RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Board Meeting
October 20th, 2011
Rackham Graduate School, 915 E. Washington St

I. Call to order
   A. Meeting called to order at 7.11. Quorum present
   B. Members
      1. Present: Michael Benson, Josh Bow, Alex Tolouse, Rahul Sakhumiri, Rob Gillezeau, Patrick Rooney, David Cottrell, Will Hutchinson, Nina White, Eli Eisman
      2. Excused
      3. Unexcused: Heidi Pedini*, Alex Emly*, Kaitlynn Flynn*
         a) Motions to mark present at 7.22 and 7.41: approved unanimously

II. Agenda
   A. Guest: Chris Tom, PhD precandidate, Chemical Biology
   B. T-shirts are in and Josh has his camera for a photo shoot after the meeting
   C. Motion to postpone second reading of the resolution to create Student Advisory Committee for the Rackham Associate Deans, moved by Eli, seconded by Nina: approved 11-0-2
   D. Motion to approve agenda, moved by Heidi, seconded by Rahul: approved unanimously

III. Minutes
   A. Motion to approve minutes from 29, September 2011, moved by Josh, seconded by Alex T: approved 10-0-1
   B. Motion to approve minutes from 6, October 2011
      1. Michael was absent form this meeting and was instead chaired by the Vice President Josh Bow
      2. No quorum was present during the meeting
      3. Unexcused absences are still being counted but there is a discrepancy in the records
      4. Motion to table the minutes from 6, October 2011, moved by Michael, seconded by Patrick: approved 10-0-1

IV. Officer reports
   A. President
      1. There are a lot of exciting guest speakers coming up in the next few weeks. The absence policy will be enforced more strictly for these meetings
      2. Committee appointments need to be made for the MSA, Provost Budgetary Committee, Academic Integrity Committee and Continuous Enrollment Dispute Resolution Board
         a) MSA seat has been available since the fall, but the student body wasn’t notified
         b) MSA reps get elected by the student body
c) Selection onus was given to Michael, he has opted to open this for the Communications Committee for selection, which will be chaired by Josh following the general board meeting, but will likely not end in the selection of representatives to fill those seats.

d) **Motion to reopen the agenda, add a discussion to re-empower the president as the sole individual responsible to select MSA representatives, and close the agenda**, moved by Nina, seconded by Will: approved 7-0-5

B. Vice President

1. University council met last week, nothing has come of it yet
2. Committee participation is a must.
   a) Letting down constituency
   b) Not fulfilling board obligations
   c) Making more work for fellow RSG reps
   d) Attendance policies have been put in place for all committees, if you can’t attend, please let the chair know.
   e) Josh SMASH!

V. Committee Minutes

A. Academic Affairs

1. **Motion to receive minutes, moved by Eli, seconded by Heidi**
2. Graduate Student Bill Of Rights will be voted out of committee soon for final approval by the board

B. Budgetary

1. **Motion to receive minutes, moved by Josh, seconded by Patrick**

C. Communications

1. Newsletter went out again, Espresso Royale question has way fewer responses, will make the question easier in the future
2. RSG Branding- T-shirts are in
3. Meeting following General Board meeting

D. Elections Committee

1. E-mail recruiting elections director will go out Friday.
2. The director ideally will be a Rackham student, but could be a motivated undergrad
3. Expectations
   a) Soliciting applications for representatives
   b) Increasing participation of the electorate
4. Nina believes that the above metrics for successful elections are good, but what defines “going above and beyond” should be more discrete.
5. If a board member participates, they won’t be paid

E. Legislative Affairs

1. **Motion to receive minutes, made by Rahul, seconded by Nina**
2. Candidate Forum was cancelled. Moderator search fell through (after a valiant effort)
3. Looking into holding city council forum, potentially in conjunction with a Student Life Committee Bar Night

F. Student Life Committee
   1. Bar Night at the Heidelberg, Tonight at 9
   2. **Motion to amend the Student Life Committee Budget by $300, moved by Alex T, seconded by Kaitlyn, thirded by Heidi: approved unanimously**

G. Bylaw Review Committee
   1. Executive board and Kaitlyn met last week and will meet again next week
   2. Minutes will be provided in the upcoming meeting

H. Community Outreach and Social Outreach
   1. Wolverines for Life: Be a Hero at the Big House was included in the newsletter. The event will be held 16, November 2011 from 7A-7P.
   2. RSG Works! will hold a parks cleanup at the Mary Beth in conjunction with A2 Parks and Rec. We are capped at 50 people and they need details. Coffee, cider and donuts will be provided

I. Non-academic Career Opportunities
   1. Patrick has expressed an interest in resigning from the chair of the NACO. The responsibilities have become overly burdensome and the Consulting club has not participated in the planning and execution of events
   2. Is this a project worth pursuing? Should an appointee be made who has no general board role? Committee chairs do not need to be RSG reps.
   3. Not all jobs are created equally. Some institutions hire only Master’s, while others, only those with a PhD. Who is the target of the committee?
   4. Possible options include folding this committee into student life, expanding the scope of the committee and making it more inclusive as a Post-Graduate School opportunities.
   5. General consensus is that this is a worthwhile pursuit, but we should not overextend the board. We will reassess and bring up the next board meeting. We shouldn’t be victims of our own great ideas

VI. Future events
A. Oktoberfest at the Heidelberg
B. Apple Orchard
   1. Sunday 30, October, 2011
   2. Need more chaperones. A plus one is okay
   3. 55-60 people already signed up, tickets are still on sale
   4. Natalie is a ticket selling champ
C. RSG Works!- See above
D. Lots of upcoming speakers. Be here as a representative of your constituents. Iranian student grouping coming to discuss religious persecution in the county. Will ask RSG or SAGE to take a public stance

VII. Open Discussion
A. Nina - MSA seats are available. No one ran to fill them, therefore we have no obligation to make student more aware. If people are offering to fill them, you should appoint them directly. Michael has been given that power, he should keep it and not diffuse the responsibility to the board.

B. Heidi - In response to Michael’s appointment criteria. What is regular participation for MSA and how will you assess that? What is satisfactory?

C. Michael - 6-7 people have made their interest in the MSA seats be known. Usually people are elected, rarely appointed. In the past, this has resulted in an irregular, short-term occupancy. Assessment will come from a review of the person’s CV and a short interview with Michael. The total process should only take a few weeks.

D. Rahul - Why is there so much interest in MSA all of a sudden?

E. Rob - The Michigan Daily reported on MSA will vote to support GEO’s effort to unionize GSRAs (GEO asks MSA to support graduate student research assistants union, Michigan Daily 12, October 2011). An Advisor/ PI shouldn’t be able to dismiss/ fire students for having a particular view. If we don’t fill those seats by Tuesday, those individuals interested in participating will likely lose interest, who have also expressed concerns over issues for GSRAs with disabilities.

F. General board consensus to let Michael be solely responsible for the decision to appoint MSA reps in this instance, Strawpoll: approved

G. Recommendation to the board that MSA appointments be by 7.30p 25, October 2011, made by Rob

VIII. Adjournment

A. Motion to adjourn moved by Josh, seconded by Nina: approved unanimously

B. Meeting adjourned at 8.18p

Respectfully submitted,

Eli Benchell Eisman
Rackham Student Government Representative
Community Outreach and Social Action Committee Chair