RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
January 15, 2014
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
7:45 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:59pm
   a. Present: Representatives Pier Davis, Sidney Ellington, Adam Duran, David Malewski, Julian Bahr, Shijun Liu, David Barton, Michael Benson, Erin Sullivan, Chuky Mbgo, David Weinreich, Malcom Tariq
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Boying Liu, Ryne Peterson

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
   Motion by David Malewski, seconded by Michael Benson. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
   Motion by David B. with change to correct DB to excused, seconded by MB. Approved unanimously with 1 abstention.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
   a. President Phillip Saccone – Welcome to RSG everyone. My name is Phil saccone I’m a 3rd year phd student in pharmacology.

Chuky Mbgaubu – 2nd year masters student
David – 3rd year phd in urban planning
Malcom – 1st year phd in English language
Joshua – 1st year masters in IOE
Dave Malewski – 3rd year phd in pharmacy
Julian – 3rd year
Erin – 1st year
Ben Sweeny
Sidney – 4th year phd in Applied Physics

We have a pretty long agenda for today, I’m not going to doddle on my executive report. Basically every time we meet, we’re going to go through our agenda, starting with a call to order and the taking of attendance. We will then move through the agenda ending with committee updates and open discussion. When we have guests, we will bump them to an early point in the meeting to ensure that we have a large attendance. If you’re going to leave early, please give me a little sign (Phil waves his hand) so I will know… and we can take he votes that need ot be taken with a quorum.
If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask me or any senior members of RSG. The first thing we need to do is set committee meeting times. I’ve slated the committee membership. If you have an issue, please let me know. The Board can amend the slate. There are needs that I have, if committees are under represented, I’d ask that you help me and the graduate student body by serving. Once we confirm my slate (or amend it and then approve it) I’m going to appoint one member of each committee to take point to serve as an interim chair. This person will coordinate a meeting **before Friday the 25th** we also need to form a budget which will help set our priorities for the semester and beyond. Please do your best to be flexible in the committee meeting process. Additionally, at the meeting, you will elect a chair or co-chairs for the semester. I will be appointing a new treasurer and vice president in the coming weeks. The application to serve as our treasurer for the 2014 calendar year is due on Friday January 17th. The VP application will be due next week and I’ll send it out shortly.

We have a number of upcoming events. One in particular is coming up next week at Yost Ice Arena. This is one of the many events that we cosponsor with the graduate school. We’re going to be sending out an advertisement for that shortly and we need volunteers. It would be great to have a number of representatives in attendance to help run the event and also to converse with our constituents.

The board is not currently filled, so we need people. I’ll be making a concerted effort to do this by the end of the term.

Going into ongoing projects, there are a lot of projects that are on going. While a number of issues have been addressed in the past, there is more work to do. One such issue is the formation of a best practices guide and/or a graduate bill of rights.

Another ongoing project is the GEO survey. We’re going to be working with the union to survey the student body on a number of issues. More on this to come.

Also, it looks like we have some good news on the PhD course bank from the university registrar.

The last point is the webpage design. This is a sore spot and has been going on for a while. We’re pursuing university centered solutions as well as private solutions.

**b. Acting Treasurer Chuky -**

We have $24k in the account which is healthy. We also haven’t received this semester’s deposit. This does not include this semester’s deposit nor does it include the $8 - $9k that we currently owe to Rackham.
V. EMERGENCY FUNDING APPLICATIONS

a. MOTION by Michael Benson and seconded by Dave M. To set the budgetary committee’s budget to be $1500 for the winter semester. Further the motion is to set $1500 to the Student Life Committee. This is a temporary figure and will likely be revised during the Treasurer’s budget process. **The motion carries on a vote of 14 – 0 – 0.**

b. **Funding Request 1: Geo – Institute**

Phil, Michael, and Chuky discussed the budgetary committee process and the role of the board in filling in.

Highlights: We look at the number of graduate students involved in the organization as well the anticipated number of graduate students that will be able to attend/be impacted by the proposed events.

Chuky: I hope that everyone had a chance to look this over. This event is by the GEO group for the civil engineering department. They’re looking to have a speaker fly in and talk about soil among other things. They’re anticipating 25 – 40 students to attend. They’re requesting $450 for travel and lodging for the speaker. My main concern for the event is that they didn’t clearly answer what their annual budget is nor what they’re looking to appropriate. I followed up with the org and they informed me that they were hoping to fundraise ~ $1375. They’ve noted that they can accommodate up to half of the event costs.

Phil: Someone has submitted a request for an event that is now costing $1500 but the original cost was $571.10

Michael: Limited participation, but small department. I’d be willing to allocate approximately $200 for the event in an unrestricted fashion.

Dave M: I’m willing to go between $50 and $150

David B: Chuky, given the new budget, where did the extra $1000 come from? Given that, I’d be willing to allocate up to $290

Chuky reads full response: ___

The Time for debate was extended by 5 minutes with one objection on a motion by Michael and a second by Erin.

Shiju: Same question

Adam: What is the effect of a retroactive request? Was this submitted in a timely fashion?
Michael: I move that we allocate $125 restricted to speaker travel, lodging, and advertising.

Julian: Motion to allocate $250 restricted as done above.

All those in favor of funding $0:
None.

All those in favor of funding 125: 12

All those in favor of funding $250: 10

c. Funding Request 2: Urban Planning Institute
This group has sought funding from other sources. They’ve received $1000 from SAMI to speaker honorarium and $1500 from the Urban Planning department. $2,000 has been raised thus far and upwards of $500 are being requested from RSG. This is a part of the larger university MLK celebration.

Motion $400 by Michael seconded by Ben
Motion $589 by Julian seconded by Erin

All in favor of $0: None

All in favor of $400: 5

All in favor of fully funding: 11

One abstention overall.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Academic Affairs Committee

b. Budgetary Committee

c. Bylaw Review Committee

d. Community Outreach & Social Action Committee

e. Elections Committee

f. Legislative Affairs Committee
Michael gives an update on the SAGE DOH as well as the committee’s activities for the semester.

g. Student Life Committee
VII. OPEN DISCUSSION
Phil discusses his two executive orders and issues them.

VIII. Approval of committee slates
Dave M to LAC not AAC.
David W to LAC and SLC

Moved by Michael seconded by Erin.

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 9:11 pm.