Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: October 1, 2015

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. September 24, 2015
IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Chuky
      i. SACUA University Committees
      ii. RSG Leadership Workshop, Sanger Center – 10/15
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Abneris
      i. Newsletter – RSG Gazette
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, A. Buke
V. Fall 2015 Board Appointments
VI. Spring/Summer Budget Review
VII. IT Council Update – Lindsay Blackwell
VIII. Committee Reports
    a. Academic Affairs
       i. Lunch with the Deans
    b. Budgetary
    c. Legislative Affairs
       i. SAGE Fall Summit – 10/8 to 10/11
    d. Student Life
       i. Upcoming Events
IX. Open Discussion
X. Adjourn

Included in packet:

RSG Board Minutes September 24, 2015 (p. 2)
Fall 15 Board Appointments (p. 5)
Spring/Summer Budget Summary (p. 6)
SAGE White Papers (p. 7)
I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:10 pm  
a. **Present:** Branden Paterson, Katie Forsythe, Douglas Montjoy, Nathan Harada, Caitlin Harrington, Sriram Vaidyanathan, Kyle Ferguson, Lu Tang, President Emeritus Michael Benson, Treasurer Hiziroglu, Vice-president Rodriguez, President Mbagwu  
b. **Absent:**  
c. **Excused:** Lindsay Blackwell

II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
Approval of the Agenda with an exec editorial to change the order.  
Motioned by Chuky  
Seconded by Sriram

III. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
Approval of minutes  
Second sriram  
approved with one abstention

IV. **OFFICER REPORTS**  
   a. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**  
      i. **RSG Leadership Workshop, Sanger Center – 10/15**  
      Chuky: We were supposed to be having our leadership workshop today. However, Brian (the facilitator) had to postpone. That is why we are changing the leadership workshop to October 15 at 7:15. This might be better since by then we will have our new board members and they will be able to participate of this workshop.  
ii. **Student Survey**  
      Chuky: I would really like to start a team to push this survey forward. For this reason I will be creating an ad hoc committee. The goal is to get comprehensive information about graduate student issues. We’ve discussed this in the past and what we would like to do is break the survey up into multiple sections. That way it's not too long and we can continually get new data. We have a structured survey already and we’ve already discussed some ways to improve it and some questions we would like to add on there have come up in board meetings or committee meetings. This board’s goal is to get it out/ready by thanksgiving. I would like to see, by show of hands, who would be interested in working on this.  
      Chuky: Ok! I have Abneris, Caitlin and Sriram as interested in being part of this ad hoc committee.

   b. **VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
i. Newsletter
Abneris: Hello! The only thing I have for all of you today is that I will be working on the Gazette so that it can come out this upcoming week. So, if you have anything that you think would be good for announcing on the Gazette please send it my way. Also, I wanted to bring back up the idea that Doug shared on the last board meeting. He suggested we target the student orgs more with the information that we have funding for them. How would you all suggest we do that?
Doug: I thought of creating a listserv with all of their emails and sending emails with the information directly to them.
Chuky: the only problem is that such a listserv doesn't already exist. We would have to do that ourselves by going through maize pages. We tried doing that in the past but it’s a lot of work to go through them all.
Michael: I suggest we send out an email to the general student body and ask student orgs to please write their information down on a simple survey.

c. TREASURER’S REPORT
i. Treasurer report:
Buke: Two quick things the treasurer report will be submitted next week and If you have any expenses from last semester/summer please bring them to me.

V. FALL 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL
Chuky: Thank you to the committees who meet in such a short notice and came up with their budget proposals. I attached the budget to the agenda packet please take a moment to go over it and I will entertain questions.
Abneris: Why is there no budgeted item for the Newsletter for LAC?
Chuky: We are planning on doing an electronic Newsletter and we don't expect it will cost anything for us to do that.
Motion to add $300 to exec discretionary Michael Benson. Seconded by Buke.
Motion that we allocate a $700 to discretionary funds Michael Benson. Second by Buke.
Motion to approve the budget with the amendments MB. Seconded by Buke.
This is a roll call vote so we will now call the roll:
Lu: yes
Caitlin: yes
MB: yes
Nate: yes
Sriram: yes
Doug: yes
Kyle: yes
Branden: yes
Katie: yes
Buke: yes
Abneris: yes
Chuky: yes
Motion carries. We have a budget!

