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

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
    Motion by Abneris, seconded by Michael. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
     Motion by Michael Benson. with change to correct Buke to present, seconded by Nate H. Approved unanimously

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Phillip Saccone
      Greetings everyone! We had a couple of important meetings today. The first was with the general counsel to talk about the changes to the non discrimination policy. The second meeting was with Dean Janet Weiss. We talked about the cognate requirement and access to Rakcham in the meeting with the dean.

      The Study hall access issue has been around for a while. She’s aware of it. We’re trying to figure out how to access the building. Undergraduates aren’t supposed to be in the main reading room. One method of enforcement would be to pay for a monitor to ID people attempting ot enter. The second is a card reader. This second option isn’t great. Within the system there is no firm demarcation of graduate or undergraduate students. Presumably, if we can surmount this we can make it happen. The current idea in place is to when it comes to midterms and finals, Rackham and RSG if necessary can pay for someone to be there to make sure that the undergraduates are unable to intrude. This isn’t a perfect option, but it can be easily done. IF someone can figure out how to get swipe card access, we can reconside.

      As far as cognate requirements. I can tell you that our current dean is not looking to make a change. She feels that it is important to have a significant breadth of
knowledge outside of their specialty. However, this is something that Rackham has been looking at for a while for Masters students. This is something that is likely to change for masters students in the near future.

Instructor evaluations. We’re gaining momentum on this point. I’m scheduled to meet with Vice Provost James Holloway next Wednesday. I’ve been communicating with LS&A as well as CSG on this topic. LS&A is going to draft a letter of support for our initiative. I expect that this will go through without a problem, but this is something that we want to let the university know is important. The funny thing is that it really affects the undergraduates more than graduate students. One of the big issues that we’re going to have to address is the low number of participants. We’re considering a resolution for the Board that would incentivize students to fill out their course evaluations. More on that to come.

Vice president Mbagwu did a great job with the Gazette. It took us a little bit to get it going and edited. Another one will be coming out in two weeks. Please let Chuky know if you have ideas for content.

b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu

c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse

BC met. The budget will be updated next week. We have $35,678.47 in the account.

V. Preparing for the President’s Visit

Our meeting will begin at 6pm next week. Directly following the meeting will be a meeting with the President of the University. Likely due to numbers, undergraduate education is a prime factor for university administrators. We’re lucky that our new president has significant graduate school bonifides including serving as the chair of a department as well as graduating 21 students. During his installation, the president mentioned graduate education. Our goal is to construct a long term relationship wherein we can dialogue on the best ways to keep Michigan at the forefront of graduate education. In many ways, the environment for graduate education is becoming more and more challenging. Many disciplines are able to self-supprot but others can not. Additionally, the needs of undergraduates differ significantly from the needs of graduate students.

At this meeting, my goal is to have a very carefully orchestrated event. The president will give a few remarks. We will be inviting representatives of SCOR, FEMS, Tau Beta Pi (TBP), and perhaps others. I’m hoping to keep this event relatively small but open and engaging.

It is critically important that you come prepared to this meeting. Be prepared to engage the President on that level. It is my desire that we do not engage on issues where
we would be griping on one level or another. There are many times where presidents don’t come to GSA meetings of any type at a University. Our goal is to work with the President and his office to ensure that we can continue to enrich the community.

**Michael:** So, to be clear, we don’t want to ask about issues affecting one or two students e.g. my office is cold right?

**Phil:** Yes, that’s correct. Our main goal here is to have the president leave our meeting able to draw on his experience with us and feel bright when speaking on graduate education at the university as a result.

**Matt:** Should be strategic about how we formulate questions?

**Phil:** I want it to be choreographed. But I’m not sure if we want to go that far. IF the Board wants to do that, then let’s do it.

**Michael:** Proposes alternate with a shared google doc for people to get feedback on questions as well as to have a question bank.

**Buke:** I agree with Michael, 100%.

**Phil:** Be active listeners. It’s going to be a good time and I think we’re going to start a great relationship.

**Katie:** Would we share the google doc with the other groups that would be joining us?

**Phil:** Yes. I’ve met with each of the groups individually and will do so again to make sure that we’re on the same page.

**Buke:** Where are we meeting?

**Phil:** TBA. I tried to book the Assembly Hall. It was booked. I’m not inviting a ton of people, cozy is good.

**Michael:** What’s our ask at the end? (To come back?)

**Phil:** Yes, exactly. Please take some time to submit a question or two. Also please review what the President’s job actually entails.

**Dave M:** Do we know what the President’s current relationship with CSG is and additionally how we can differentiate ourselves?

**Phil:** I would wait for him to bring that up in this context. I’ve been very reticent to draw firm unprovoked differences between CSG and RSG. Now that some of CSG’s antagonists have left. I’ve been working to establish our own policy bonefides. We’ve
done this for years. I’m working to grow this and frame it appropriately. This is a guy that comes from Berkeley and Brown. Both have independent Graduate student assemblies. This is something that the graduate student body president and executives should bring up in the continuing discussion and relationship.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Academic Affairs Committee
      i. Update on sexual expression resolution
      We spent a lot of time with the general counsel today. The meeting was difficult. The General Counsel goes back and forth between thinking that sexual orientation as covered under the NDA would be inclusive of any sexual practices that go along with it and also being very vigilant to what it means to condone free sexual expression in the workplace and what that might mean to someone else (Harrasment?). He reads it like a lawyer and would like us to seek legal counsel to help tighten the language. We intended for him to do this or someone in his office. We also were asked to find out if sexual practice would be covered under the existing protections. He spent over an hour with us and was very generous with our time.

   b. Budgetary Committee
      The BC met. We considered 9 requests.

      **Brandon:** Since the Gazette went out, I’ve had a few students asking about how to get funding.

      **Abneris:** The funding tab, and I can show you 😊!

      **Buke:** Our graduate student council met yesterday and a comment was made that we tried to get funding but there was a deadline.

      **Abneris:** There is a deadline of 15 business days in advance of the proposed event.

   c. Legislative Affairs Committee
      LAC will be meeting tomorrow.

   d. Student Life Committee
      We are moving the SLC meeting to directly follow this meeting. We felt that the Tuesday meeting on off weeks would be a lot of travel. So if you have a conflict, please let us know.
Ice skating went well, we had 315 graduate students attend. We fully paid for skate rentals. It was a good time. Michael can provide an update about an incident we had at the end.

i. Community Outreach & Social Action Committee

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Michael: Talked about over 50% appointment issues.

Buke: Is there a reason why the building is closed on the weekends?

Kyle: Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Michael Besnon.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 6:54pm.