1. Call to Order by President Benson at 6:38pm
2. Attendance
   a. Present: President Benson, Representatives Eli Benchell Eisman, Kaitlin Flynn, Alex Toulouse, Chris Tom, Tien Huei-Hsu, Nina White, Lauren Knapp, Andrew Crawford, Patrick Rooney, Haven Allen, Ben Curtiss-Lusher, Dan Trubman, Marisol Ramos, Pete McGrath, Tina, Heidi Alvey
   b. Absent (Excused): Alex Emly, Cassandra Yapple, Mindy Waite
   c. Absent (Unexcused): Rob Gillezeau
3. Introductions
4. Approval of the Agenda. Moved by Alex T., seconded by Chris Tom. Michael asks for additions or modifications. None presented. Approval voted unanimously.
5. Approval of Previous Minutes: December 8, 2011. Motion to approve the minutes by Tien and seconded by Eli. Minutes are approved with two abstentions.
6. Officer Reports
   a. Student body president Michael Benson:
      MLK day is Monday. RSG is co-sponsoring the University’s kickoff event. Details to follow in an email to the student body tomorrow. Co-sponsorship is costing us nothing, so that’s nice.
   b. Student body treasurer Mindy Waite:
      Mindy will be resigning next week as we have a new treasurer to appoint.
7. RSG Executive board
   a. To appoint, per the bylaws, the President will make an appointment, with a 2/3 board vote needed to pass. The nomination will become effective in one week.
   b. Treasurer: Alex Toulouse. Motion to approve by Kaitlin, seconded by Eli. Haven asks if under the bylaws if the board is able to view all applications. Michael responds that it is not. Alex T says a few words about what he’s interested in as Treasurer. He’s interested particularly in working with student groups to make our money more accessible to the student body. Approved with two abstentions.
   c. Vice President: Motion to approve nomination of Kaitlin Flynn as VP moved by Chris and seconded by Nina. Kaitlin says a few words about what she’s interested in pursuing as VP including uniting the graduate student
community and effecting change at the academic and federal level. Approved with one abstention. This nomination is effective immediately.

8. RSG Logistics
   a. Representative expectations
      i. Board meetings
         1. Representatives are required to attend board meetings. Michael will grant excused absences and academic, research purposes will take priority over RSG. Each individual gets up to 3 unexcused absences per their elected term. Email Michael with reasoning for excused absences and they can and will remain confidential.
         2. Will Hutchison’s seat will be vacated due to 6 unexcused absences. Michael asks for a motion to overturn his decision to evict Will’s seat. Motion moved by Alex T. and seconded by Chris. Heidi objects the motion to overturn the decision. Michael asks for objections and the motion is objected with 3 abstentions. There is now a vacancy in Division IV.
      ii. Committees
         1. We have 9 committees, with the non-academic career opportunity committee possibly being combined with student life. Members must attend committee meetings, per the bylaws. Committees meet biweekly, and the times will be determined by the members of the committee. Committee chairs are asked to send out doodle polls for a meeting by next week. Committee chairs also are responsible for the attendance policy. Committee budgets will be due within the next week.
      iii. Events
         1. Jorge Cham event (PhD comics) coming at end of January. The board is invited to dinner with him and Michael will send out an email soon. There are a number of social events coming up, including seeing the Red Wings, Valentine’s day event, St. Pats day event, Pistons game, family friendly events, etc etc etc. If any board members want to see events happen, they should contact the execs. Individual projects also apply.
      iv. Constituent contact
         1. As an RSG member, we should be communicating with our constituents, attending department and programmatic events, become available for students, etc. We will also be hosting office hours.
   b. Committee membership
      i. Committee membership slate included in the packet. If you’d like to join a different committee, ask the execs to add you. Committee descriptions and quorum are listed in the packet (taken from the
bylaws). Chris asks if quorum would change under addition or subtraction of members and the answer is yes.

