Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: April 16, 2014

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. April 2, 2014

IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Vacant
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Chuky

V. SAGE Debrief

VI. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications Committee
   d. Elections Committee
      i. Election Emails
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
      i. Red Wings
      ii. Bowling
      iii. Happy Hour

VII. Open Discussion

VIII. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes April 2 (p. 2)
Budgetary Committee Minutes April 2 (p. 7)
Red Wings Event Update (p. 9)
Final Draft of SAGE White Papers (p. 10)
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16pm
   a. Present: Representatives Pier Davis, Adam Duran, Julian Bahr, David W., David Barton, Michael Benson, Malcom Tariq, Erin Sullivan, Chris Tom, Mike Hand, Sidney Ellington, Ben Sweeney, President Saccone, Treasurer Mbagwu, Associate Member Kyle Lady
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: David M.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
    Motion by MB to approve agenda. Seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.
    Motion by MB to allow representative Mike Hand full speaking rights during the meeting. Seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
     Motion by Julian to approve previous minutes. Seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

IV. Special Guest VP of Student Affairs E. Royster Harper
    We have Vice President for Student Affairs, E. Royster Harper speaking with us today. Round table of introductions.

    E. Royster Harper: Thank you for all of your contributions as students, teachers, and leaders. I want to encourage you in those endeavors and in your pursuit of your degrees and goals. I would like to work with you to find

    I live in a 2-world class, working class background and currently in a different setting. One of the things I have learned is understanding the power of privilege, etc.

    Often times our office focuses on undergraduate students rather than graduates; there is a misperception that grad students are all “just fine.” I would like to both be encouraging and acknowledge the journey you are all on. You will all make contributions to your fields, your peers, family, etc.

    I want to talk a little about my experience working on my dissertation. Shared effective strategies when hitting roadblocks.

    What do I do: I’ve been at the university through 5 presidents, each with its own experiences. My office is involved with much of what goes on outside of the classroom except for sports/athletics. Includes health services, LGBT resources, multi-cultural centers, etc. We house many undergraduates (~10,000) and have a big focus, but also reach a wider range of students. We were involved with Munger and have heard your voices regarding that.
What is this work like: A lot of my job is to advocate for students, I report to the President and other executives. Much of the work is to listen, hear, and try to understand and implement things for the future. I feel very strongly about the caliber of the students that choose to come to Michigan. When their needs aren't met, their voices are raised, and that is very good for the community. Lately I've been doing some work with the BSU, where they have had 7 issues raised with the University. I also worked with the students that felt they were silenced by CSG. I stayed with them from 10-2am to ensure that the building closure rules were kept. Michigan has become strict about sitting in, and I helped them understand the implications of the potential decision to break these rules (arrest, impact on future, etc.). I've been involved with mental health services, suicide prevention, etc.

Phil: A lot of the work we do at RSG overlaps with graduate student life. Some resolutions have been passed through the Board (VAWA and NDP changes). Phil gives a summary of the VAWA resolution and compliance. Chris Tom gives a summary of the NDP resolution. One of the next steps is to take the NDP to the Regents, and see what support the University/administration can provide in this area, including the office of Student Affairs.

Harper: Some background; First there was the battle for getting sexual orientation, then bisexual and trans language. I think the battle will be difficult, and some may need a better understanding the request and how exactly the current NDP does not cover. The advice is to be ready for a long ride with the administration, and to continually “wearing them down” until they better understand the request. A clear statement of what harm is caused by the non-inclusion, and why it requires this level of oversight.

Chris: The current policy looks at the subject and protects their identity, orientation, and there are protections for the other individual (partner, romantic or sexual interest). However, there is no particular protection for consensual actions (sexual or otherwise) between individuals. Chris gives examples of scenarios. Phil gives additional examples.

Harper: For our governing board, individually and collectively, it is probably going to take a fair amount of work for them to understand. The more concrete an ideas, the better.

Phil: It's not necessary to get into the details now, but it would be great to set up a meeting with your office to continue the discussion.

Benson: Given the ACA, I know MSU tried to mandate health coverage some years back. This year to be in compliance with ACA, we will end up needing to raise premiums, but have much better coverage. Do you think we should require/strongly encourage all grad students to have health insurance?

Also, I'm on North campus a lot. Much of the Student Life activities take place in Central campus. I think that your office could do better in engaging the North campus graduate students with the surrounding community.