VI. PRIORITIES FOR RSG
Chuky: I would like for us to split the board into two groups and we can discuss new ideas we would like to work on this upcoming term.
Board worked in groups.
Chuky: We will come back and discuss these new ideas next week in the interest of time.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS
Michael Benson: Motion to approve the committee chairs that were selected in the first committee meetings.
Seconded by Sriram
Approved unanimously
a. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Motion to approve the minutes for
Motion to approve the recommendations for chair
Seconded by Sriram
b. LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Chuky: Motion to approve minutes
Seconded by Doug
Motion is approved unanimously
Chuky: SAGE fall summit is coming up. It is one of our big conferences of our coalition SAGE. It will be held from October 8 to October 11. We will be finalizing who will be attending this meeting in the next week. It is usually exec and some reps. The agenda from this summit will be brought to the board after the summit.
Katie: Would it be good to address what graduate students want us to bring to fall summit?
Chuky: It might be too late to do that
Abneris: However, we can always do that before going to DC.
Doug: Having a town hall meeting for opinions might be a good idea.

VIII- OPEN DISCUSSION:
Katie: We are all heading to BWW after this meeting to socialize. I would like it if all of you could join.
Chuky: Anything else? Seeing nothing else I will entertain a motion to adjourn.
Motion to adjourn by Nathan
Seconded by Kyle

ADJOURNMENT at 8:03pm
RSG Fall 2015 Board Appointments

Division I: Biological and Health Sciences
- Delaney Cargo, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Masters
- Anna Christianson, Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Masters
- Jamie Do, Chemical Biology, Doctoral/PhD

Division II: Physical Sciences and Engineering
- Iuliana Bleanda-Mogosanu, Sustainable Systems, Masters
- Derek Frank, Macromolecular Science and Engineering, Doctoral/PhD
- Chase Stone, School of Natural Resources and Environment, Masters

Division III: Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Darrell Allen, Educational Studies, Doctoral/PhD
- Naomi Wilson, Educational Studies, Doctoral/PhD

Division IV: Humanities and the Arts
- Zacharias Andreadakis, Classical Studies, Doctoral/PhD
- Zachary Kopin, History, Doctoral/PhD
RSG Spr/Sum 2015 Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSG SPR/SUM BUDGET</th>
<th>Total Approved Budget</th>
<th>Estimated Expenditures</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures (to Date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$11,350.00</td>
<td>$5,750.00</td>
<td>$3,187.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RSG Committees:</th>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
<th>Estimated Expenditures</th>
<th>Actual Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAC</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV/Professional Workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLC</td>
<td>$5,800.00</td>
<td>$5,800.00</td>
<td>$2,556.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Happy Hour (Bill's Beer Garden)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$585.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Happy Hour</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August Happy Hour (Dominick's)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$507.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karaoke Night (Blue Lep)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$232.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Movie Night (Despicable Me)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$487.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuller Pool</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$87.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron Park Kayaking</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Welcome Picnic</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$657.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications / Advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
<th>Total Requested</th>
<th>Total Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUDGETARY</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$10,014.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Account Balance: $37,754.41
(as of 9/24/15)
Increase to Research Funding

Cuts to Research Funding Put America’s Future at Risk

The SAGE coalition represents over 140,000 graduate and professional students at the leading public research universities across the country, and is committed to sustainably funding our nation’s top research institutions.

In order to remain a world leader, the United States economy depends on groundbreaking research conducted at top research institutions. This scholarship, which contributes to the development of innovative technology and its practical application, depends on federal research investment. Thanks to the deferment of sequestration the last two years, the U.S. has been able to largely continue to fund groundbreaking research.

However, if the trend in the lack of emphasis on research continues, the U.S. will lose our global lead in technological innovation. These decisions carry long-term consequences for job development and economic growth throughout the nation, not simply at our universities.

