Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: February 11, 2015

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. February 4, 2015
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Chuky
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Abneris
V. Preparing for the President’s visit
VI. Set election date
VII. Appoint elections director
VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
      i. Rackham Building
      ii. Instructor Evaluations
   b. Budgetary
   c. Legislative Affairs
      i. Volunteers for SAGE delegation
   d. Student Life
      i. Event for Janet Weiss
      ii. Event for new Dean
IX. Open Discussion
X. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes February 4, 2015 (p. 2)
Budgetary Committee Minutes Feb 4 (p. 7)
Student Life Committee Minutes Feb 4 (p. 9)
SAGE White Paper 2014 (p. 11)
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
February 4, 2015
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:12pm
   a. Present: Representatives David M, Nate H, Matt G, Brandon P, Katie F, Michael B, David B, Kyle L, President Saccone, Vice President Mbagwu, Treasurer Rodriguez,
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Chris Tom, Myra Lee

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
    Motion by Abneris, seconded by Michael. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
    Motion by Michael Benson. with change to correct Buke to present, seconded by Nate H. Approved unanimously

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
    a. President Phillip Saccone
       Greetings everyone! We had a couple of important meetings today. The first was with the general counsel to talk about the changes to the non discrimination policy. The second meeting was with Dean Janet Weiss. We talked about the cognate requirement and access to Rakcham in the meeting with the dean.

       The Study hall access issue has been around for a while. She’s aware of it. We’re trying to figure out how to access the building. Undergraduates aren’t supposed to be in the main reading room. One method of enforcement would be to pay for a monitor to ID people attempting to enter. The second is a card reader. This second option isn’t great. Within the system there is no firm demarcation of graduate or undergraduate students. Presumably, if we can surmount this we can make it happen. The current idea in place is to when it comes to midterms and finals, Rackham and RSG if necessary can pay for someone to be there to make sure that the undergraduates are unable to intrude. This isn’t a perfect option, but it can be easily done. IF someone can figure out how to get swipe card access, we can recosndier.

       As far as cognate requirements. I can tell you that our current dean is not looking to make a change. She feels that it is important to have a significant breadth of
knowledge outside of their specialty. However, this is something that Rackham has been looking at for a while for Masters students. This is something that is likely to change for masters students in the near future.

Insturctor evaluations. We’re gaining momentum on this point. I’m scheduled to meet with Vice Provost James Holloway next Wednesday. I’ve been communicating with LS&A as well as CSG on this topic. LS&A is going to draft a letter of support for our initiative. I expect that this will go through without a problem, but this is something that we want to let the university know is important. The funny thing is that it really affects the undergraduates more than graduate students. One of the big issues that we’re going ot have to address is the low number of participants. We’re considering a resolution for the Board that would incentivize studnets to fill out their course evaluations. More on that to come.

Vice president Mbagwu did a great job with the Gazette. It tooks us a little bit to get it going and edited. Another one will be coming out in two weeks. Please let Chuky know if you have ideas for content.

b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu
c. Treasurer Alex Toulouse

BC met. The budget will be updated next week. We have $35,678.47 in the account.

V. Preparing for the President’s Visit

Our meeting will begin at 6pm next week. Directly following the meeting will be a meeting with the President of the University. Likely due to numbers, undergraduate education is a prime factor for university administrators. We’re lucky that our new president has significant graduate school bonifides including serving as the chair of a department as well as graduating 21 students. During his installation, the president mentioned graduate education. Our goal is to construct a long term relationship wherein we can dialogue on the best ways to keep Michigan at the forefront of graduate education. In many ways, the environment for graduate education is becoming more and more challenging. Many disciplines are abel to self-supprot but others can not. Additionally, the needs of undergraduates differ significantly from the needs of graduate students.

At this meeting, my goal is to have a very carefully orchestrated event. The president will give a few remarks. We will be inviting representatives of SCOR, FEMS, Tau Beta Pi (TBP), and perhaps others. I’m hoping to keep this event relatively small but open and engaging.

It is critically important that you come prepared to this meeting. Be prepared to engage the President on that level. It is my desire that we do not engage on issues where
we would be griping on one level or another. There are many times where presidents
don’t come to GSA meetings of any type at a University. Our goal is to work with the
President and his office to ensure that we can continue to enrich the community.

**Michael**: So, to be clear, we don’t want to ask about issues affecting one or two students
e.g. my office is cold right?

