1) Call to order 6.36
2) Roll Call of Members
   i) Present
      (1) Representatives Eli Benchell Eisman, Tien-Huei Hsu, Lauren Knapp, Chris Tom, Andrew Crawford, Patrick Rooney, Anna Wagner, Ben Curtis-Lusher, Dan Trubman, Marisol Ramos, Pete McGrath, Executives: Treasurer Alex Toulouse, Vice President Kaitlin Flynn, President Michael Benson (presiding)
   ii) Absent excused
      (1) Representatives Alex Emly, Cassie Yaple, Heidi Alvey, Kaitlin Flynn
   iii) Absent unexcused
      (1) Representative Nina White
3) Motion to approve agenda, Moved by Tien, seconded by Alex T: motion is approved unanimously
4) Approval of meeting minutes from 12, January 2012
   a) Tien wanted to clarify her comments from the open discussion regarding departmental printing quotas. Michael notes that Tien’s comments were included in this as well as, the previous week’s agenda
   b) Motion to approve minutes as amended, moved by Tien, seconded by Ben: motion is approved unanimously
5) Approval of meeting minutes from 19, January 2012
   a) Kaitlin is still getting used to minute taking,
   b) Lauren’s name is spelled L-A-U-R-E-N. For reference, this is an administrative edit and can be changed after the board approves the minutes. Only substantive changes need to be brought up during for discussion
   c) Motion to strike Open Discussion Section 8b, moved by Chris, seconded by Pete: motion approved unanimously
6) EO-2
   a) Reading of the Executive Order establishing the Community Outreach and Social Action Committee.
   b) This is an extension of the previous executive order EO-2, from the 2011 fall semester
   c) The committee Chair thanks the President and acknowledges the board for the continued interest in providing service opportunities to their constituency
   d) Ben asks for a clarification of Ad Hoc committees
      i) AD hoc committees are made on a trial basis, two of three committees formed last semester are still in consideration for being made permanent
7) Rackham Graduate student body president, Michael Benson’s report
a) President Obama will be speaking tomorrow.
b) The Legislative Affairs committee meets next week. Attempts are being made to meet with the president during the upcoming SAGE days
c) Miss Diburn (sp?) could not meet tonight; Dean Weiss is coming to the board meeting next week.
d) A legislative affairs committee meeting email will be sent out this week for a meeting Tuesday evening. Ben asks for a clarification about SAGE. MB: The Student Advocates for Graduate Education (SAGE) coalition was cofounded with other top tier research one institutions such as Berkeley, UNC Chapel UC Irvine, UCSD, Rutgers, UW, and MSU, to lobby on behalf of graduate students. Go to sagecoalition.org to find out more information. We will be selecting individuals for the upcoming SAGE conference on behalf of Michigan this year. Disclosure: MB is the Vice Chairperson for SAGE

8) Rackham Graduate student treasurer, Alex Toulouse’s report
   a) The proposed budget is in the packet. Please look at it so we can vote on it.
   b) First budgetary meeting immediately preceded the general board meeting
   c) $25379.92 total funds
   d) Andrew asks for a clarification on the origins of those funds. MB: Every grad student pays as part of their tuition $1.50. Our budget may increase slightly as additional funds get deposited from late enrollments, but this is the first allotment basically through until fall.

9) Academic Affairs committee report- Co-Chari Chris Tom
   a) Committee met two weeks ago, spoke about upcoming town hall meetings. As a reminder, Michael needs to provide Eli with the updated Dean contact information
   b) Discussed GSBOR, hope to vote out of committee for presentation to board in the next two weeks
   c) Next meeting is Wednesday 1, February 2012, at Espresso Royale Cafe on State Street. Where we will be addressing these general issues as well as the conflict resolution board and IP issues brought by at our last RSG general board meeting.
   d) Optional meeting following the committee meeting to discuss GSBOR in depth
   e) Ben asks if the board has discussed the GPA issue that Haven brought up. MB: more information is being collected from the student populous. A potential exemption has been suggested for the Ford School and this is being looked into. Michael notes that under elections committee on the RSG website, the full election results as well as the proposed ballot are accessible.

10) Budgetary committee- RSG Treasurer Alex Toulouse
   a) Met earlier today to speak to a group requesting more than $700. Per the bylaws, the board must approve funding request over this amount. We will inform them of the recommendation. If they are unhappy, the group can address and petition to reconsider.
   b) Andrew asks what happens if the student group is under budget? AT: We only fund what we re given receipts for. MB: In certain instances money issued before the event but this requires approval by both the Treasurer and President

11) Communications committee- MB
   a) All people on list and committee chairs, we will be having our first meeting soon
b) First newsletter will be going out Monday; event blurbs are due by Saturday.