ii. Committee changes: Chris Tom would like to be added to AAC. Ben and Andrew would like to be removed from AAC. Budgetary committee, removal of Mindy Waite and addition of Alex T and Kaitlin F. Communications committee: we’re considering consolidating this committee because most of the work is done by the execs. Throughout the committee slates, we will replace the Treasurer with Alex T and VP with Kaitlin. Elections committee: elections director will eventually be hired. Still, we need to further appoint the elections committee slate: Division I: Eli Benchell Eisman. Division II: Andrew. Division III: Marisol. Legislative Affairs: Chris Tom is added, Haven Allen is added to the committee. Student Life: no changes. Community outreach and social action committee: Eli explains the committee and volunteer opportunities that are coming up. Changes: Heidi would like to be added. Ben would also like to be added. Patrick introduces his post graduate career opportunities committee and we discuss some of the issues currently surrounding it. Adding Alex Emly and Tien to this committee for the time being. Motion to approve moved by Chris and seconded by Dan. Approved unanimously.

c. Social gathering
d. Food @ meetings policy

i. Up until last term, some food was included in the budget for RSG board meeting and the thought was to give the board a snack while they’re at the meeting. Michael asks for a motion, Andrew makes a motion to have food at meetings and seconded by Ben. Andrew asks for more clarification and Heidi mentions that the GEO endorsed candidate platform included not having food as a campaign promise. Pete asks a question if having food affected attendance in a positive way. Michael answers that it helped in some way but he doesn’t want it to feel like a bribe. Haven asks how much 8% of the budget is and Michael answers that over the course of a term we spent about $800. Andrew asks what percent of our budget is left over and if we could include that in our food money. Haven asks if productivity changed when we had food or if the meetings were longer. Michael says that it depends on who’s chairing. Pete asks if these are public meetings and if we provide food for them. Michael says that anyone who attends is welcome if the food is ‘free for all’. Kaitlin brings up that previous board discussion has been indicative of general laziness in picking up, ordering, or reimbursing for food. Michael describes how the food ordering would work. Heidi mentions that RSG t-shirts was an example of another controversial issue. Alex T mentions that it can be a little awkward when you have funding requests come in and everyone is eating, etc. Michael mentions that we do offer our guest speakers to eat with us. Tien also mentions that we have provided snacks in the past. Haven asks about specific monetary cost involved
with food. Michael explains that there is not a set dollar amount but going up to $1000 would be probably maximum without impacting other efforts. Haven also asks if there's a better use for these funds, such as community outreach. Andrew asks what our general budget is overall and Michael says that we’ll have $20-25,000 to operate with. Haven asks if that includes overhead and Michael says that it does include overhead, such as copies. Chris Tom brings up that he has events before and after the meeting and mentions that he would like to have food to rely on for cogency. Patrick says that he finds that its incongruous that we generally don’t fund food for student groups. Michael explains the current dichotomy between food funding for groups, generally the idea is that we don’t fund extemporaneous food but we don’t have a well-defined policy. Kaitlin says that she doesn’t think we should do it. Motion to end the debate by Michael, seconded by Haven. This motion is approved with 2 abstentions. The current motion is now to have food or not at the meetings for snacks, meals or otherwise. Motion comes to a vote: 4 approvals, 8 opposals, 3 abstentions.

e. Office hours
   i. Next week we will be passing around a sheet for office hours time and location. Can be at any time as long as its in an accessible location. Nina asks if we could have accessibility to the website to change our office hours in the case of illness.

f. RSG email list usage
   i. Michael lists the email lists that will go to the board, exec, or each individual execs. Committees also have their own listservs.
   ii. Minutes: the VP is currently taking minutes, but board members are encouraged to consider taking minutes to help offset the workload.

9. Winter 2012 goal setting session
   a. Goal setting will take place next week as we’re running out of time. Michael charges everyone with the task of coming up with events and goals and at the next meeting we’ll charge tasks to various committees.

10. Open discussion
    a. Kaitlin brings up the social gathering
    b. Tien brings up the printing quotas and they are departmental specific.

11. Adjournment
12. Motion to adjourn by Tien and seconded by Haven. Adjourned at 8pm.