Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: September 24, 2015

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. September 17, 2015

IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Chuky
      i. RSG Leadership Workshop, Sanger Center – 10/15
      ii. Student Survey
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Abneris
      i. Newsletter – RSG Gazette
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, A. Buke

V. Fall 2015 Budget Proposal

VI. Priorities for RSG

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
      i. Approval of the minutes
   b. Budgetary
   c. Legislative Affairs
      i. Approval of the minutes
   d. Student Life
      i. Approval of the minutes

VIII. Open Discussion

IX. Adjourn

Included in packet:

RSG Board Minutes August 13, 2015 (p. 2)
Fall 15 Budget Request (p. 7)
Priorities Worksheet (p. 8)
AAC Meeting Minutes (p. 9)
LAC Meeting Minutes (p. 12)
SLC Meeting Minutes (p. 14)
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:11 pm  
   a. Present: Representatives Aaron, Nate, Brandon, Caitlin, Katie, Lu, Kyle, Dough, Vice-president Rodriguez, President Mbagwu  
   b. Absent:  
   c. Excused:  

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  
   Moved by Chuky  
   Seconded by Katie  
   Approved unanimously  

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES  
   Motioned by Abneris  
   Seconded by Nathan  
   Approved with one abstention  

IV. OFFICER REPORTS  
   a. PRESIDENT’S REPORT  
   Chuky: Welcome all and thank you for serving on RSG! Most of you are returning members so I’ll keep the intro short. RSG works to advocate pertinent issues that affect graduate students.  
   Branden: Will we do a recap of current issues?  
   Chuky: yes! We will be doing that during the priority sec  
   Chuky: To talks a bit about the Rackham Fall Welcome, we had the info fair in the morning and the social. This was held about two weeks ago. We had over 150 people sign up for interest in RSG in the info fair in the morning. We are very hopeful for filling up the remaining seats. The fall social went very well. We had a great number of our board volunteer. We had 850 students attend. We had a DJ, a bounce house and field games. Our feedback was mostly good. Something people wanted to see more arranged games. Anyone want to share their experience from the event?  
   Katie: It was really fun to see new students and current students. I think a point of improvement I think would be to promote this event with the administration and departments so that they will encourage students to attend.  
   Nate: how many departments actually promote the fall welcome?  
   Lu: Also some departments hold their own orientations at the same time, maybe we could aim to avoid those time conflicts.
Chuky: Student appointments email went out. The entire student body is eligible to participate in SACUA. Students get to serve on different issues. I would encourage this board to apply to those too. You can find those applications in the same application we included applications to the RSG open seats.

Katie: Who reads these committee applications? Are they looking for students that have experience in the areas they are interested in?

Chuky: There is no requirement to have previous experience. The reviewers are actually RSG exec. Generally looking for someone who has shown some leadership and a well rounded application.

Kaitlyn: What's the timing for filling the remaining chairs?

Chuky: We are looking to have them done at least for the next board meeting. This timeline is flexible however.

Chuky: Our next agenda item, we have been working with SAPAC in the past. They put together an online training and they asked for RSG reps to try out that training. I will hand it over to Katie who attended this focus group so we can get her feedback.

Katie: SAPAC is rolling out a training for graduate students to better understand what constitutes sexual assault/harassment and to improve their prevention training The clery act does not necessarily include graduate students so that’s when our input is needed. In the focus group, there was a lot of changing the language of the training and making it more approachable. It is interactive and enjoyable to take. They have attempted to make it as easy to go through the training, and in my opinion they have done exactly that. However, I am not entirely sure who will be taking this training. If it will be incoming students or current students. The program is called Haven: Understanding Sexual Assault. It will include situations where student might encounter sexual assault or harassment.

Chuky: Just to add to that, this is for students and because of the close relationship between grad students and faculty we might want to support this training as we have in the past. However, to me it is important to get the training to cover the faculty as well.

Next agenda item, at the beginning of the summer there was interest to do a team building seminar. I’ve been in contact with them. This is an interactive workshop and it will be free of cost.

Kaitlyn: do we know more about them? I am curious.

Chuky: I don't know much about their organization but the workshop consist of several group activities that ultimately lead to team building and good practices for a group that works together constantly. Are you all interested in doing that still?

