RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2012
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
6:30 P.M.

Attendance

Present: Representatives Tien Huei-Hsu, Marisol Ramos, Pete, McGrath Chris Tom, Ben Curtiss-Lusher, Lauren Knapp, Alex Emly, Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, Treasurer Alex Toulouse, and President Michael Benson

Absent: Representatives Anna Wagner and Daniel Trubman

Absent (excused): Representatives Nina White, Andrew Crawford, Heidi Alvey, and Patrick Rooney

1. President Benson provided a brief overview of the Board’s agenda while waiting for a quorum of members to arrive. President Benson declared a quorum present 6:51pm and accordingly called the Board to order.

2. Approval of Agenda: Moved by Ben and seconded by Alex E.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes: February 9, 2012. Motion to approve by Chris and seconded by Ben.

4. Officer Reports

a. Graduate Student Body President Michael Benson: Michael brings up a new bill being introduced into the Michigan state Senate that explicitly defines GSRAs as students and not employees. If this passes through the legislature and gets signed into law, it would completely stop the unionization efforts of GEO. Michael suggests bringing a bus for both sides to go to Lansing sometimes next week. Michael also spoke recently with Phil Hanlon and Phil is happy to put together a budget report for graduate students. Chris will include this as a question in the newsletter next week. Michael went to purchase the shirts for the St. Patty’s day event and suggests purchasing about 10 more for newsletter/other prizes. Motion to approve by Chris to approve the addition of 10 shirts, seconded by Ben. Alex T objects and this is because he feels that the St. Patty’s day shirts are event specific and would prefer to just have a specific shirt for grad students. Michael mentions that he has been in talks with underground printing as well. Motion fails 3-5-2. No guest speaker next week.

b. Graduate Student Body Vice President Kaitlin Flynn: Working on getting busses and organizing for the GAC. New policy regarding communications, see communications committee report below. Also working on setting up an NCRC tour for board members.

c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer Alex Toulouse: We have $25,300 in the account. Some has been allocated to a request. A number of funding requests will need to be reviewed in the next coming day. Alex also mentions that we have lines of communication that need to be followed in order to get things done and encourages representatives to advise constituents to contact the appropriate board
member or committee chair in order to maintain a clear line of understanding in our operations.

5. Next Steps: Dean Weiss & Provost Hanlon’s visit to the Board
   a. Michael mentions that we should think about what we want to do with the information we got from Dean Weiss and Provost Hanlon and how to share this information and implement change within the student body. Over the next few weeks, we charge the board to think about the information we’ve received and chat with constituents about how these could affect them.

6. RSG Committee Updates
   a. Academic Affairs: Graduate Student Bill of Rights is in the attached packet and we will ask for board member input, criticisms and changes. Motion to approve the minutes by Tien and seconded by Ben. Approved unanimously.

   **BOR discussion:** The draft version of the GSBOR is included in the packet. The definitions section will need to be clarified with lawyers just to ensure security in those definitions. Chris explains the relationship multiplicity clarification in the nondiscriminatory right. Chris is also formulating a resolution to include this definition in the University nondiscriminatory policy. Haven is also clarifying the assertiveness of the language in each right. Lauren asks what sort of legal teeth the document will have. Michael says that after the Rackham board approves it, we will need to go through and identify which rights are new, and which already have legal teeth to them. Chris is also looking into how to develop a general conflict resolution board with Darlene Ray Johnson. The committee is also working on organizing the town halls.

   b. Budgetary: IEDP is not coming because they will be submitting a different request. A number of other requests are in the lineup and budgetary committee will need to meet soon.

   c. Communications: The newsletter came out last week and we included a new question of the week. Working on how to analyze that data to share with the board so we can make decisions based on the answers to the newsletter question. Also we are working on designing a new banner. Finally, a new policy Kaitlin would like to instate is to have all outgoing communications from RSG going through one editor and email address. Committee chairs

   d. Elections: Meeting before spring break to start figuring out the elections.

   e. Legislative Affairs: New bill as Michael mentioned in his exec report is likely to run through the legislature pretty quickly. Ben asks if the University is likely to take a stance on the bill one way or another. Michael mentions that sometimes the Reagents do take a stand, but they will need to meet and vote on it first. Michael will also be hosting a small tutorial on how to write a board resolution so email him if you are interested. The city is also receptive to what we’re interested in doing with regards to the lease signing ordinance.

   f. Student Life: Ice skating and Valentine’s day events were great. COSAC is heading another bar night event over spring break, as well as St. Patty’s day event, Pinball Pete’s, etc. Also, the ice skating event went $200 over due to additional hours purchased at the rink and over 500 students coming to skate.

   g. Bylaw Review: did not meet last week. We are holding off to further clarify the budgetary piece of the bylaws and will crank out the bylaws soon to have them
completed and approved by May. Ben suggests that we might be able to clarify this section simply by providing precedents and definitions.

h. COSAC

7. RSG’s 5 Year Plan: Michael asks, where should we be in 5 years? Where should we be in relation to CSG? What type of things should we fund? Representation? There are many ways that we could change in the next 5 years, and how can we get there from here? Should we provide travel grants, transportation to the airport, interpreters, etc as services for students? Ideally, in 5 years, how do we make RSG what we all know it can be: a preeminent funding body for the graduate students on campus.
   a. Funding
   b. Representation
   c. Services (that we provide to the student body)

8. Open Discussion: Chris asks if we can keep the calendar up to date with events. Alex E brings up that the newsletter links to a blog that hasn’t been updated and the website needs updated contact information. Michael mentions that we are hoping to do a major redesign for the website. Alex E says too that she thinks general grad student t-shirts would be great and people would be into them—we could give them away and allow people to purchase them as well. Kaitlin will convene a t-shirt meeting soon.

9. Adjournment: Ben motions to adjourn, seconded by Alex E. Adjourn at 7:36pm.