Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: May 27, 2014

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. May 20, 2014
IV. Representative appointment
V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Chuky
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Vacant
VI. Budget
VII. Background checks
VIII. Student philanthropy
IX. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications Committee
   d. Elections Committee
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
      i. Tigers Game
      ii. Day in the Park
      iii. Formal
X. Open Discussion
XI. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes May 20 (p. 2)
RSG Spring/Summer 2014 Budget (p. 8)
Background Check Documents (p. 10)
Student Philanthropy Documents (p. 19)
Committee Assignments (p. 22)
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16pm
   a. Present: Representatives Pat P., Michael B., Stefan T., David W., Malcom T., VP Mbagwu, President Saccone
   b. Absent: Chris Tom, Matt W., Matt K.
   c. Excused: Adam D., Yang W., David B.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
    Moved to approve with amendment for appointments by Pat P., seconded by MB. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
     Motion to approve by MB, seconded by Malcom T. Approved unanimously.

IV. Appointment of Representatives
    Phil would like to appoint David Malewski as a representative to the Board. He has been a great logistical coordinator towards many committees last term, and a great asset towards the SAGE trip last term. It is my pleasure to appoint him to RSG.

    Motion by David W., seconded by MB.

    Pat P.: Just curious, why did you not run in the election?

    David M.: I was taking on a lot of responsibilities with research, and made an agreement not to run for positions etc. Some of those requirements have now passed (prelims), and I can definitely put in the time.

    Phil: Happy to have you here.

    MB: There were a few open seats due to non-acceptances and other issues.

    Phil: With no further objections, we will now proceed to the roll call vote.
VOTE:
Approved 7-0-0

V. Introductions

Round of introductions for all current and new members of the Board.

Phil: Feel free to email any of the execs if you have any questions, etc. Welcome to the Board!

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone
Spring/summer is generally somewhat slower than in the fall and winter. We have more time to reflect and plan ahead. We run fun social events, as well as brainstorm for the larger issues in the fall and winter. There are some previous/pending issues that RSG has been working on during the Winter term. VAWA, and GSI/GSRA background checks.

VAWA resolution is public knowledge and we can resend that out to the student body. Chuaky and I are scheduling a meeting with the provost to discuss that and the instructor evaluations, and background checks. We garnered lots of support for this, but they seem to be dragging their feet on this. Before we get the provost, we are meeting with an associate dean to get more information. We’ll have more to say on that as things progress.

b. Vice President Chuky Mbagwu
Review of the committee slates. Motion to approve by Chuky M., seconded by David M.

VOTE
Approved 8-0-0

c. Treasurer (Vacant)
We have about $22,000. Ran under budget during the Winter term. Detailed budget summary forthcoming next meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Academic Affairs Committee
Phil: Last semester was a big success in taking care of the AA prior.

b. Budgetary Committee
Chuky: This committee is concerned with supporting events, resources, and professional development relevant to grad students. We did a great job getting out
the money to student orgs last term. We also have pending funding apps, so new budgetary committee will hit the ground running.

Motion to receive and approve minutes by Chuky, seconded by David M. Approved unanimously.

c. Elections Committee
N/A

d. Communications Committee
Phil: This is currently a standing committee, but is a very important one as it is our primary correspondence with the student body. This includes the newsletter and email list serves. We need to think of the website and newletters as a critical tool at our disposal for the benefit of the student body. Those with ideas of how to improve Communications don’t hesitate to raise them, can also be used as a recruitment tool for the Board. We need someone to take up the newsletter responsibilities, VP is primary responsible for committee and newsletter but it will be a group effort.

Phil stresses the importance of your input, so please contribute!

e. Legislative Affairs Committee
Michael B: This committee tackles advocacy of issues on local, state, and federal level. Dave M has done a phenomenal job tracking state issues. Some of these issues directly affect grad students, others more indirectly. We’ve met with members of administration to discuss these, we’ve also coordinated with MSU to jointly advocate on state issues. Medicare and healthcare changes as a result of Affordable Care Act are being tracked and worked on. There is plenty more that is ongoing, so I’m glad there is large interest. MB covers more issues.

