I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:11pm
   a. Present: Representatives Malcom T., Abneris R., Michael B., Chris T., Nathan H., Mike H., Katie F., David B., Stefan T., David M., President Saccone, Vice President Mbagwu
   b. Absent: Kyle L
   c. Excused: Pier D, David W

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Motion to approve with section VIII changed to “dissolution”, with amendment to move elections committee results before officer reports. Seconded by Mike H. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
Motion to approve (with edit change, Buke is excused) by Michael B, seconded by Abneris R. Approved unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF ELECTION RESULTS
Motion by David M to approve the election results from F14, seconded by Chris T. Michael B objects with amendment, allowing execs to strike improper or illicit entries. Friendly amendment. Approved unanimously.

Phil: All of the elected individuals are all now associate reps, welcome! Join in on the discussion, but no voting rights yet (outside of procedural matters).

Michael B: Motion to add associate reps to attendees list.

Phil: Dilatory for now, we’ll get to that later.

V. Special Guests: Coleman-Munger Scholars
Phil: We have guests here to talk to us about what the Coleman-Munger Scholars are about, and give us more information about Munger housing.

Ashley, Jeff, and Warren. 3 of the scholars, total of 5 scholars. They are a focus group to create a vision and work on details regarding the logistics of the housing program.
Ashley: Rackham encompasses a large variety of grad students, this is an opportunity for them to mix and engage. Munger opens August 2015 and has layouts of 7 bedroom suites. 2600 sq ft apartments, 400 per resident, 1200 sq ft of common space.

Jeff: The suites come fully furnished and have more than enough space for residents.

Ashley: Each resident gets own bathroom, plus a half bathroom for guests. Abundant kitchen appliances and flat screen TVs.

Jeff: We want to create an environment where a variety of students can interact with disciplines outside their own.

Ashley: $850 for 7 bedroom suites, $900 for 6 bedroom. The building is focused towards shared learning, getting high tech equipment (3-d printing, computer labs, etc). We’ll send you the powerpoint, but we’d like to open it up for questions.

Chris T: You mentioned the current fellows, does that determine which programs are represented?

Ashley: We are the current 5 fellows, but the process for future fellows is under development.

Chris T: Of the 650, do you know how many of them will be covered under the fellows?

Ashley: Right now, 6-12 people whose role is develop the program.

Michael B: RSG has been involved in this and has helped drive the cost down. We represent 9000+ students, what would you like from us? Advertisement?

Jeff: This isn’t simply an apartment complex where you pay and live. We are really emphasizing the shared living and encouraging cross-disciplinary learning. RSG does that already to some extent, but there is no such cohesion at the university level.

Mike H: There are areas on campus where I can choose to interact with other students, but I can also return home and choose not to engage. How does this setup up take that into account?

Warren: The close confinement of being roommates really encourages multidisciplinary interaction. And the world is moving in that direction.

Ashley: To answer your question, the setup does allow you to isolate with the individual rooms and bathrooms. However, the goal of selecting the residents is to get those that are seeking this stronger interdisciplinary interaction.

Phil: Very early on, one of the main tasks was to figure out what to do programmatically in the building to create an interdisciplinary environment. The agreement was that simply
living together was not enough. Are there any activities developed to further encourage this?

Warren: We have some funds to develop additional projects to create meaningful exchange. Examples could include case competitions for addressing specific local or global issues, and create an atmosphere where individuals can execute these ideas. There are similar programs at Ross (collaboration?).

Ashley: Each of us have been allocated funds for programs such as these. One of my goals is to break down the barriers between grad students and faculty. Social activities such as meet-and-greets and networking sessions with faculty.

David M: Munger is essentially a closed residence, is this correct?

Warren: That’s not set in stone; there are common areas that could be accessible to the public, and potentially some of the case presentations, etc.

David M: I am concerned that there may be a bit of a disparity between “fellows” and residents, etc.

Warren: Those are good things to consider and we may either dissolve the fellows program or find better solutions to the potential problem.

Chris T: Some people may already have their own furniture and livelihoods settled elsewhere. In terms of the students that you are looking for, would those factors also be taken into account?

Warren: It’s understandable that incoming students would be more flexible or open to this kind of arrangement. The great thing about Munger is really the community and people.

Chris T: I’m thinking more practically. I’m a 4th year PhD, and I think it would be great to have this kind of multidisciplinary atmosphere. I’ve also accumulated things over my time here, are there storage options etc?

Ashley: There are currently no storage options, and it is difficult logistically. But we are finding ways to work around items like that.

Phil: Is there a large amount of buy-in from individual colleges in support of this? If not, I would definitely start looking there. If the interdisciplinary atmosphere is really the selling point, then I would encourage you to have concrete information for and from the colleges to give to their current/incoming students.