**Phil**: Yes, that’s correct. Our main goal here is to have the president leave our meeting
able to draw on his experience with us and feel bright when speaking on graduate
education at the university as a result.

**Matt**: Should be strategic about how we formulate questions?

**Phil**: I want it to be choreographed. But I’m not sure if we want to go that far. IF the
Board wants to do that, then lets do it.

**Michael**: Proposes alternate with a shared google doc for people to get feedback on
questions as well as to have a question bank.

**Buke**: I agree with Michael, 100%.

**Phil**: Be active listeners. It’s going to be a good time and I think we’re going to start a
great relationship.

**Katie**: Would we share the google doc with the other groups that would be joining us?

**Phil**: Yes. I’ve met with each of the groups individually and will do so again to make
sure that we’re on the same page.

**Buke**: Where are we meeting?

**Phil**: TBA. I tried to book the Assembly Hall. It was booked. I’m not inviting a ton of
people, cozy is good.

**Michael**: What’s our ask at the end? (To come back?)

**Phil**: Yes, exactly. Please take some time to submit a question or two. Also please
review what the President’s job actually entails.

**Dave M**: Do we know what the President’s current relationship with CSG is and
additionally how we can differentiate ourselves?

**Phil**: I would wait for him to bring that up in this context. I’ve been very reticent to draw
firm unprovoked differences between CSG and RSG. Now that some of CSG’s
antagonists have left. I’ve been working to establish our own policy bonefides. We’ve
done this for years. I’m working to grow this and frame it appropriately. This is a guy that comes from Berkeley and Brown. Both have independent Graduate student assemblies. This is something that the graduate student body president and executives should bring up in the continuing discussion and relationship.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Academic Affairs Committee
      i. Update on sexual expression resolution
         We spent a lot of time with the general counsel today. The meeting was difficult. The General Counsel goes back and forth between thinking that sexual orientation as covered under the NDA would be inclusive of any sexual practices that go along with it and also being very vigilant to what it means to condone free sexual expression in the workplace and what that might mean to someone else (Harrasment?). He reads it like a lawyer and would like us to seek legal counsel to help tighten the language. We intended for him to do this or someone in his office. We also were asked to find out if sexual practice would be covered under the existing protections. He spent over an hour with us and was very generous with our time.

   b. Budgetary Committee
      The BC met. We considered 9 requests.

      Brandon: Since the Gazette went out, I’ve had a few students asking about how to get funding.

      Abneris: The funding tab, and I can show you 😊!

      Buke: Our graduate student council met yesterday and a comment was made that we tried to get funding but there was a deadline.

      Abneris: There is a deadline of 15 business days in advance of the proposed event.

   c. Legislative Affairs Committee
      LAC will be meeting tomorrow.

   d. Student Life Committee
      We are moving the SLC meting to directly follow this meeting. We felt that the Tuesday meeting on off weeks would be a lot of travel. So if you have a conflict, please let us know.
Ice skating went well, we had 315 graduate students attend. We fully paid for skate rentals. It was a good time. Michael can provide an update about an incident we had at the end.

i. Community Outreach & Social Action Committee

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Michael: Talked about over 50% appointment issues.

Buke: Is there a reason why the building is closed on the weekends?

Kyle: Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Michael Besnon.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 6:54pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:12 pm
   a. Present: Representatives David M, Nate H, David Barton, President Saccone, Treasurer Rodriguez, Katie Forsythe, Michael Benson
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused:

II. Chair’s report
   We have quite a few reports to go over. The United Asian Medical Students Association is all medical students and not appropriate for funding. These will not be reviewed. BC agree they should that the email communication should explain why.

III. African Graduate Students Association
   Want funding for lunch to help jump start the organization. They are registered. Seems that the group is small in comparison to some of the other applications that we typically fund. There is some skepticism regarding estimation of numbers because it is a new event. There no agenda or keynote speaker. Looks like a meet or greet social event—perhaps it should not be funded at all. Also seems a bit exclusive. They have not generated enough interest. But, the groups mission is something that we generally want to encourage.

   Motion to fund $150 by Phil seconded Katie--- Phil, Katie, Nate, and Abneris. No David B and David M.
   Motion to fund $100 by David M seconded by Dave M. --David M., David Barton, No Nate, Abstain Michael B, Phil and Abneris

   Fund for $150

IV. International Policy Student Association (IPSA) International Policy one
   This does not meet our funding criteria. This is very exclusively and the impact for campus is minimum.