Harper: I'm not clear on implementation/mandating health coverage, and we will have to get a better understanding of the 26 and under parental coverage for health care. I am on the same page about the disparity between North and Central campus. Much of the “central campus” is created outside of the university (businesses, restaurants, bars, etc.), whereas North has a highway separating it from “life”/activities. We would like to see what the renovations in Pierpont bring and looking at different ways to increase the vibrancy of North.

Benson: It may also be a consideration to bring some of the offices to north campus, etc.

David W.: It would be nice to have the livelihood be organic, rather than always driven by the university. Central campus life is driven by the outside businesses, but the opposite is true for North. Things like coffee shops open past 5pm, etc.

Harper: You're absolutely right that the organic environment creates the truest and liveliest atmosphere,
we're just not sure how to facilitate that.

David W.: As an idea, there may be an opportunity to let others manage some of the services and spaces around North campus.

Julian: I would support having a bar somewhere on North, not sure how well that would be university-sanctioned. Something late-night, student only, activities would be beneficial.

Harper: Agreed, once some of the new spaces around Bursley becoming available we can see what can be done. A lot of the issues regarding underage drinking, etc., shapes the University's position on those kind of ideas.

Mike Hand: All of the property on North is university-owned, and that appears to be a limiting factor for creativity and vibrancy. Central campus is not set up the same way. Perhaps there is an opportunity for leasing the some of the property and having outside management.

Pier: Access is very difficult, getting back to North campus at night is tough even with bus system. Also having safe bike paths around the area. I am also interested in knowing when and why Michigan's administration decided to not provide any university owned bar.

Harper: Trends and relationships between alcohol and sexual assault, etc. and it has been difficult to put any university funds towards those endeavors.

Benson: It's important to remember that 40% of the student body is graduate students and some portion of the undergraduates are all over 21 years of age.

Phil: When talking to your colleagues, I would recommend a more research-based approach as opposed to a fundamentalist approach. However, given that we have peer institutions that have similar arrangements for university-sponsored bars, could look at the data at those locations.

Mike Hand: Our current arrangement has taken a lot of the drinking/alcohol activities off-campus, and I believe that actually increases risk. This is something to take into consideration.

Kyle Lady: It would nice to see CAPS have a presence on North campus. It's not always feasible to travel to Central campus/Michigan Union for help.

Julian: I would argue for having a central group of CAPS, also I would also keep in mind that costs are going up for students. Putting more effort and funds into improving student life that making money as a university.

Pier: We need better efforts to improving the perception and fighting the stigma about mental health and seeking help.

Harper: That is a very important issue that we are committed to tackling. The isolation that comes from the very processes you all are engaged in is immense, and we want to provide better support.

Benson: It would be really great if CCI worked with us, and better serve the needs for graduate student groups, which may not always have the same requirements/structure as other groups.

Phil: Vice President Harper, we are very grateful and thankful for your time. We hope to speak with you again soon.

Harper: It has been a pleasure, and I appreciate the concerns that you all have raised. I am sure that CAPS would be a strong benefit. We want to better fix graduate housing. While we're focused on undergrads, need to recognize that you are all paying tuition too and we must serve your needs as well. I am excited to work with the new university President. I look forward to working together with you.
V. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone

We had our LwtD on Monday, had about 70 or so attendees. A lot of great questions were asked. Career services and professional development was a major topic. Also, there is a mis-perception of what a “boss” looks like in academia. There are limits to what level of influence our Deans have on senior faculty, etc.

Thank you to Chris Tom, Alex Gutierrez, and Malcom Tariq for their contributions in helping to plan it. Also thanks to all of you who came out. Please help out for the upcoming North campus one on Friday.

SAGE is coming up, lots of work towards that. White papers are out.

b. Vice President (Vacant)

c. Treasurer Chuky Mbogwu

$25,000 in the account. Please get me receipts for any events that RSG has planned (St Patricks, etc.). Phil owes me receipts.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Academic Affairs Committee

Much of this was covered already. Pay attention to your emails!

b. Budgetary Committee

Chuky: BC members, please stay after for 5 minutes to discuss and tackle our pending applications.

c. Bylaw Review Committee

d. Communications Committee

Julian: Didn't have a meeting, no minutes, and a “how-to” RSG guide is in the works and in progress.

Benson: TBP is hosting a Town Hall on North campus. Would like to advertise theirs along with ours, secondary.

e. Elections Committee

Chris Tom: We have had a number of vacant seats filled. There were also some write-ins that we will be contacting to see whether they are willing and eligible to fill the seat.