12) Elections committee - MB
   a) Committee hasn’t met yet
   b) Elections are third week of March

13) Legislative Affairs committee
   a) Haven’t met yet
   b) Lots going on, we are trying to bring some local and state elected officials to meet with board
   c) One issue of particular interest this semester will be a ninety-day moratorium on leases. We will be trying to extend this significantly. Tenants rights groups and the LegAff will be working closely
   d) A lot on our plate at local and state level Lobbying Day in Lansing

14) Student Life Committee - RSG Treasurer Alex Toulouse
   a) One meeting so far. The events slated for this semester are included in the packet
   b) Come to karaoke tonight at Circus

15) By-law Review committee
   a) Sometime next week
   b) Anyone that can attend, please do,
   c) Looking to have bylaws out for review by the board by the next meeting

16) COSAC
   a) The Committee chair would like to thank President and acknowledge the board for voting to extend this committee
   b) Thanks to everyone who came to our first meeting.
   c) Big projects for the semester include a Food Gatherers event, volunteering during DP Day (31, March 2012), a Habitat for Humanity opportunity and another day with A2 Parks and Rec
   d) There are additional initiatives that you can read about in the minutes

17) Eugene
   a) No Update on his situation
   b) When the rules changed, what the rules changed from.
   c) Those results will be at that the AccAff committee meeting on Wednesday 1, February 2012.
   d) Michael notes that all events and meetings will be updated on the RSG Google calendar.

18) Goal Setting phase 3
   a) Michael thanks everyone for his or her input during the last week’s meeting. We’re going to slate these goals to individual committee, and if anyone has additions this would be a great last time
   b) Marisol requests a clarification on PILOTs - Payment in lieu of taxes. Payments made from the University of Michigan to the city of Ann Arbor.
   c) Pete requests that we look into extending the building hours (i.e. Hatcher, Rackham) for graduate students. MB- A committee including the Provost has looked at changing building hours. Andrew- Classes next semester will be scheduled earlier for students? MB- Right now classes aren’t scheduled in the morning or on Fridays. Moving forward, class scheduling will be done more
evenly across time and location as a cost efficiency measure. Mark Pollack Vice Provost and University CFO will be coming in the next few meetings.

d) Non traditional student tuition coverage

e) Status of Pfizer campus- Alex asks what parts of the NCRC are occupied. MB UM bought Pfizer campus, which basically spans Huron Parkway. Currently in the space is a small business incubator on one side of the space offshoots of research laboratories on the other. Medical school and biological sciences schools covered the majority of the funds. Some funds from the School of Engineering. Not a ghost town. 3-5k people occupying that space in

f) Ben asks if The Ford school is the only one with an issue with the new GPA? MB- Ford is part of Rackham, so this is RSG territory. Ben- are other programs going back? MB- Still looking to see if ford school can be exempt. STRIKE FORD SCHOOL ONLY FROM LIST

g) Lauren- Earth Day event. Chair of Energy club committee. She knows lots of people willing to participate

h) Dan- Tigers game? MB-June 2nd against the Yankees. Here’s a quick run down of the summer events schedule. Cedar point on fathers day ~200 people. Ice cream social in Gallup Park. This year we will include blue bus for travelling to livery and social site and a few places to be picked up and dropped of. Dan- How many graduate students stay in town? MB ~2/3. Lauren- does RSG pay for tickets? MB- RSG will either subsidize ticket prices or do nothing. For the Pistons games for example, we paid to reserve seats but never buy full tickets. Often we will provide transportation. Andrew- Is drinking/ intoxication on the bus allowed. MB restrictions on alcohol, some students from ChemBio got too drunk and vomited on a kid while on the bus. Some families were pissed off and RSG imposed restrictions on the bus. RSG chaperones have the authority to kick people off the bus.

i) MB- Master student study space under academic costs

j) The goals are assigned as follows:

k) Academic Issues

i) GSRA/ IP- AcAff/ SLC as this is jointly both academic and non academic.