   Motion by voice vote for $0 Fund Michael Benson, seconded David M. Aye’s unanimous.

V. Student Organization for Information Analysis and Retrieval
They are asking only for food, and it doesn't seem like it is a part of the event. There are questions about the organization of the event—lack of follow up or logistics. Event is very narrow. Michael make a motion to table until they can explain more. Seconded by David M. David B objects—thinks the application is consistent with what we funded the first time. He’s concerned about the narrow scope. Benson withdraws motions.

Phil motions for $100 with and stipulation of submitting and advertising plan and advertise in the Gazette.

Yes: Unanimous.

VI. **Iranian Graduate Student Association**
Disclosure the applicant is in Michael’s research group. We have funded this previously and is was very well attended. Event meets funding criteria. Abneris reviews the details of the applications. They will charge for admission and they were given $2000 by CSG. Questions about where the ticket money is going to go.

We need more information:

Motion to table By Michael, seconded by David B.

VII. **International Policy Student Association (IPSA)**
Not a complete application, withdrawn by treasurer pending follow up with applicant.

VIII. **The Ann Arbor Palestine Film Festival**

Serious questions raised about funding model. They are charging people for expenses. They seem to have all of the expenses. Ask them to fill out in a standard form—get clarity about how much they need.

Abneris will follow-up.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT** at 6:00 pm.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Student Life Meeting
February 4, 2015
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:30 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:03pm
   a. Present: Representatives Matt, Nathan, __, President Saccone, Vice President Mbagwu, Treasurer TBA, President Emeritus Benson
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused:

II. BAR NIGHTS

Phil: Abneris and I have two big events. We have the St. Patty’s day t-shirts. We’re going to take over the whole front part of Connors. We’re going ot have our patented tshirts and we need ot make it later than last year. We’re thinking 8 – 10 or 9 – 11. We’re also looking at hosting a Salsa dancing.

III. SURVEY

So, the first item after the bar nights is the Survey. For those that aren’t familiar, this is a long standing initiative to get feedback from the student body on a variety of issues. At this point we need someone to contact CSCAR to get feedback on our instrument.

Phil: We need a social scientist.

Matt: So, what exactly are we looking to ask?

Kyle: Good question We want to make a survey that is statistically useful and non-leading.

Matt: I volunteer to email CSCAR. But what exactly are we looking for?

Phil: You might need to define that a bit. We need someone with some expertise to read over the survey and to make sure that our survey methodology is valid. We also need someone to put the survey into a format that can be coded an analyzed.

IV. COSAC

What / how do we want to handle COSAC?
Abneris: We met after the last meeting and came up with a whole bunch of ideas. We’re going to meet again in two weeks. The idea by then is to have something concrete.

Benson: Do we have a chair of the subcommittee?

Kyle: Not precisely. We’re running the subcommittee as a more informal entity.

Chuky: There are a few people interested in COSAC that aren’t on the committee. I’ll send that info to the folks working on it.

Kyle: Brandon was curious if we want to hold small events or larger events.

Abneris: The purpose is to get graduate students to do community service.

Phil: Be cautious, if you tell an organization that you have 20 volunteers coming to do something and you have a high attrition rate, it isn’t a good thing.

Michael: Provided the history of COSAC.

V. LOGISTICS: HOW ARE WE DOING STUFF
We need to figure out how we’re going to manage stuff. Kyle will send out a spreadsheet tonight. Please note the projects that you’re working on.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Nate: Does anyone have potential conflicts with this time in the future.

Chuky: 8pm but not this week. I can make the first 30 minutes.

Phil: Motion to adjourn. Seconded by Abneris.

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:22pm.
Page Intentionally Left Blank
SAGE Federal Legislative Priorities

Student Debt and Taxation

Student Debt: A Growing Obstacle for Attaining a Graduate Education: The outstanding student loan balance—$1 trillion according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—surpasses credit card debt.¹ 69.6% of graduate students hold student loans with an average cumulative debt of $47,503.² The reduction in many student aid programs in addition to the increase in the cost of education is making the financial burden of an advanced education overwhelming.

SAGE Recommends:
• Amend the new Income Based Repayment rules to apply to all outstanding federal student loans, make Income Based Repayment installments regionally sensitive to cost of living, and exclude forgiven student loan debt from taxable income.