There are no objections.

Last piece, we had a couple of resignations during the summer. The first was David Barton he has been of the board for two years. He was very active as a board member, especially on the Budgetary Committee. He will be missed. The second was Montana he was division one rep and he found that his work schedule wouldn't allow him to serve as a representative this term.

**b. VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
Abneris: Hello all, I wanted to talk to you all today about Rackham Volunteer Corp. This is a fairly new division of the office for graduate success. I have personally been part of this organization and I have to encourage you all to join and to tell your constituents. You only need to sign up for two volunteer opportunities and the time commitment for each is 4 hours. These two take place throughout the semester. They also give you food and transportation for being there and we have a nice dinner at the beginning and end of each term. I think that if you’ve ever wondered how to get more involved in the Ann Arbor community this is a nice start. Secondly, I wanted to talk about our First Generation Students group. We will be continuously meeting throughout the semester and the idea is to create a support system for incoming grad students. We already had a dinner and we are planning on creating an email with first gens that are interested in mentoring. The email will have the first gens elevator pitch and the contact information for said person. The idea is that if I put my elevator pitch in there people will see it and think Oh! She is a first gen that’s also a scientist and/or a latina, for example, and contact me. We want to create this space because it’s not easy starting a degree much less continuing a graduate degree and to have no one that can relate to what you are going to. Specially when parents can't really understand what challenges you are facing.

c. TREASURER’S REPORT

Chuky: We are doing well financially. We have 38,000. We are trying to make sure we give that out this term. Please make sure to see the packet and do a budget memorandum for committees. If you have any receipts for expenses during the summer please send them to Buke.

V. COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

Chuky: The committee slates are in the agenda packet that I shared with all last night. Does anyone motion to approve the committee slates or are there any questions/suggestions?
Kyle motions to approve the committee slates
seconded by Aaron
Chuky: This is a roll call vote. I will call the roll.
Lu: yes
Katie: yes
Branden: yes
Doug: yes
Nate: yes
Kaitlyn: yes
Aaron: yes
Kyle: yes
Abneris: yes
Chuky: yes
Approved unanimously
Chuky: One last point. Those that are in bold please schedule the first meeting time. First two agenda items for committees are to elect a chair and to select a budget

VI. PRIORITIES FOR RSG
a. SUMMER PRIORITIES
   i. GSI training: We are looking to improve GSI training across the board. It is different in each department. There is no consistency for what the training offers. What we are trying to do is have departments submit their training and the planning for training. We want to know if they are using CRLT or if they are doing their own what are they teaching their new GSIs.
   ii. Professional development and networking workshops (alternative career mentoring)
   iii. International student extended internship: graduate international students have visa issues when attempting to do an extended internship(coop). More specifically, master’s students.
   iv. Student survey: we are trying to push this out by the end of this fall. We are really looking for people who are dedicated and want to push this forward.
   v. Congress newsletter: We want to keep our congress updated on everything and not just talk to them about graduate student issues once a year when we go to DC.
   vi. Inclusive family housing: spearheaded by Lindsay. It’s an initiative to have more inclusive language in the family housing complexes on campus.

b. NEW IDEAS
   i. Work on increasing our division diversity. It would be great to see more efforts on our part to increase our representation on of the humanities and have them come to our board and bring their insight.
   ii. Advertise our budget better and emailing graduate student organizations to use our resources to their advantage.
   iii. More joint grad students and professional students events
   iv. Focus more on a local and state level legislation and not invest all of our efforts into federal issues.
   v. Recently, there was a proposal to lower the speed limit to 25 mph I would like to see someone in legislative represent how this would affect grad students lives.
   vi. Find a way to facilitate dual degrees and help dual degree students
   vii. Finding ways to better cater to Master’s students needs.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Abneris motion to approve the previous committee minutes
Seconded by Kyle
Motion approved with one abstention

b. BUDGETARY COMMITTEE
Motion to approve the previous minutes by Kyle
Seconded by Dough
Approved with one abstention

VIII- OPEN DISCUSSION:
Cuky: we will be holding a BWW mixer after next board meeting next week to socialize among ourselves. Are there any questions or more for open discussion? I motion that we adjourn.
Seconded by Nathan