Ashley: We are working on the university and colleges buy-in, but we are just currently not there yet.
Warren: There may also be a little bit of pushback due to programs wanting to retain their autonomy. These results and info won’t be immediate but accumulated over the first initial years.

Ashley: Thanks for having us!

::Guests depart::

Phil: For some background, when this housing program had starting the initial cost was around $1200 which unless covered by the limited fellowships would come from loans or students’ pockets. RSG was very vocal about the cost as well as the living setup (which we did not find a lot of support for from the student body). While happy that the price has come down significantly, it’s still a bit high.

Mike H: I was very concerned with the (lack of) grasp they had of their own mission.

Matthew Gaidaca: It was very confusing and a bit disorganized, and it’s not clear or true that this residence will be the only method of interdisciplinary interaction.

Michael B: This started as a $110 million gift from Munger. The university then quickly had to decide what to do with it. The guests also didn’t have a clear idea of what RSG is or does. I also think that they are in a position of trying to turn a “dung” idea into something shiny. Also, the idea that a simple residence hall is the primary catalyst for collaboration is completely erroneous. Lastly, if we choose to take a stance on Munger I would encourage us to keep it neutral.

Phil: Student Affairs and Housing is really the one behind this pulling the strings. Even after 18 months, there is still no clear idea of exactly what the Munger programs will look like. The main reason for this is because there is not a strong buy-in from programs and colleges. They are looking to fill the seats first before developing the program (likely cost-related). Also, RSG was not initially neutral on the issue, and stressed socioeconomic diversity with regards to the housing cost and style/setup.

Nathan: What are the price points for the large high rises on central campus? Ranging from $1300-1800. I was not clear on exactly how they were pitching the residence hall, as an honors residence, cultural house, specifically multidisciplinary, etc.

Katie: I think that living in Munger is beneficial for those in shorter programs. There is a cost for accumulating items in a private residence, and furnished housing might offset some of those costs at the current price point. It will also give incoming students and immediate/instant community. Lastly, I don’t think that the case study/presentation ideas will work for all individuals and programs and it will have to end up being an RA style engagement programs.

David M: This is potentially very good for international students.
Phil: Thank you very much for your feedback everyone. Please do talk to your constituents about it.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Phillip Saccone
      It’s been a really great semester everyone, and we got a lot done. We hosted several important forums for graduate students (Munger forum, Lunch with the Deans) and we also tried out new social activities, we moved a few items forward from previous agendas such as instructor evaluations and non-discrimination policy amendments. On the federal level, we have done a lot of work with our parent organization SAGE and the initiatives in collaboration with other R1 universities. I’m really looking forward to working with the new members and board come the new term.

   b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu
      Phil covered most of the yearly recap so I’ll keep it short. Existing members please fill out the doodle for the end of the year social event!

   c. Treasurer
      We have ~$26,000 in the account. We have a couple requests for the budgetary committee that will be going forth shortly. Congrats to the current board for a very effective year!

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Academic Affairs Committee
      Stefan: Thanks for all that came to the LwtD! Both campuses were a great success. We had 84 attendees for the North campus, and 65 attendees for the Central campus.

      Abneris: I noticed that many students had very good and eager questions for the central campus one. Perhaps we can consider doing it maybe twice a semester.

   b. Budgetary Committee
      Nothing to report.

   c. Elections Committee
      All the new members introduce themselves, happy to have you all! Dr. Dave Malewski, registered pharmacist, also introduces himself.

   d. Legislative Affairs Committee
      Nothing to report, and no committee meeting tonight.

   e. Student Life Committee
      Abneris: Band Night was a success, they played great live music and we had at least 80 people there round the clock.
Mike H: We had a meeting 2 weeks ago to continue work on the survey to send to the student body to identify specific issues to tackle. We’ve devised a way to break up the vast amount of questions into a continuous, semesterly mini surveys to gather info from grad students. We will have a brief meeting after the Board meeting.

Phil: Mike and Kyle have been doing a great job pushing this forward, aiming to get this poll out to the student body early next term.

i. Community Outreach & Social Action subcommittee

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mike: I’ve been on the Board for 2 years and will not be returning next term. I have enjoyed my time spent on the Board and working with all of you.

Stefan: I am graduating and have really felt connected to the Board and really feel like I’ve made an impact. I’ll miss working with everyone.

Malcom: It was fun… at times. It was very refreshing not talking to only humanities students. I’m moving on to start a family and new life and stuff… or not, lol. I will pass on the FB group and other communications to Chuky.

Sidney: I’ve had a great time on the Board.

Motion by Michael B to dissolve current Board and all committees effective Dec 31, 2014, seconded by Mike H. Approved unanimously.

IX. DISSOLUTION