Benson: Chris did a phenomenal job in organizing, etc. Benson gives details and election numbers, to be posted on the RSG website pending approval and confirmations.

Chris motions to receive and approve election results, pending verification. Seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

f. Legislative Affairs Committee
Benson: Not meeting tomorrow. SAGE white papers in your packet, look them over. Forward any comments out to us. Those on the delegation will get an email from me tomorrow.

g. **Student Life Committee**

Ben: Red Wings event. Bowling event upcoming (planning is forthcoming... following up with Natalie).

Ben moves to receive and approve minutes, seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

VII. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Benson moves to adjourn, seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT** at 8:31PM.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BUDGETARY COMMITTEE
April 9, 2014
Rackham, West Study Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:00pm

 a. Present: Adam Duran, David Malewski, Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu, President Phillip Saccone

 b. Absent: Ryne Peterson,

 c. Excused: Sidney Ellington

I. Society of Minority Engineers and Scientists

Chuky is a member of this organization, and as such he will not cast a vote. Minority organization that promotes STEM. Events are usually well managed. This application is for the annual gala—celebrates the members in the organization. This year it’s a dinner and is taking place in the union. Dinner is for 60 people.

Phil: I’m concerned that it is similar to funding a party—we need to check the bylaws.

Dave: I recommended against a group in COP from submitting an application.

Phil: Having looked ta the bylaws, this seems as if it is too much like a party. We need to be very careful about this kind of stuff. We would absolutely like to support an organization such as this, but perhaps not for this particular event.

Chuky: As treasurer I cannot remember funding a similar event.

Motion: David, motion to $0 fund at this time. Adam second.

Yes: Dave, Adam, Phil
No:
Abstain: Chuky

II. IPSA

Chuky: We have received an application from this group before. This is about the crisis in south Sudan—the event is an awareness event. This event was not originally included in the event. They do expect 60-85 graduate students. High cost event for something that they didn't really plan for.

Phil: We should judge this on its merit. It is academic and cultural. It seems well planned with an exceptional level of speakers.
Dave: Very impressed with the speakers. But it needs to be advertised more widely. There is a benefit for the speakers as well.

Phil: We can make funding contingent on giving us a better advertising strategy. Then we can advertise it in the Gazette.

Adam: Will the members really pay out of packet?

Phil: I guess so.

Dave: Move to fund $500 with the stipulation that they give an expanded advertising strategy that is acceptable to the treasurer no later that Friday April 11, midnight. Seconded by Phil

Adam: Move to fund $600 with the stipulation that they give an expanded advertising strategy that is acceptable to the treasurer no later that Friday April 11, midnight. Seconded by Phil

Yes: Chuky, Phil, Adam.

Motion carries at $600.
It was raining on the day of the event so we were afraid that would discourage people from attending. I am happy to report that everyone we were expecting showed up and we had full participation (81). On the way to the event traffic was a bit heavy but we were able to make it before the puck dropped. The students were a bit rowdy but they never got out of hand. The drivers were extremely helpful and overall excellent. I hope we can pass that on in some way.

The game itself was a bit of a disappointment in that it was 3-0 in the first period. The opposing team was the worst in the NHL; however, they did make an effort late for a final score of 3-2 Detroit. Getting to the bus after the event was not an issue and everyone made it back before departure. It looked like everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves. Some students complained about the price of the tickets, but most were extremely grateful. They often thanked the chaperons for organizing this event. The busses arrived back at Rackham at approximately 11:45pm.

Overall I would say that this event was a huge success. I would support similar events in the future.
April 4-9, 2014

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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.

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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**
  - American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), IRC Sec. 25A
  - Student Loan Interest Rate Deductions, IRC Sec. 221
- **Support Income Dependent Educational Assistance**
  - Modifications to existing IBR programs to allow for regional sensitivity
  - ExCEL Act, HR 1716.
- **Support legislation that limits the debt liability for struggling students**
  - Student Loan Fairness Act, HR 1330
  - 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 high\(^1\). 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.

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\(^1\) 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

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

*SAGE Recommends: $7.5B*

NSF funds research and supports science, math, and engineering education across the country, in all 50 states. NSF funded the graduate student-driven project that grew to be Google, currently worth an estimated $250 billion and employing 54,000 people.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

*SAGE Recommends: $32B*

NIH is the nation’s primary agency for supporting cutting-edge biomedical research with the goals of improving health and saving lives through medical discovery and scientific leadership. The NIH-funded Human Genome Project has accrued over $796 billion since its inception, a 141:1 return on investment.

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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

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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.”