEO and SCOR to host an election forum. GEO and the AFL-CIO will be endorsing. They won’t be a part of our forum as we will be impartial. However, they will helping to get their people to attend. I would like someone to volunteer to coordinate the event with SCOR. This won’t take much time or effort. I’m here to help (As is Michael) this won’t be on you on your own but we do need help.

IV. Election forum
Michael: Something hat we did in the past. There are three to four ballot questions that will likely be posed. We need to figure out where and when we want to do it. We also need to coordinate with representatives for election and the ballot issues. Do we want to
go forward with it, and if yes, we will need a budget.

David M: Makes sense. Will enough people be interested because the number of questions is small.

Pat P: Will there be local questions?

Michael B: Yes. Okay, it looks like something we want to do. Phil and I will submit a budget proposal. We will need to begin contacting people to. Also Pat, thanks for the letter unfortunately we were not able to do send it out. But the work was immensely appreciated.

V. Introduction to bylaw review

Rep Attendance:

Michael: What do we want to do here? There is a policy for board generally but the policy for committees is more loose.

David W: What specifically are some of the issues here?

Michael: People not attending meetings, people not doing any work for committees, people coming 20 – 30 minutes late consistently to meetings.

Phil: I recognize that we are a volunteer organization. I want to see people show up. I would be less concerned if people took action on projects. I'm going to point out two members, specifically, in the winter semester when David W took it upon himself to write a resolution. He had never seen an RSG resolution and within an hour we had one that was great. This semester, Pat, took it upon himself to write a letter to the mayoral candidates. Doing these two things helped us tremendously. RSG is involved in a lot of areas, we talk about having a larger presence. But to do this we need to be able to provide the person hours required to do things. Committee attendance is one way to try to get people engaged. I really want people to take an action once per semester.

David M: Can codify it.

Pat P: Problem is you want people to be motivated and passionate about what they are going to do.

Michael B: Agree with Pat. I’ve seen a variety of boards and each has a different personality. Everyone starts with ideas, and enthusiasm, but then no one did it. How about we reinstitute bringing food to the board and then withhold food when people don’t want.

David M: How about you (Phil) just assign stuff?
Phil: There are a variety of ways that people can be helpful. It is tough to hold everyone to the same standard.

Michael: Let’s delineate responsibility. I’ll write some text. Generally, Be a yes say-er. Some of this may be a culture issue.

David W: If it is a culture thing, than the bylaw will not solve the problem.

Budgetary stuff: See Phil

Communications infrastructure:
Phil: The committee is not working we will need to do something else.
Michael: Will ask Chukey to push on the committee chairs.
Lets try to find something better.

RSG Directors:
Michael: Events Director should we keep it. I think yes. Election director is essential.

David W: What happened with the communications director in the past?

Phil: It worked kind of.

Michael: We can pay people to do that stuff.

VII. Open discussion
David M: Put the Gazette on the agenda.

VIII. Adjourn 9:01p
I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:00p

   a. **Present:** Representatives Malcolm Tariq, Sidney Ellington, Chairmen Kyle Lady and Mike Hand
   
   b. **Absent:** Alex G, David Malewski, Patrick PAnnuto, David Barton, Vice President Chuky Mbagwu
   
   c. **Excused:** President Phil Saccone

II. **Updates**

   a. Library Resources (Kyle)
      i. working w/ library staff
      ii. have draft of comprehensive
   
   b. August Social Events
      i. Another Happy Hour?
      ii. End of the Month?
      iii. Where? Different Venue than Bill’s?
         1. New Lep?
         2. Chuck’s?
         3. Bad Time Charleys?
         4. Cavern Club?

III. **Committee Commitments for Welcome Week**

   a. Skipped for lack of execs.

IV. **Determination of committee projects based on last week’s brainstorm**

   a. Chairman Hand and Representative Ellington had a heated discussion on this topic.
   
   b. Local student organizations
   
   c. Later Buses
   
   d. Bus Frequency
   
   e. Gym and Recreation Facilities
   
   f. Chairman Hand and Representative Ellington engaged in a heated discussion revolving around business cards.

V. **Prioritization of individual projects that relate to SLC purview to recommend to the board**

   a. Skipped due to length of heated discussions as noted in IV.
VII. Open Floor

VIII. Adjourn 7:45p
Rackham Student Government Summer 2014
Representative Goal Worksheet

Academic Issues

Student Services Issues (non academic)

Local Issues

Social Events

State/Federal Issues

My Action Items

I will work individually to achieve: ______________________________.

My current plan of action is (a few sentences describing how you will get started): 