“Qualified Higher Education Expenses” Not Defined as Originally Intended: The Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) defines the cost of attendance for higher education as the total cost of education, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, etc. In 1986, changes in tax law uniquely disadvantaged graduate students, making portions of fellowship and student aid, such as room and board, taxable income.

SAGE Recommends:
• Amend the tax code to define “Qualified Higher Education Expenses” and “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” to match the definition of “Cost of Attendance” in section 472 of the HEA.

Research Funding

Funding Federal Research is Crucial to Our Country’s Economy: The U.S. economy is dependent on groundbreaking research at leading research universities. If the U.S. is to remain a global leader in innovation and technology development, Congress should maintain or increase federal funding of graduate research, which produces cures to diseases, new technology, and a more powerful workforce.

SAGE Recommends:
• Congress should maintain, if not increase, federal funding of research.

Immigration

Visa Reform: Allow World’s Brightest to Create American Jobs: Domestic universities are global leaders that attract the best and brightest international students in pursuit of graduate and professional degrees. SAGE believes that changes to our visa system should be enacted to lower the barriers to permanent residency and incentivize international graduate students to stay in the United States permanently.

SAGE Recommends:
• Reforms to establish a moving cap based on demand for H1-B visas, grant work permits for spouses of visa holders, exempt students earning a masters or higher degree in a STEM field in the U.S. from the numerical limits on EB visas.
• F-1 visa reforms to include the lifting of work restrictions and authorization of dual intent.

Student Debt and Taxation Policies

How to Support the Next Generation of Innovators and Educators

Education Taxation Policy and Student Debt: An obstacle for graduate education

Graduate students become the innovators, job creators, and leaders who provide the basis for the economic and intellectual advantage that the United States maintains across the globe. The continued decline in graduate student aid programs coupled with an increase in the cost of education makes the financial burden of graduate education overwhelming. The Budget Control Act of 2011 eliminated direct subsidized loans for graduate students; a critical resource that afford over $10 billion in 2010 to students to pursue their graduate degrees. Students are required to finance a large share of their education, resulting in over $1 trillion of outstanding student loan debt. The regulatory and tax infrastructure that supports education has not kept pace with the increasing financial stress encountered by students.

SAGE Recommends:

● Support the American Opportunity Tax Credit Act of 2013 (HR 1738)
● Make permanent expiring and keep existing Higher Education Tax Provisions
  o American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), IRC Sec. 25A
  o Student Loan Interest Rate Deductions, IRC Sec. 221
● Support Income Dependent Educational Assistance
  o Modifications to existing IBR programs to allow for regional sensitivity
  o ExCEL Act, HR 1716.
● Support legislation that limits the debt liability for struggling students
  o Student Loan Fairness Act, HR 1330
  o Student Loan Borrowers Bill of Rights Act, HR 3892
● Support the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program in its existing form

Optimizing the tax code to address affordability in higher education

Support the AOTC Act of 2013. The AOTC Act of 2013 modifies the current deduction to include a cost of living adjustment, allows a lifetime limit on such credit to $15,000, and makes permanent this simplified education related tax provision that will allow students and families to gain better access to higher education. Additionally, the AOTC Act of 2013 will correct a conflict in the current tax code by allowing the AOTC to count toward expenses that Pell Grants do not cover.

Make permanent the Student Loan Interest Rate Deduction. This allows students to reduce the amount of income that is subject to tax by up to $2,500 for qualified education expenses. This deduction is particularly important as students’ transition to the workforce and making ends meet is most challenging.

Amend the tax code to define “Qualified Higher Education Expenses” and “Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses” to match the definition of “Cost of Attendance” in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). In 1986, changes in tax law limited this definition making portions of fellowship and student aid ineligible for higher education tax incentives. These include the lifetime learning credit and tax deductions on scholarship and fellowship monies. Current tax law limits “qualified higher education expenses” to tuition and registration fees only. By excluding income used for basic living expenses such as room and board from a qualified educational deduction, this limitation has a direct impact on the affordability of graduate education.
Improving student loan programs and protecting struggling students

Modify current IBR programs to include regional sensitivity and account for cost of living. Evidence suggests that the high amount of student loan debt incurred by many individuals does not exceed the value of their education, and yet the default rate on student loans is at an all time high¹. This has led some to conclude that the nation faces a repayment crisis rather than a debt crisis in terms of student loans. One mechanism to make student debt and repayment more manageable is Income Based Repayment (IBR)². However, the success of this program has been limited as a result of low student enrollment, the lack of regional sensitivity in calculating payment plans, and limitations on which loans are eligible.