Phil: In the near future, there’s a student loan refinancing (targeted at undergrads) bill that is being passed through the Senate. We, along with SAGE, are pushing for support of this bill, but also emphasizing the necessity of a graduate student component/corollary. We also have SAGE Fall Summit and Day on the Hill, many things going on and it’s very exciting.

MB: If you have any separate issues that, please bring them up so the committee/board can also track and support.

f. Student Life Committee
Phil: We already have an event coming up, Tiger’s Game. It’s always a fun time, and we do need volunteers/chaperones. We also have Day in the Park event
coming up, taking place at Gallup Park later in the summer (late June). We should also budget for Happy Hours for the summer.

Student life is a very important committee and one of the RSG’s main functions (along with student org funding). It mainly serves to improve quality of life for grad students.

VIII. Break out session: RSG Priorities

Phil: I’d like to take suggestions on what RSG should be involved in. Broken it up into the 5 categories.

Academic Issues
Pat: What was the GPA scale issue?
MB: Explains the change from a 9.0 gpa scale to a standardized 4.0 gpa.

Phil: There was also an academic issue with GSI-ing and having grading responsibilities while also trying finish classes. Will get more info on it, Ryne Peterson was covering it prior.

Pat: It seems like the…

MB: Standardizing the definition of what it means to be a “PhD Candidate.” This affects many things including tuition. We also covered continuous enrollment in the past, it would be good to follow-up and see how many people have used this and its effect and then do a reevaluation.

Phil: There is a big pressure from the acceleration of advancement to Candidacy to offset tuition costs associated with pre-Candidacy. Some departments take the quals late into their 3rd year, after coursework, teaching, etc. I think it’s something that we should definitely look into, I just don’t anticipate them making a lot of moves in this space.

MB: Masters students’ office space is also another issue, but likely won’t be resolved due to constraints on individual departments. There is a new dean of the libraries (?) so this could be low-hanging fruit for the AA committee to look into over the summer.

Student Services Issues (non-academic)
Phil: On north campus they are removing/closing some of the essential services such as CAPS, registrar, potentially fin-aid, and other. We can also look into professional resources, especially for non-engineering students.

David W.: The centralization of departmental staffers/administrators. This affects grad students in multiple ways. Gives anecdotal evidence regarding issues with finding and getting scholarships.
Phil: When this was first brought up, it was clear that there were potential avenues that grad students could be affected. Also when the faculty were protesting this, grad students input was not requested so it would be difficult to get an “in” to the conversation. It is important to get evidence and stories like David’s to show a clear impact.

Pat: Some of the communication needed for building or manufacturing necessitates person-to-person communication and not email. We need persons with “domain knowledge” on site to tackle some of these problems. There is a loss of productivity trying to go through centralized mechanisms for non-standard needs.

Phil: We can definitely poll the student body for more input on these things. I am leaning towards doing a poll in the fall as opposed to summer.

MB: I would recommend against it – sometime in the past we got a large turnout on a summer survey and I think we should go for it.

Pat: It’s important to figure out how far along on the rollout of the this centralized system we are.

Phil: Do we know when this rollout is supposed to be completed?

MB: It was set to be completed during the winter term, but apparently there was relatively strong opposition from the faculty which delayed things. As it stands now, folks that were going to be moved to Shared Services are still going to but potentially at a later date.

Phil: All in all, we need to get a better handle on what’s going on with the centralization/shared services. Let’s continue to talk to people in our programs and our administrators about this issue.

Phil: Another Academic Issue – RSG’s relationship with the President’s Office needs to be improved and we have an opportunity to do so with the new President. This is someone who we would like to bring into the Board once a year.

[INSERT VAWA, INSTRUCTOR EVALS, ETC INTO AA PRIORITIES here]

Local Issues
MB: Continuing to strengthen our (already strong) relationship with the city. Creating a housing advisory group to advise local developers as to what “young professionals” want in their projects. Also, planning to host an election forum in the fall on state-wide ballot proposals.