We urge Congress to expand federal investment in basic research, which leads to cures for diseases, new technology, and a more powerful workforce, all which keep the U.S. globally competitive.

Continued improvement for American 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 these programs has remained flat the last few years. Other countries are steadily increasing their investments. While we appreciate that R&D has not been ravaged by spending cuts, the stagnation of investment by the U.S. government inhibits economic growth. Halted growth is harmful to Americans and to the global community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>FY15 *</th>
<th>SAGE Recommends*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>30,100</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASA SMD</td>
<td>5,200</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEH</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOE (OoS)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOAA (OAR)</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARPA</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEA</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOEd IES</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers given in millions of dollars

We must increase our spending in R&D to create jobs and continue to grow our economy.

Furthermore, SAGE explicitly endorses the funding of Social, Behavioral & Economic research at the NSF. We also ask that Congress reinstate and ensure future NSF funding for all types of Political Science research. Advanced degrees in the social sciences and humanities teach students how to think critically and communicate in our increasing interconnected world. This knowledge is utilized in their future jobs, often as professors, executives of nonprofit companies, and careers in a variety of fields. SAGE recommends funding the NSF as a whole entity and allowing the Foundation to determine the best way to allocate the money.
Graduate Student Visa Reform
Allowing Talented International Students to Contribute to the American Workforce

The SAGE coalition represents over 140,000 graduate and professional students at the leading public research universities across the country, and is committed to visa reform that benefits students and the American economy.

Restrictive visa policies limit our ability to retain the level of highly-skilled workers and innovators that a global, high-tech economy demands. SAGE supports visa reform that will keep students who have benefitted from an American education, and often federal funding, in the U.S. job market. Retaining the highly-trained students educated at our universities is paramount to maintaining the world’s most competitive workforce and protecting our investments in education and research and development.

- The profiles of H-1B applicants are particularly attractive: In 2012, 72% were between 25-34 and 47% hold a Masters or Doctorate degree.
- More than 50% of PhDs in many STEM fields are awarded to international students.
- In 2014 the number of H-1B visa applications exceeded the yearly limit of 85,000 in a single week.

Highly-skilled visa reform: Allow talented international students to contribute to the American work force

The temporary nature of the H-1B visa makes it ideally suited to adjust to market demands, but the caps currently placed on H-1B visas are not tied to the business cycle. The cap should be adjusted to meet market demands, and allow American business to benefit from the highly-skilled, professional workforce trained at U.S. Graduate institutions.

For those graduate and professional students that choose to contribute to the American economy long-term, employment based (EB) visas should be the route of choice. Offering graduates a clear path to residency provides a clear path to knowledge retention and further innovation within the U.S.

SAGE recommends:

Non-immigrant visas:
- Exempt from H1 visa caps ALL students with Master’s degrees or higher awarded from U.S. institutions.
- Pass S.153, the I-squared Act – The I-squared Act would increase the H-1B visa cap according to market demand and protect the work authorization of H-1B visa holder spouses.

Employment-base immigrant visas:
- Eliminate per-country numerical limits for graduates with an advanced degree from U.S. institutions.

F-1 Visa Reform: Remove work restrictions for F-1 visa holders’ spouses

The F-1 Visa is the primary visa foreign full-time students use to access education in the United States. Unfortunately, work restrictions on spouses of F-1 visa holders place an undue burden on graduate students and their families. F2 visa holders are not eligible to work, they cannot apply for a social security number, and they cannot enroll in academic programs. To continue attracting the talented international students in face of rising tuition costs, it is particularly important to allow spouses of international students to hold jobs and help support their families.

The DHS has set a new precedent for granting the spouses of educated professionals work rights by issuing H-1B visa holder spouses (those in the H-4 category) work eligibility in the U.S. affecting over 80,000 families per year. By extending those rights to spouses of F-1 visa holders (those in the F-2 category), we can improve the lives of over 20,000 graduate student families at the foundation of America’s most talented professional workforce.