Support the ExCEL Act. The ExCEL Act combines all existing federal student loans into a single Income Based Educational Assistance (IDEA) Loan program. This will greatly reduce the complexity of the current program, afford greater protection to borrowers, and streamline payments by linking them to federal withholding. Enrollment is automatic and everyone is required to participate. It is estimated that this program will save the federal government money by reducing the number of defaults and fees associated with debt collection.

Support for students suffering from financial hardship.

Support the Student Loan Borrower’s Bill of Rights Act. This act removes educational loans from the list of debts that are non-dischargeable in bankruptcy.

Support the Student Loan Fairness Act. This law will limit repayment for qualified borrowers to 10% of their discretionary income and limit the interest capitalization to 10% of the principle. After 120 eligible months, the loan is forgiven tax-free. Under current loan forgiveness programs, those who qualify are left with an unreasonable tax burden when the loan is discharged which is exactly the type of financial burden these individuals cannot afford. Loan forgiveness would also be capped under this new legislation to encourage borrowers and colleges to utilize loans more judiciously.

Support the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. The PSLF is designed to encourage and support students to work in public service. Under the PSLF individuals with a graduate degree who go on to work in government, in a non-for profit organization, or as a teacher, receive loan forgiveness on Direct Loans after making 120 consecutive payments. SAGE supports the PSLF as is, and believes any effort to place a cap on the amount of debt that can be forgiven, or to limit the availability of this program, will discourage those with an graduate degree from entering public service.

¹ Susan Dynarski and Daniel Kreisman, Loans for Educational Opportunity: Making Borrowing Work for Today’s Students (Brookings Institute, 2013)
² We use “Income Based Repayment” (IBR) as the general term for all income based programs including the 2009 and 2014 versions of IBR, Income Contingent Repayment (ICR), and Pay as You Earn.
Cuts to Research Funding Put America’s Future at Risk

With the deferment of sequestration for two years, the U.S. has been able to continue to fund groundbreaking research. However, if the lack of emphasis on research continues, the U.S. may lose their global lead in R&D investment. Congress should expand federal funding of basic research, which leads to cures for diseases, new technology, a more powerful workforce and keeps the U.S. globally competitive.

Continued improvement for quality of life is directly and indirectly due to investment in R&D. The United States is currently one of the largest investors in R&D, but federal investment in R&D has remained flat the last few years while other countries are steadily increasing their investment in R&D. While we appreciate that R&D has not been ravaged by spending cuts, investment stagnation inhibits economic growth. Halted economic growth is harmful to Americans and to the global community. We must increase our spending in R&D so to create jobs and continue to grow our economy.

Results of Federal Funding for Graduate Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>President’s FY15</th>
<th>SAGE rec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>$ 5.8 billion</td>
<td>$ 7.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>$ 30.2 billion</td>
<td>$ 32 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA SMD</td>
<td>$ 5.0 billion</td>
<td>$ 5.25 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH</td>
<td>$ 146 million</td>
<td>$ 155 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE OoS</td>
<td>$ 5.0 billion</td>
<td>$ 5.22 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAA</td>
<td>$ 462 million</td>
<td>$ 462 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARPA</td>
<td>$ 2.9 billion</td>
<td>$2.91 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEA</td>
<td>$146 million</td>
<td>$146 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOEd IES</td>
<td>$637 million</td>
<td>$637 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 With the deferment of sequestration for two years, the U.S. has been able to continue to fund groundbreaking research. However, if the lack of emphasis on research continues, the U.S. may lose their global lead in R&D investment. Congress should expand federal funding of basic research, which leads to cures for diseases, new technology, a more powerful workforce and keeps the U.S. globally competitive.

1 2014 Global R&D Funding Forecast, December 2013, Battelle
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate  
**SAGE Recommends: $5.25B**  
The NASA Science Mission Directorate outlines specific, unanswered questions concerning the Earth, Solar System and Universe to be answered through the utilization of NASA resources and capabilities. NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory developed a Global Positioning System to track satellite positions in real time that is now utilized in our phones and navigation devices.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)  
**SAGE Recommends: $155M**  
NEH is the lead federal agency focused on the dissemination of knowledge and how it relates to social, economic, and political challenges facing the world today. NEH funding supports important historical projects such as the publication of the papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. and an exhibit concerning the American Revolution on the Frontier.

Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science  
**SAGE Recommends: $5.22B**  
The DOE Office of Science funds scientific research for energy production and supports the development and operation of open-access scientific facilities. Funding from the DOE Office of Science enabled the path of carbon in photosynthesis to be mapped, which has direct application in solar energy research.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
**SAGE Recommends: $462M**  
NOAA conducts crucial research related to our oceans and atmosphere that provide federal and local decision-makers with important services that enhance the nation's economy, security, and environmental understanding. Particularly, the Sea Grant program is a nationwide network of 30 university-based programs that work with coastal communities on research and outreach to promote better understanding, conservation, and use of our coastal resources.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)  
**SAGE Recommends: $2.91B**  
Pentagon officials recognize and hail the importance of basic research to keep our military armed with cutting edge technology and to provide our soldiers with the tools necessary to succeed on the battlefield. DARPA has played an important role in funding high-risk, high-reward research, which has led to many significant defense technologies, such as air-force tactical fighters, as well as civilian technologies, such as the Internet and Siri voice-recognition system.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)  
**SAGE Recommends: $146M**  
Founded to bring art to the U.S. public, the NEA strives to educate the public through different forms of art media. Last year the NEA funded a dance series to bring awareness and start discussions about domestic violence.

Department of Education (DOEd) Institute of Education Sciences  
**SAGE Recommends: $637M**  
As the main source of scientifically based research for the department of education, funding from the IES supports research on advancing teaching and learning. Funding from DOEd resulted in better placement tests, ways to access proficiency in subjects, and education methodologies which creates a stronger education system.
Immigration Policy

Student Immigration Reform Will Keep World’s Best in the U.S.

Restrictive visa policies limit our ability to retain the level of high-skill workers and innovators that a global, high-tech economy demands. SAGE supports highly-skilled occupation and student visas for U.S. economic advancement and intellectual property retention. The export of American educated and often federally funded students is a wasted investment and hampers our economy.

- More than half of PhD’s in many STEM fields are awarded to international students.
- In 2013 the number of H1-B visa applications exceeded the yearly limit of 65,000 in a single week.
- Immigrant-funded venture-backed companies have a total market capitalization of $900 billion as of June 2013.\(^1\)
- In 2010 more than 40% of the Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants.\(^2\)

**Highly-skilled visa reform: Allow world’s brightest to fill and create American jobs**

Highly-skilled temporary H-1B visas are heavily dependent on the business cycle and their cap should be adjusted to meet demand. On the other hand, employment-based (EB) visas offer permanent residency and provide a long term solution to knowledge retention. Employment-based immigrant visas should be the route of choice for international students by exempting them from numerical limits.

**SAGE recommends:**

- **Non-immigrant visas:**
  - Establish a moving cap for H-1B visas based on demand
  - Grant work permits to spouses of H-1B visa holders

- **Employment-based immigrant visas:**
  - Eliminate per country numerical limits
  - Reallocate unused visas since 1992
  - For students earning a master’s or higher degree from an accredited institution in the U.S., exempt these individuals from numerical limitations and admit them for permanent residence, as supported by the STAPLE Act H.R. 1227.
  - Extend conditional permanent resident status to immigrants with an advanced degree to broaden entrepreneurial opportunities, as included in the Startup Bill H.R. 714.

**F-1 Visa Reform: Remove work restrictions and authorize dual intent**

The F-1 visa is the primary visa for foreign, full-time students in the United States. To continue attracting the world’s best students in the face of rising tuition costs, it’s particularly important to allow

\(^1\) National Venture Capitalist Association. 2014.
international students to hold jobs to help support themselves and their families. In an effort to retain these students, it is also important to allow dual intent status so that they may apply for immigrant visas upon graduation.

SAGE recommends:
- Authorize dual intent for F-1 student visas
- Remove off-campus work restrictions for F-1 visa holders
- Authorize employment for spouses of F-1 visa holders (F-2 visa holders)
MISSION—“Dedicated to creating a community of student leaders from the preeminent public research universities in the United States that is committed to bettering their own student bodies and promoting educational access, quality, and opportunity nationally.”