I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16pm
   a. Present: Representatives Pier Davis, Adam Duran, Julian Bahr, David W., David Barton, Michael Benson, Malcom Tariq, Erin Sullivan, Chris Tom, Mike Hand, Sidney Ellington, Ben Sweeney, President Saccone, Treasurer Mbagwu, Associate Member Kyle Lady
   b. Absent: 
   c. Excused: David M.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Motion by MB to approve agenda. Seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.
   Motion by MB to allow representative Mike Hand full speaking rights during the meeting. Seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   Motion by Julian to approve previous minutes. Seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

IV. Special Guest VP of Student Affairs E. Royster Harper

We have Vice President for Student Affairs, E. Royster Harper speaking with us today. Round table of introductions.

E. Royster Harper: Thank you for all of your contributions as students, teachers, and leaders. I want to encourage you in those endeavors and in your pursuit of your degrees and goals. I would like to work with you to find

I live in a 2-world class, working class background and currently in a different setting. One of the things I have learned is understanding the power of privilege, etc.

Often times our office focuses on undergraduate students rather than graduates; there is a misperception that grad students are all “just fine.” I would like to both be encouraging and acknowledge the journey you are all on. You will all make contributions to your fields, your peers, family, etc.

I want to talk a little about my experience working on my dissertation. Shared effective strategies when hitting roadblocks.

What do I do: I’ve been at the university through 5 presidents, each with its own experiences. My office is involved with much of what goes on outside of the classroom except for sports/athletics. Includes health services, LGBT resources, multi-cultural centers, etc. We house many undergraduates (~10,000) and have a big focus, but also reach a wider range of students. We were involved with Munger and have heard your voices regarding that.
What is this work like: A lot of my job is to advocate for students, I report to the President and other executives. Much of the work is to listen, hear, and try to understand and implement things for the future. I feel very strongly about the caliber of the students that choose to come to Michigan. When their needs aren't met, their voices are raised, and that is very good for the community. Lately I've been doing some work with the BSU, where they have had 7 issues raised with the University. I also worked with the students that felt they were silenced by CSG. I stayed with them from 10-2am to ensure that the building closure rules were kept. Michigan has become strict about sitting in, and I helped them understand the implications of the potential decision to break these rules (arrest, impact on future, etc.). I've been involved with mental health services, suicide prevention, etc.

Phil: A lot of the work we do at RSG overlaps with graduate student life. Some resolutions have been passed through the Board (VAWA and NDP changes). Phil gives a summary of the VAWA resolution and compliance. Chris Tom gives a summary of the NDP resolution. One of the next steps is to take the NDP to the Regents, and see what support the University/administration can provide in this area, including the office of Student Affairs.

Harper: Some background; First there was the battle for getting sexual orientation, then bisexual and trans language. I think the battle will be difficult, and some may need a better understanding the request and how exactly the current NDP does not cover. The advice is to be ready for a long ride with the administration, and to continually “wearing them down” until they better understand the request. A clear statement of what harm is caused by the non-inclusion, and why it requires this level of oversight.

Chris: The current policy looks at the subject and protects their identity, orientation, and there are protections for the other individual (partner, romantic or sexual interest). However, there is no particular protection for consensual actions (sexual or otherwise) between individuals. Chris gives examples of scenarios. Phil gives additional examples.

Harper: For our governing board, individually and collectively, it is probably going to take a fair amount of work for them to understand. The more concrete an ideas, the better.

Phil: It's not necessary to get into the details now, but it would be great to set up a meeting with your office to continue the discussion.

Benson: Given the ACA, I know MSU tried to mandate health coverage some years back. This year to be in compliance with ACA, we will end up needing to raise premiums, but have much better coverage. Do you think we should require/strongly encourage all grad students to have health insurance?

Also, I'm on North campus a lot. Much of the Student Life activities take place in Central campus. I think that your office could do better in engaging the North campus graduate students with the surrounding community.

Harper: I'm not clear on implementation/mandating health coverage, and we will have to get a better understanding of the 26 and under parental coverage for health care. I am on the same page about the disparity between North and Central campus. Much of the “central campus” is created outside of the university (businesses, restaurants, bars, etc.), whereas North has a highway separating it from “life”/activities. We would like to see what the renovations in Pierpont bring and looking at different ways to increase the vibrancy of North.

Benson: It may also be a consideration to bring some of the offices to north campus, etc.

David W.: It would be nice to have the livelihood be organic, rather than always driven by the university. Central campus life is driven by the outside businesses, but the opposite is true for North. Things like coffee shops open past 5pm, etc.