SAGE recommends:
- Remove off-campus work restrictions for F-1 visa holders
- Authorize employment for spouses of F-1 visa holders (those in the F-2 category)
The 21st century economy requires a diverse workforce with highly specialized skill sets, which often require graduate-level training and education. Graduate students are the visionaries, job creators, and leaders who provide the foundation and framework for the economic and innovative advantages that the United States maintains across the globe. Approximately 25% of Ph.D. students, and 6% of Masters students, receive waivers for institutional tuition/fees. These waivers should not be taxed as earned income.

S.85, the Repay Act of 2015, would simplify the currently confusing Income-Based Repayment (IBR) programs landscape to make loan repayment more accessible. **SAGE Recommends:**

- Simplifying income-driven repayment programs for all federal direct loans: set students’ annual repayment limit at 10% of borrower’s discretionary income up to $25,000, plus 15% of income greater than or equal to $25,000
- Include provisions for loan forgiveness in cases of extreme economic or physical hardship, in addition to loan forgiveness under the public service employee loan forgiveness program

**SAGE further recommends** supporting the following provisions to help incentivize graduate education and mitigate the deleterious consequences of student loan debt that is hurting economic growth:

- Consolidate the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), Hope Credit, and tuition reduction, but *not* the Lifetime Learning Credit; support a lifetime dollar cap as opposed to the four-year limit
- Increase the student loan interest deduction and restore federally subsidized loans for graduate and professional students
- Amend the federal bankruptcy code to protect students and allow education loans-or obligation to repay funds received as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend discharge-to be discharged
- Streamline the tax code to enhance consistency with tuition fees and waivers received by students during the course of a graduate education: retain section 117(d), which excludes tuition waivers from the overall tax burden; continue FICA withholding exemption for qualified students

Additionally, SAGE supports the consideration of regional sensitivity when calculating IBR repayments.
The SAGE coalition represents over 140,000 graduate and professional students at the leading public research universities across the country, and is committed to making publicly funded research openly accessible.

**SAGE urges you to support and co-sponsor:**

✔ The bipartisan Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR)

---

**THE PROBLEM: Barriers to essential research.**

Scholarly journals are currently the primary source for cutting-edge research in every field from history to medicine. However, since the 1980s, academic journals have become increasingly expensive, outpacing inflation by 200–300% (1).

450% increase in journal prices over the past 30 years has caused a price crisis for university libraries (3).

40% of researchers have trouble accessing journal literature at least once per week (4).

60% of researchers say access limitations hinder their research (4).

---

**Citizens deserve easy access to the results of the research their taxes help support.**

Annual journal subscriptions now cost up to $20,000 (2). Students and the general public have difficulty accessing information they need and professors are unable to review and teach the state of the art (2).

*Science is slowed, scholarship is hindered, and students’ education is incomplete. The United States lags behind.*

---

**THE SOLUTION: A better system for sharing research and scholarship.**

Under the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR), every federal agency with an annual extramural research budget of $100 million or more would implement a plan to make articles resulting from federally funded research freely available online immediately, or no later than 6 months after publication. The White House has issued a directive on public access (5), but legislation is still needed to codify it into law and to strengthen the provisions.

**Research is an essential part of graduate education.**

FASTR will expand the scholarly resources available to students conducting research across the United States by making all publicly funded research available to anyone who seeks it out.

This is particularly important in the wake of increasing costs of journal subscriptions and will provide a substantial benefit for students whose universities have limited resources to maintain and pay for such subscriptions.

**Visibility of scholarship generates career opportunities.**

Scholarship in the form of cited published works is an important currency of success and prestige in an academic career. Citations are particularly crucial for early career researchers, such as PhD students and graduates, postdocs, and those looking for professor positions. Research from over 60 different studies since 2001 suggests that public access to research articles increases the frequency of their citations (6).

**Greater access means greater social impact.**

Federal agencies can greatly increase the number and diversity of individuals who are actively engaged and involved in research by making the full body of federally funded research available to the general public.


(2) Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook.


(6) SPARC Europe. The Open Access Citation Advantage: List of studies and results to date.
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.”