ADJOURNMENT at 8:15pm.
### RSG Fall 2015 Budget Request

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<td>Family Event (Apple Picking)</td>
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Current Account Balance: $37,754.41
(as of 9/24/15)
RSG Priorities Worksheet Fall 2015

Academic Issues

Local Issues

State/Federal Issues

Student Services Issues (non academic)

Social Events
I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:58pm  
   a. Present: Representatives Nate, Aaron, Kyle, Caitlin, President Mbagwu  
   b. Absent:  
   c. Excused: Sriram, Lindsay  

II. INTRO  

Chuky: This committee will be on extended internships, housing issues, etc. We’re also looking to add more to our plate. We’ll start with chairs. Abneris and Lindsay are not here but they were the previous chairs. Does anyone want to chair this committee/nominate?  

Kyle: I nominate Lindsay as chair, I think she’s done a good job.  

Chuky: We have unanimous vote to appointing Lindsay chair.  

III. BUDGET  

Chuky: Next item is budget for the fall term. We typically focus on policy issues which means our budget doesn’t cover many events. We’ve discussed hosting more events, like mentor sessions and other workshops.  

Kyle: We’d discussed the speed dating/networking event. I think we’d had a prelim budget but I don’t recall it exactly.  

Chuky: I can give historical numbers. AAC’s biggest item is typically lunch with the deans and we’d like to continue this. This is typically around 1500 requested. For the women’s issues forum we allocated around 300 dollars.  

Kyle: With the speed dating and workshops I’d request an additional 1K to cover these events. Since we already have a dialogue open with one of the associate deans for the mixer, we should probably do it this semester.
Chuky: We will request 1500 for town hall, 400 for professional mixer, 300 for additional workshops, which comes out to 2200. This is up from prior years and reflects our additional events and our expanded budget.

Nate: Professional dating is speed dating correct?

Kyle: Yes

Chuky: Does anyone want to add other AAC items

Nate: Has AAC taken over the survey?

Chuky: Survey is no longer on SLC but it’s still and RSG item. We are planning to create a task force to work on it but it isn’t in a specific committee. Motion to approve the aforementioned budget? Seconded by Kyle, approved unanimously.

IV. OTHER UPDATES

Kyle: For GSI training, we’re learned that it is not uniform. We’d like to implement an accountability policy to require departments to file training. We met with Dr John Wolfe in the chemistry department and pitched him a proposal that was well received. This is a good indicator that we can get support in the larger departments. We should start engaging with Rackham and start working on it. I will try and get board members together to start a draft. We also want to make training practices public knowledge so grad students and trainers can access it.

Chuky: The only other item is extended internship/co-op opportunities. Sriram spearheaded this one. Visa requirements make it difficult for master’s students to work internships because they are required to be fulltime students. Undergrads have a course they can take to remain enrolled, but grad students don’t have this. Continuous enrollment for PhDs exists so this is generally a Master’s issue primarily. We’d like to start with the college of engineering so they can put a course together to allow this. We met with an assistant dean in CoE and brought this to her attention, she was receptive to our ideas. We’ve talked to the international center already. We’re working on the next steps now.

V. TIME SCHEDULING

Chuky: What time works for everyone?

Kyle: Earlier the better for me

Caitlin: I have class at 6

Chuky: Let’s say 6:15pm. The best time for everyone is weekly on Tuesdays at 6:15pm.

Kyle: Let’s ensure this time works with Lindsay.
VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 6:23pm. Motioned by Kyle, seconded by Chuky
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE NAME MEETING
Sept 22nd, 2015
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ACOVE
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:23pm
   a. Present: Representatives Brandon, Aaron, Doug, President Mbagwu
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused:

II. OVERVIEW

Chuky: Gives overview of SAGE and explains how we advocate for students at a federal level.
Once a year we go into DC to advocate on 3 issues. We are also looking at campus climate,
sexual assault, and open access. Each year we set the agenda at the fall summit and go to a
member campus to share best practices across student govt. This means that if a university is
looking to tackle an issue we can get help from a school that has done it before. Day two we
primarily plan for the day on the hill. The fall summit is taking place at UCSD Oct 8th-11th. We
send a smaller delegation to the fall summit and a larger one to the DC day.