Harper: You're absolutely right that the organic environment creates the truest and liveliest atmosphere,
we're just not sure how to facilitate that.

David W.: As an idea, there may be an opportunity to let others manage some of the services and spaces around North campus.

Julian: I would support having a bar somewhere on North, not sure how well that would be university-sanctioned. Something late-night, student only, activities would be beneficial.

Harper: Agreed, once some of the new spaces around Bursley becoming available we can see what can be done. A lot of the issues regarding underage drinking, etc., shapes the University's position on those kind of ideas.

Mike Hand: All of the property on North is university-owned, and that appears to be a limiting factor for creativity and vibrancy. Central campus is not set up the same way. Perhaps there is an opportunity for leasing some of the property and having outside management.

Pier: Access is very difficult, getting back to North campus at night is tough even with bus system. Also having safe bike paths around the area. I am also interested in knowing when and why Michigan's administration decided to not provide any university owned bar.

Harper: Trends and relationships between alcohol and sexual assault, etc. and it has been difficult to put any university funds towards those endeavors.

Benson: It's important to remember that 40% of the student body is graduate students and some portion of the undergraduates are all over 21 years of age.

Phil: When talking to your colleagues, I would recommend a more research-based approach as opposed to a fundamentalist approach. However, given that we have peer institutions that have similar arrangements for university-sponsored bars, could look at the data at those locations.

Mike Hand: Our current arrangement has taken a lot of the drinking/alcohol activities off-campus, and I believe that actually increases risk. This is something to take into consideration.

Kyle Lady: It would nice to see CAPS have a presence on North campus. It's not always feasible to travel to Central campus/Michigan Union for help.

Julian: I would argue for having a central group of CAPS, also I would also keep in mind that costs are going up for students. Putting more effort and funds into improving student life that making money as a university.

Pier: We need better efforts to improving the perception and fighting the stigma about mental health and seeking help.

Harper: That is a very important issue that we are committed to tackling. The isolation that comes from the very processes you all are engaged in is immense, and we want to provide better support.

Benson: It would be really great if CCI worked with us, and better serve the needs for graduate student groups, which may not always have the same requirements/structure as other groups.

Phil: Vice President Harper, we are very grateful and thankful for your time. We hope to speak with you again soon.

Harper: It has been a pleasure, and I appreciate the concerns that you all have raised. I am sure that CAPS would be a strong benefit. We want to better fix graduate housing. While we're focused on undergrads, need to recognize that you are all paying tuition too and we must serve your needs as well. I am excited to work with the new university President. I look forward to working together with you.
V. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone

We had our LwtD on Monday, had about 70 or so attendees. A lot of great questions were asked. Career services and professional development was a major topic. Also, there is a mis-perception of what a “boss” looks like in academia. There are limits to what level of influence our Deans have on senior faculty, etc.

Thank you to Chris Tom, Alex Gutierrez, and Malcom Tariq for their contributions in helping to plan it. Also thanks to all of you who came out. Please help out for the upcoming North campus one on Friday.

SAGE is coming up, lots of work towards that. White papers are out.

b. Vice President (Vacant)

c. Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu

$25,000 in the account. Please get me receipts for any events that RSG has planned (St Patricks, etc.). Phil owes me receipts.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Academic Affairs Committee

Much of this was covered already. Pay attention to your emails!

b. Budgetary Committee

Chuky: BC members, please stay after for 5 minutes to discuss and tackle our pending applications.

c. Bylaw Review Committee

d. Communications Committee

Julian: Didn't have a meeting, no minutes, and a “how-to” RSG guide is in the works and in progress.

Benson: TBP is hosting a Town Hall on North campus. Would like to advertise theirs along with ours, secondary.

e. Elections Committee

Chris Tom: We have had a number of vacant seats filled. There were also some write-ins that we will be contacting to see whether they are willing and eligible to fill the seat.

Benson: Chris did a phenomenal job in organizing, etc. Benson gives details and election numbers, to be posted on the RSG website pending approval and confirmations.

Chris motions to receive and approve election results, pending verification. Seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

f. Legislative Affairs Committee
Benson: Not meeting tomorrow. SAGE white papers in your packet, look them over. Forward any comments out to us. Those on the delegation will get an email from me tomorrow.

g. Student Life Committee

Ben: Red Wings event. Bowling event upcoming (planning is forthcoming... following up with Natalie).

Ben moves to receive and approve minutes, seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Benson moves to adjourn, seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 8:31PM.