Andrew asks if this is in regards to the GSRA unionization? MB- Rights of GSRAs/ materials provided to GSRAs. LegAff typically works at the state and federal level

ii) GSBOR- AcAff

iii) GPA- AcAff

iv) Interlibrary loan efficiency – AcAff

v) Dispute Resolution board- AcAff and SLC

vi) International and nontraditional student funding- SLC. Chris Tom will also take this on as an individual project. Andrew notes that there are groups on campus, we should contact them to collaborate

vii) PhD candidacy courses- AccAff

viii) Building Hours-SLC

ix) Masters Student Study Space- Related to building hours makes sense to tie to the two together. AcAff and SLC will work together

l) Local issues
i) PILOTS/ town halls and Political action- LegAff
ii) Pfizer campus- Execs
iii) Tuition – AcAff
iv) Everything but tuition- LegAff
m) Student Service Issues- nonacademic
   i) Housing issues in Northwood- SLC
   ii) Increased bussing- SLC. PTS and AATA directors will be coming to address the board
   iii) Airport Shuttle- LegAff- AATA is dealing with the city and is already working on that. Trains will also be going from Here to Detroit. Will hold off on these when the mayor comes. Lots of excitement
iv) Peer mentoring- COSAC/ institutional policy enforcement. Work with AccAff and SLC
n) Social events-
   i) Social Events with local leader LegAff
o) Motion to approve goal allocations to committees and individuals, moved by Tien seconded by Pete: approved with one abstention
19) Budget
   a) Took budgets from each committee with minor modifications
   b) AcAff 400 for town halls mostly for advertising
   c) Budget for giving to other groups
   d) Communication- Banner and newsletter trivia prizes
   e) LegAff- 3700. 3k for SAGE for federal lobbying 400 state/ 300 city council town Hall
   f) SLC- Events slated for this semester. Pistons game already paid for from last semester. March madness events we will award prizes three $50 per award rather than having to go through people pay system would and avoid taxes
   g) Elections- 500 for election budget. Likely won’t use all of it. It’s still not clear whether we will hire an elections director
   h) COSAC- 375 for 3 events
   i) General administrative budget for $30-150 for supplies and copying and $150 for discretionary funding. These funds are used to take other student leaders for lunch and foster those relationships. One exec can approve this, but it needs to be reported to exec as well as full board. Andrew asks if $150 enough for shoulder rubbing. MB- Is fast cheap and gets things done.
   j) A general question about the Pinball Pete’s expenditure. AT- This event is a minimum of 3 hours at $400/ hour. Cosponsor with Rackham. RSG is only paying $600.
   k) Total requested funds for the winter semester 2012: $15205.00
   l) Total reserve funds for the winter semester 2012: $2500.000
      i) Reserve of at least 5% of annual budget. Can only be allocated if board approves. Unallocated funds for summer events.
   m) Total unallocated funds for the winter semester 2012: $7674.92
   n) Chris Tom asks how RSG board members fund events. AT-The same as other groups on campus
o) Andrew asks how the Legislative/ Town hall funds are spent? MB- Likely for buses. The state has Grad Lobbying day in Lansing. We will advertise this to the student body and send 60-100 to talk about the benefit of graduate education. City council town hall? Organize an informal event to bring city council members (i.e. a night at Redhawk) appetizers (not booze) to get GS and local politicians together. One issue we will be talking about is streetlight at pedestrian crosswalks. crossing lights. City is divided into 5 wards, north campus/ central campus. Mayoral election debate.

p) Andrew asks how the board can utilize the reserved funds? MB requires 2/3 approval of board membership and 2 execs. Public financing law does no prohibit use of funds, however the University imposes additional restrictions. Andrew- look to using external agency? MB- yes but requires an annual external audit $5000. As of now the University does this on our behalf.

20) Janet Weiss is coming net week
   a) Things to consider discussing:
      i) Continuous enrollment, the $1000 reinstatement fee. RSG passed resolution stating they wouldn't charge.
      ii) Rackham centennial
   b) Chris asks about resolution timelines. MB- There are two different types. Sense of the board that states “The Boards opinion on behalf of the graduate student body”. The second is a board resolution. These types of resolution are sent to the University for consideration as policy. The president is afforded a veto, but no vote. No other student government has that authority on campus. CT- Do the resolutions we offer have an end date? MB- not unless one of the two parties put date in resolutions.
   c) Please try to be here next week.

21) Open discussion
   a) Anna moves that we start time at normal (non-Michigan) time, seconded by Andrew: the motion is approved unanimously
   b) Janet Weiss will have the entire meeting dedicated to her.
   c) Get your t-shirt. Go to circus
   d) Anna moves to adjourn. Seconded by Andrew
   e) Adjourn 7.51