RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Board Meeting
October 27th, 2011
Rackham Building, 915 E. Washington St.

Present: Patrick, Michael Benson, Tien Huei-Hsu, Mindy Waite, Alex Toulouse, Rahul, Heidi Pedini, Alex Emly, Nina White, Marisol Ramos

Absent: Lily Mancour, Amit Patel, David Cotrell, Grant Manderino, Rob Gillezeau

Excused: Serge Farina, Eli Eisman, Anne Fitzpatrick, William Hutchinson, Joshua Bow

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
   a. Motion to approve moved by Tien Huei Hsu and seconded by Nina White. Motion approved with 2 abstentions.
3. Community Input
   a. Eugene Deshevar—GSRA IP ownership and expectations from RSG communication.
      i. Biomed engineering student shares his story that as a graduate student he faced challenges regarding his work and ownership of his ideas. Through the GSRA unionization initiative (are we students or employees?) the question of who owns what ideas comes up. Eugene believes that this area needs definition as GSRAs are in between the University (student) and employee relationship.
      ii. Eugene has a conflict with his advisor who owns a company that patented his idea through the company and not through UM. There is a conflict of interest issue here. After he pursued the Ombudsman, nothing happened. After acquiring evidence, he moved through dean’s offices, etc. One issue is that his intellectual property was not protected.
      iii. Advisor filed similar ideas through his (advisors) company. But the process of telling the appropriate people became a serious struggle. Eugene is appealing to us to share his story and show his struggles.
      iv. Where are the boundaries of ownership of IP for GSRAs? His suggestions are to clarify the issue between the Office of Technology Transfer and if GSRAs are employees or not.
      v. There is an issue of professional here. Even after Eugene contacted OTT, the sub-head of didn’t treat his conflict with respect or professional candor.
      vi. Michael notes that the director of the Office of Technology Transfer will be visiting soon. We will NOT be bringing up Eugene’s issue to the OTT.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes
a. Attendance checks and changes—Michael has us look at the attendance record. Marisol requests adding herself to excused absence on October 20.

b. Motion to approve the minutes from October 6 2011 moved by Alex Emly, seconded by Mindy Waite. Motion approved unanimously.

c. Motion to approve the minutes from October 21 2011 moved by Nina and seconded by Mindy. Modifications: moving members that were marked late with **s as present. Also some issue with clarification of Rob’s position during open discussion. A motion to postpone the approval of these minutes until Rob and Eli are present to clarify their positions moved by Heidi and seconded by Nina. Approved with 3 abstentions.

5. Officer Reports

a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael

Michael did not manage to appoint people to MSA due to the death in his family. Michael has contacted MSA considering the vote on the GSRA issue and asking MSA to postpone the vote until Rackham students can be appointed to MSA by Michael. Michael takes a moment to debrief Mindy on the updates.

Eugene’s issues will be tasked to the Academic Affairs committee.

b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Josh

Josh is excused.

c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Mindy

$20,600 in the bank. Apple orchard event coming up this weekend. 2 student groups were funded.

6. Committee Reports

a. Academic Affairs

Have been reviewing Bill of Rights and accepted some of Ethan Eagle (past RSG rep)’s comments. Next meeting we will be discussing the GSRA/GEO/RSG FAQ.

b. Budgetary

7 student groups have been funded thus far, some are getting rejected because they are not meeting requirements for students affected or 21 days in advance for request.

c. Communications

Newsletter will come out on Monday. Any ideas of what to advertise, send to Mindy. T-shirts are out and they’re awesome. We’re also working on RSG branding.

d. Elections

Email for the elections director has been sent out and many applications have been submitted. The board will approve the elections director appointee next week.
e. Legislative Affairs

Yesterday's committee meeting was cancelled and the 2nd ward Ann Arbor council debate was attended. It was heated and exciting. SAGE planning for the fall conference will need to be approved.

f. Student Life

Heidelberg event was packed and very well attended. Thursday night events and appetizers seem to have drawn people out. Apple orchard event coming on Sunday. Chaperones: Michael is attending a Halloween party on Saturday night and will be dressing up as Colonel Sanders. Upcoming events: karaoke night, Red Wings, trivia night. Alex T moved to approve the previous minutes, Alex E seconds. Alex E. brings up that a consulting committee for the Rec Sports facilities is coming in and we need to rally 20-30 grad students to support the implementation of a student fee to improve rec facilities.

g. Bylaw Review Committee

We need to schedule another meeting and need more people. Maybe 6:15pm on November 11? Pizza provided.

h. Service Opportunities Committee

Eli is not present but the park clean up is happening the weekend of November 13.

i. Career & Placement Discussion

Samantha Zang (recently graduated from the consulting group) has ideas for the committee and could be chair of the committee. She’s not a student but would be willing. Heidi raises the point that we could combine committees, perhaps with the service and career opportunities committee. Alex E suggests that we solicit the student body and combine with the consulting group, too. Alex E will look for other student groups and report back to the board by Thanksgiving.

7. Attendance Records
   a. Started the meeting with this.

8. Second Reading of Board Resolution F-01-11: Creating Student Advisory

We’ll postpone this to next week. Approved by the board.

9. Open Discussion
   a. The disability committee meetings have been included and they have an announcement to add to the newsletter for next week.

10. Adjournment