RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
February 18, 2015
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
7:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:12 pm
   a. Present: Representatives Matt G, Brandon P, A Buke H, Nate H, Kyle L, David B, Michael B, David M, President Saccone, Vice President Mbagwu, Treasurer Rodriguez
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Katie F, Myra L

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Phil: Brief revision of the agenda.
   Motion to approve by Michael B. Seconded by David M. Approved with 1 abstention.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   Motion to approve by Abneris, seconded by Michael B. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Phillip Saccone
      Thank you all for your participation and comments during the meeting with the President last week. It was definitely one of the highlights for RSG in the last couple years.

      There will likely be a new Dean within the week. We’ll provide further updates soon.

   b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu
      Website minutes and agenda information has been updated. Aiming for next Gazette release next week.

   c. Treasurer

V. Approve SAGE Delegation
   Phil: SAGE is a national group that Michigan was a founding partner of and involved in for federal advocacy for graduate students.
Phil: I would ask the Board approve my delegation for SAGE Day on the Hill (Phil, Chuky, Abneris, Michael, Katie, and Nate).

Motion to approve by Kyle, seconded by Buke. Approved with 3 abstentions.

VI. **Slate Elections Committee**

Phil: I would like to have the Board reopen the committee slates to put together a committee under the elections director (Buke). The only people that cannot serve are those up for reelection. Phil reads off the list of eligible reps. Recommends Brandon P, David M, or Kyle L.

Brandon inquires about the responsibilities.

Phil: Mostly making the advertisement, maybe updating the voting website, answering questions/emails from candidates and others. Most of the technical details will be taken care of by Michael B and exec.

Motion by Buke and seconded by Nate H, to reopen committee slates and nominate Brandon, David M, Michael B, and Kyle L for Elections Committee. Approved unanimously.

VII. **List of action items for the new Dean**

Phil: I’d like the Board to brainstorm on things we can bring forward to the new Dean, hopefully in line with what President Schlissel is keen towards.

Phil: Previously, we have floated interest in improving and having better mentor mentee relationships – specifically having Rackham mandating yearly reviews between mentors/mentees. Some of the issues and pushback we had was on accountability of these reports. I think most mentors are good and upstanding in this regard, but a not-insignificant lot are not adequately fulfilling their duties. I also don’t think that these reviews infringe on the academic freedom of the professors/programs. Additionally, many programs don’t have a system like this in place.

Matt G: Looking at preventative measures… my department (neuroscience) have many people that may potentially have good fit of mentors and sometimes this may just be an issue of a lack of breadth and access to learn more about the people you will be mentored by. Currently the system is that you rotate through 2 or 3 labs and then pick the advisor/mentor.

Phil: We can take an informal approach like that, perhaps a “Faculty face book” to peruse and seek out potential mentors.

Michael B: The bigger issue, at least in Division II, is that when people find a mentor there is a stigma against changing (either due to them being funded by that mentor or otherwise). Teaching the faculty to be better mentors is fine, but it is also important to inform the students of their rights and abilities/flexibility in changing or managing their
mentor or advisor. (As an aside: Michael is drafting a resolution for a better utilizing faculty and student expertise around campus)

Phil: What are some other areas we can have the new Dean jump on?

Phil: We can revisit these items and more later, but please be thinking about it so that we can take care of these quickly.

VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Academic Affairs Committee
   b. Budgetary Committee
      Abneris: We’ve given out ~$700 so far and waiting on many more event reports to be submitted.
   c. Elections Committee
   d. Legislative Affairs Committee
      Michael: We will be meeting next week. Working with Myra on the congressional newsletter. Minutes are forthcoming.
      Phil: Chuky and I met with Cindy from the U Michigan Washington office and a representation from the Texas delegation.
   e. Student Life Committee
      Nate: We are meeting immediately following the Board meeting.
         i. Community Outreach & Social Action subcommittee

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION
   Kyle: CSG authored a resolution for the release of instructor evaluations for undergraduates and graduates. Only 5 questions (?) will be submitted/released.
   Michael: Another point we could push for with the new Dean (very carefully) is separating out graduate from undergraduate governance.
   Motion to adjourn by Kyle, seconded by Michael B.

X. ADJOURNMENT at 6:45pm.