A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, Numerous student governments exist on the University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor Campus; AND

WHEREAS, All graduate students, regardless of their school of enrollment are represented by both a Central Student Government (CSG), and a school specific government; AND

WHEREAS, All graduate students pay $7.19 to the central student government and $1.50 to their school’s student government during each term of enrollment\(^1\); AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government’s leadership is traditionally dominated by undergraduate students\(^2\); AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government spends the vast majority of its time focusing on issues relating to undergraduate students\(^2\); AND

WHEREAS, The Central Student Government spends the vast amount of its budget on events and programs that target undergraduate students\(^3\); AND

WHEREAS, Members of the Rackham Graduate School, the Law School, and the School of Public Health student bodies voted during the fall 2012 academic term to look into creating a graduate and professional student government, separate from the Central Student Government; AND

WHEREAS, 9.5% of Rackham students voted in the Fall 2012 election\(^4\); AND

WHEREAS, 69% of those Rackham Students voted in favor of pursuing a separate graduate and professional student government\(^4\); AND

\(^1\) [http://www.ro.umich.edu/tuition/tuition-fees.php](http://www.ro.umich.edu/tuition/tuition-fees.php)
\(^2\) [http://csg.umich.edu/about/history & CSG / MSA Meeting Minutes](http://csg.umich.edu/about/history & CSG / MSA Meeting Minutes)
\(^3\) [CSG / MSA approved budgets and funding committee allocations 2007 - present](http://csg.umich.edu/about/history & CSG / MSA Meeting Minutes)
\(^4\) RSG Fall 2012 Election Results, [http://rsg.umich.edu/fall-2012-election-results](http://rsg.umich.edu/fall-2012-election-results)
WHEREAS, Significant majorities in both the University’s School of Public Health and Law School student bodies voted to pursue a separate graduate and professional student government; AND

WHEREAS, A new constitution will need to be drafted and approved by the graduate student bodies at the University of Michigan before any separation from CSG can take place; AND

WHEREAS, This constitution should be written in an open and fair manner with input from each graduate constituency; NOW ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT

RESOLVED, That a joint committee on graduate student government (J-COM) be created; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That the President of the Rackham Student Government will appoint members of the graduate student body to serve as voting members of the J-COM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution will be sent to the presidents of each of the University’s professional student governments with the urging that they approve a similar resolution and appoint members of their respective student bodies to serve as voting members on the J-COM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that no graduate student body shall appoint more than 5 voting members to the J-COM at any given time; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Presidents of the Graduate and Professional Student Bodies (CHAIRS) may appoint any number of alternates to the J-COM, so long as said alternates are currently enrolled students in their school; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall hold its first meeting no later than February 6, 2013; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the presidents of the graduate and professional student bodies shall serve as co-chairs of the J-COM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall be empowered to define and approve additional rules and regulations for its operation so long as they do not conflict with the provisions of the initial operating manual contained within this resolution; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that such rules and regulations may be voided by a 2/3rds majority vote of the CHAIRS, or simple majority votes by at least two graduate and professional student legislatures; AND BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall consult with the graduate and professional student body as it develops a Constitution for the Graduate and Professional Student Body of the University of Michigan; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that the J-COM shall report regularly to the legislatures of the graduate and professional student governments on its progress; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, that the J-COM’s initial operating manual shall be defined as follows:

**A. Composition.** The J-COM shall be composed of a minimum of no less than three (3) members of each of the graduate and professional student bodies at the University of Michigan’s Ann Arbor Campus. Any member of the Student Body may join the J-COM upon an appointment of their school’s student body president and shall have voting rights, subject to the conditions outlined in subsection C.

**B. Chair.** The Presidents of the graduate and professional student bodies shall serve as co-chairs of the J-COM and shall share administrative responsibility for its timely operations. The co-chairs may appoint such other officers of the committee as they deem appropriate. The co-chairs will select from amongst themselves a president to chair each J-Com meeting. The same president should not serve as chair for consecutive meetings.

**B. Quorum.** A quorum shall exist when half plus one of the committee members are present as determined by the co-chairs.

**C. Voting Rights.** All appointed members of the J-COM shall be entitled to a vote.

**D. Committee Operations.** The J-COM shall meet on an as needed basis, at least bi-weekly through the Winter semester. Votes to approve recommendations and to send a final recommendation package to the graduate and professional student body must be taken in person with a quorum present. Committee discussions may take place electronically so as to allow for maximum participation including representatives and students at-large that are not in the Ann Arbor area. All committee discussions shall be published electronically upon approval by the committee for review by the public at large.

**E. Charge.** The J-COM shall draft a constitution for a graduate student government that will be separate from the Central Student Government. The J-COM will consult with the elected representatives of each graduate and professional student government as well as host a minimum of two town hall style events for members of the graduate and professional student bodies to offer their input and advice.
F. Reports. The J-COM will submit regular reports to the legislatures of the graduate and professional student governments on its progress and will seek feedback from the same. **AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,**

that the committee shall be empowered to draft and submit a question for uniform submission to the graduate and professional student body to the March 2013 graduate student body election without requiring additional approval by the Board.

**AUTHORS**

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Peter McGrath
Representative, Division 3

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Kaitlin Flynn
Vice President, Graduate Student Body

**ATTEST**

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at the top of this resolution is accurate.

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Kaitlin Flynn
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

**PRESIDENTIAL ACTION**

I, Michael Benson, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto this resolution on this the ________ day of _____, 2013.

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Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body