Doug: We’d like to create a congressional newsletter and be able to give it MI and federal reps.
We’re tentatively planning on trying to do that twice a year.

Chuky: This really needs to happen soon, it will mimic the SAGE agendas for the first one.
We’ll be working on that soon. I’d like to add that LAC in general is not just SAGE. For
example, we track issues at the state and local level and look to liaison with those government
organizations. We won’t appoint those now but know those positions are there. We’d like to
improve our local and state tracking compared to our federal issue tracking. It would also be
great if a member of a rotating set of members could attend city council meetings to get a better
handle on what’s happening at the local level. Michael has historically been our liaison there.
Any other LAC questions?

III. BUDGET

Chuky: We’ve historically had presidential election forums. We’ve also done work with the
housing lease moratorium in the past. We sent out newsletter questions and got a lot of feedback,
so we held a forum where the landlord representation group met with students. That’s something
we should be on the lookout for because that falls under the LAC umbrella.

Doug: We’ll start with the SAGE budget and then maybe a few hundred for other stuff.
**Chuky:** We have about 3K for SAGE and we get additional money from the dean for the Spring event. For 3K we will send 3 people.

**Brandon:** So 3K for SAGE plus a few hundred for other events. *APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY motion for 3200 by Chuky seconded by Doug.*

IV. **CHAIRS**

**Chuky:** I am LAC chair as per our bylaws, but we typically have a co-chair. Michael was co-chair over the summer. While he has lots of expertise I think he can advise without the formal position if anyone wants to take the title.

**Brandon:** I nominate Doug

**Doug:** I accept this nomination. *APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY*

V. **TIME**

**Brandon:** Does before 6:15 on Tuesdays work?

**Doug:** Meeting will tentatively be **Tuesdays at 5:30pm** pending approval from all, probably at Expresso Royal

VI. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT** at 6:52pm *Motioned by Chuky, seconded by Doug*
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:51pm
   a. Present: Representatives Nate, Brandon, Caitlin, Katie, Lu, Sriram, President Mbagwu, Treasurer Buke
   
   b. Absent: 
   
   c. Excused: 

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES 

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT 

V. Graduate Student Housing 
   a. Lindsay reviewed housing policies at other universities regarding inclusivity. Looked at MIT. Northwood and Munger do not have policies that support the variety of families in campus (same-sex parents with children, for example) 

VI. Chair 
   b. Katie nominated by Sriram. Nomination not accepted because graduating in December. 
   c. Sriram nominated by Chuky. Seconded by Buke. Nomination accepted knowing that he will be very busy this term and will have more time during Winter Term. 

VII. Meeting Time 
   a. Biweekly on Thursdays before RSG Board meeting from 6:15 - 7:00 pm. 

VIII. Programs 
   a. Reviewing budget from Fall 2014: In Fall 2014 we did: Red Wings tickets, 
   b. Budget $2,400 for Rackham Liaison events. 
   c. Ideas: Apple orchard and other fall family friendly programs. 
   d. Haunted House and other family friendly Halloween events 
   e. Rocky Horror Picture Show - rent out State Theater 
   f. Happy hours - Quality, not quantity of events 
      i. Spend more money on food, live entertainment 
      ii. Combine with Med. School, Dental School, Munger, etc.
iii. Gala in the Spring - maybe combined with SCOR?
   1. Rackham is very interested in having this Gala.
iv. Bar night
   Rent out Circus? Good for karaoke and happy hour.
   In UMMA?
g. Meet-and-Greet
f. Football Game - Explain rules of the game

IX. Budget
   a. $2,400 for Rackham sponsored events (Bowling, Pistons, Red Wings, etc.)
   b. $600 for fall family-friendly event (on budget referred to as “Apple Picking”)
      i. Buke and Lu look at alternatives to haunted house and apple picking
   c. $500 for COSAC
   d. Happy Hours (total of 3)
      i. Total of $1,500 but will adjust once we hear back from Circus and UMMA
   e. Meet-and-Greet
   f. Football Game - Explain rules of the game

   Motion by Chuky for $6,500 budget. Seconded by Sriram. Approved unanimously.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 7:47pm.