Social Events
Suggestions: More adult themed events, dance party, coffee time event, RSG “talk to your constituents” event, and more. Send RSG reps to strategic points on campus with coffee and bagels. Perhaps in the summertime is a prime time to reach constituents.

Pat: Perhaps we can make a pamphlet with our current issues that we’re tackling and request input from constituents on what else we can cover.

State/Federal Issues
Phil: I recommend that LAC puts something together for this category and report it back to the Board.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION
None.

X. Dissolve Winter 2014 Board
Motion to dissolve W14 board retroactively on May 1st by Pat, seconded MB. Approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by MB, seconded by Pat. Approved unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT at 8:25pm.
# RSG WINTER ‘14 BUDGET

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## RSG Committees:

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## BUDGETARY

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# RSG Spring/Summer ‘14 Budget Request

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Policy Content: It is important that the University's academic, research, patient care and service missions are supported by qualified employees and appointees with a safe and secure environment for all University constituents, including students, visitors, patients and employees. This policy is intended to support the verification of credentials, criminal history, and other information related to employment and appointment decisions that assist the University in meeting its commitments.

Section 1: Faculty, Postdoctoral Research Fellows, and Staff (Regular and Temporary)

A pre-employment background check must be conducted before a candidate may receive a firm offer of employment to a faculty, postdoctoral research fellow, or staff position at the University of Michigan.

For faculty, postdoctoral research fellow, and staff positions, the pre-employment background check includes, at minimum, a review of the individual's criminal conviction history, national sex offender registry screen, social security verification, and a verification of the individual's academic credentials. Additional review or verification may be required, based on the nature of the position sought. The University may, as needed, change the minimum requirements for a pre-employment background check.

The background check requirement applies to individuals newly appointed to the University. A background check must be completed before a candidate for a faculty, postdoctoral research fellow, or staff position may receive a non-contingent offer of employment at the University.

A candidate for employment who refuses to consent to the authorization to conduct a criminal records check will be excluded from consideration for employment.

A candidate for employment who provides false or inaccurate information during the application process will normally be excluded from consideration for employment. If the false or inaccurate information is discovered after an individual has begun employment, the individual's employment may be terminated pursuant to the appropriate dismissal procedures.

Section 2: Graduate Student Instructors, Graduate Student Staff Assistants and Graduate Student Research Assistants

A pre-appointment background check must be completed before a graduate student may receive a firm offer of appointment as a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), Graduate Student Staff Assistant (GSSA) or Graduate Student Research Assistant (GSRA). So long as a graduate student is enrolled (or on an approved leave of absence from their academic program) as a graduate student each fall and winter semester, a background check need not be performed prior to subsequent appointments as a GSI, GSSA or GSRA. If a graduate student ceases to remain enrolled (or on approved leave of absence from their academic program) each fall and winter semester, a new background check will be required prior to the first GSI, GSSA or GSRA appointment following re-enrollment.

For GSI, GSSA, and GSRA appointments, the pre-appointment background check includes, at minimum, a pre-appointment review of the individual's criminal conviction history, national sex offender registry screen, and social security verification. Additional review or verification may be required, based on the nature of the position sought. The University may, as needed, change the minimum requirements for a pre-employment background check.

A graduate student who refuses to consent to the authorization to conduct a background check will be excluded from consideration for a GSI, GSSA and/or GSRA appointment.

In such a circumstance, the academic unit that admitted the graduate student will not be obligated to offer alternative forms of support, irrespective of any financial support commitment made at the time of admission into the graduate program.

A graduate student who provides false or inaccurate information during the appointment application process will normally be excluded from consideration for appointment as a GSI, GSSA or GSRA. In addition, the graduate student may be subject to sanction under the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities and/or applicable school/college policies for providing false or inaccurate information. If the false or inaccurate information is discovered after an individual has begun his or her appointment, the individual's appointment may be terminated pursuant to the appropriate dismissal procedure.

