RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
February 23, 2012
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Representatives Eli Benchell Eisman, Anna Wagner, Haven Allen, Ben Curtiss-Lusher, Dan Trubman, Andrew Crawford, Alex Emily, Chris Tom, Patrick Rooney, Lauren Knapp, Tien Huei-Hsu, Heidi Alvey, Treasurer Alex Toulouse, President Michael Benson

Excused Absence: Representatives Marisol Ramos, Vice President Kaitlin Flynn

Absent: Representatives Nina White, Peter McGrath

1. Meeting Call to order: 6:35. Quorum present.
2. Approval of Agenda: Moved by Chris seconded by Lauren. Approved with 1 abstention
4. Officer Reports
   a. President Michael Benson: Notes next week is spring break, so no meetings. Updates: Michael was in Lansing for committee meeting on bill regarding GSRA’s. Noted that graduate issues take back seat to undergraduate issues. Senate approved bill on party line vote. Language in bill does not include GSI’s or GSSA’s. Community meeting found in packet will be happening next week in regards to break-ins that have been occurring. Email will go out tomorrow about this issue. Red Wings event that occurred had problems. Some people could not get tickets, and he is in the process of reimbursing the individuals in question. Resolution template was emailed out, and Chris submitted one resolution that will be looked out today as a sort of workshop.
   b. Treasurer Alex Toulouse: Currently have $25,031 in account. Approximately $1000 has been spent by RSG and is currently being reimbursed. Approximately $2900 has been allocated to student groups for funding requests.
5. SEGH Funding Request:
   a. Alex gives overview of funding request included in packet submitted by the Students Engaged in Global Health. Group of 4 students will be traveling to Jamaica over Spring Break to perform research, develop and distribute surveys, and perform data analysis. The budgetary committee was hesitant to fund this because of the number of people involved in the trip, but it decided to recommend funding a block grant of $500 with the stipulations that they speak at a symposium on campus open and advertised to the graduate community (e.g. the
Public Health Symposium or their own symposium) that must be approved by RSG’s Treasurer. The rationale was that this was equivalent to paying an honorarium/travel for a speaker with expertise in a specific field to come present on campus given that a symposium like the Public Health Symposium tends to attract a few hundred people.

b. Questions: Haven notes there is no mention of a speaker in their application and asks if there will be a speaker coming. Alex says no, we are treating the group as a speaker considering the funding to be equivalent to paying an honorarium/travel for a speaker. Ben notes there is no money included for the symposium in their event budget and asks for clarification what the money will be allocated to. Michael says the group amended their budget while meeting with the budgetary committee and the amendments are included in the minutes. Dan would like them to submit another budget. Dan asks how this is different than the previously considered IEDP funding request. Alex says the students involved are not receiving any class credit for their involvement. Dan asks if it is reasonable to think they will draw 100 people at a symposium. Eli says School of Public Health symposium can draw upwards of 300. Haven asks who is involved in the Public Health Symposium and who would be interested in such a presentation. Eli says symposium is open to the university and typically draws people from division I and II. Alex claims advertising is an important component and one of the stipulations for reimbursement. Chris says there is always some subjectivity involved in the process.

c. Motion to approve the funding request made by Alex. Second by Chris. Objected by Dan. Michael allocates 7 more minutes of debate.

d. Dan would like to see separate application, and thinks it would be easier to evaluate with a complete request. Chris would like to know if they can alter their request in front of the committee. If they are allowed to alter their request real time it makes things more efficient. Michael says no but it has been our practice to allow groups to amend their request. Ben agrees with Chris’s statement. Thinks there is in issue that there is no documentation if the request is amended in real time. He thinks need to come up with a better system so that people know what to expect. Thinks there is too much gray area. Alex E questions the rationale given that any group can say they will speak at a symposium to request funds. Heidi thinks this is not a good use of RSG funds. Lauren agrees that consistency is an issue in our evaluation of funding requests.

e. Roll Call Vote: Eli Yes, Tien Yes, Lauren Yes, Chris Yes, Alex E Yes, Anna Abstain, Andrew Yes, Heidi Abstain, Patrick Yes, Haven Yes, Ben Abstain, Dan No with rights, Michael Abstain, Alex Yes

f. Motion passes: 9-1-4
g. Dan thinks we should ask them to fill out form again and we need to approach these issues in more systematic way. Michael asks that we request the group submit a modified budget. Bylaw review committee will make sure this is added to rules.

6. Sexual Practices Resolution:
   a. Chris introduces resolution to expand university non-discrimination policy. Gender identity and sexual expression are included in policy but does not include how people conduct the fulfillment of their attraction or relationship. Fulfillment of relationships is central to human beings and not protecting that could lead to problems for individuals. Chris talked with Jackie Sympson head of spectrum center and came up with two word clause to add to non-discrimination policy of the university, “sexual practice.” This would protect the way people fulfill any sort of relationship. Thinks the university can provide an example.
   b. Eli commends Chris for writing a resolution and asks if this included polyamorous and other relationships. Dan wants to know if sexual practice is a commonly used phrase. Chris says it is not included in most bill of rights he has seen so this would be new. Ben would like to know if any other schools have done this, and Chris hasn’t found any to this point. Heidi would like to know what else needs to be added. Chris and Michael say the ‘whereas’ clauses need to be amended and tightened up. They may remove the final resolved clause. They will be working on the language over the break. Heidi asks if there were other phrases considered and Chris says there were more that were longer, more complicated, and more inflammatory. She also asks if this includes anything illegal and Chris says no. Dan asks for clarification on the process. Michael says it will came back to the board for discussion and then there will be a public hearing and finally there will be a vote by the board.
   c. Moved by Dan seconded by Tien to commit the resolution Winter 1201 to the Academic Affairs committee to come back to the board. Approved unanimously.

7. Committee Updates:
   a. Academic: Tien says currently working on Bill of Rights.
   b. Budgetary: Motion to accept minutes by Alex. Second by Alex E. Approved with 2 abstentions.
   c. Communications: Chris says next newsletter going out Monday after spring break.
   d. Elections: Alex says meet committee will meet after break.
   e. Legislative: Motion to accept minutes by Chris seconded by Haven. Approved unanimously.
      i. Michael says attendance will be amended.
ii. SAGE march 24th through 27th. Anyone wanting to go should email Michael by Sunday night with a paragraph as to why they’d like to go. Michael’s goal to send 5-8 people and will send out email reminder.

f. Student Life: Alex E mentions Habitat fundraiser that Eli will discuss.

g. COSAC: Eli says Habitat for Humanity event coming up in April and need to raise funds for it. Motion by Eli to approve graduate student takeover of ricks Thursday 3/1. They’ll charge cover at the door. Second by Tien. Alex opened designated fund account to be able to donate the money raised to Habitat.

i. Motion to approve minutes by Eli. Second by Heidi. Approved unanimously.

ii. Prospect of participating in Cancer Relay for life. Anyone interested should talk to Eli.

8. Postpone 5 Year Plan Discussion until next meeting

9. Open Discussion:
   a. Lauren and Tien note they were not absent last week.
   b. Ben would like to know if we will discuss CSG’s Graduate Student Condition. Michael says we’ll discuss at the next meeting. Rackham has 10 seats on CSG and 8 of 10 are vacant. Dan would like to know if there would be some advantage to have grad students show up and claim the seats. Michael says we’ll discuss at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment: Haven motions to adjourn. Second by Chris. Unanimously approved at 7:45 pm.