Section 3: General Provisions

http://spg.ummich.edu/policy/201.95
An individual with a criminal conviction is not automatically excluded from employment or appointment. Appointing units, in consultation with the applicable Human Resources Office, will assess any criminal conviction history which is returned as a result of the criminal records check. The Office of the General Counsel will be consulted as needed. This individualized assessment will consider the nature and gravity of the offense, the time elapsed since the offense or completion of the sentence, and its relevance to the particular position sought.

Additional review or verification may be required (a) for current employees as required by law, regulation, or policy or (b) if a current employee seeks to change positions based on the nature of the new position sought.

Procedures:  http://hr.umich.edu/procedures/spg201-95.html

[1]The term “criminal” means any conviction for a misdemeanor or felony, or any pending felony charges.

[2]For purposes of this SPG, the term “faculty” means an appointment at any percent of effort greater than zero in the tenure track, research track, clinical track, supplemental appointment, visiting appointment, or Lecturer.

[3]For purposes of this SPG, the term “postdoctoral research fellow” means an employee-trainee as described in SPG 201.19.

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### Attachment

**Printable PDF of SPG Section 201.95**

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<th>Applies to:</th>
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<td>201.95</td>
<td>Faculty; Postdoctoral Research Fellows (employee trainees); Staff (Regular and Temporary); GSIs; GSSAs; and GSRAs</td>
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<td>Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and University Human Resources</td>
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**Owner:**

Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and University Human Resources

**Primary Contact:**

Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs,
University Human Resources, and Health System Human Resources

Hard copies of this document are considered uncontrolled. If you have a printed version, please refer to the University SPG website (spg.umich.edu) for the official, most recent version.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS-GSA BACKGROUND CHECKS
Student Focused
May 2014
PREPARED BY
ACADEMIC HUMAN RESOURCES-STAFF HUMAN RESOURCES

The University of Michigan requires a pre-appointment background check for graduate students appointed as Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs), Graduate Student Staff Assistants (GSSAs) and Graduate Student Research Assistants (GSRAs) (collectively, “GSAs”). More information may be found in SPG 201.95, the University’s Policy on Background Screening. The following Frequently Asked Questions address questions from students regarding this policy.

1. What is being reviewed in a background check?

RESPONSE: A background check is a pre-appointment review of your criminal conviction history (i.e., misdemeanor and felony convictions and pending felony charges), national sex offender registry screen, and social security verification. Additional review or verification may be required, based on the nature of the position sought.

2. Why did the University begin conducting background checks?

RESPONSE: The University strives to maintain a safe academic and work environment for all members of its community. The background check of graduate students is intended to support making informed appointment decisions that assist the University in meeting its commitments to a safe and secure environment.

3. Who conducts the pre-appointment background check?

RESPONSE: The University of Michigan has partnered with General Information Services, Inc. (GIS) to conduct background checks on its behalf.

4. How will I know if I need a background check?

RESPONSE: If your first offer of appointment as a GSA occurs after November 18, 2013, it is contingent on successfully completing a background check and you must successfully complete a background check prior to commencing the GSA appointment.

If a background check is needed, you will receive an email from GIS (eServices@geninfo.com) requesting that you provide your social security number, your date of birth, and your current and previous addresses. The message from GIS is
time-limited and it will expire (after 7 calendar days) so it is important that you respond to the email notice as soon as possible so that your appointment will not be delayed.

5. Is the background check process different for international students?

RESPONSE: No. All graduate students applying for a first-time GSA appointment will be invited to complete the consent and disclosure form, which will request previous addresses. If you have never lived, worked or gone to school in the US, the email invitation directs you to contact University HR to provide your full name, date of birth, current address, department, and job title (if known).

6. How will I know if I have successfully completed the background check?

RESPONSE: Questions regarding the status of your background check should be directed to your Graduate Program Coordinator.

7. What if I have been a GSA previously, will I be subject to the pre-appointment background check requirements?

RESPONSE: A graduate student who was appointed as a GSA prior to November 18, 2013 and who has remained enrolled (or on an approved leave of absence from his/her academic program) as a graduate student each fall and winter semester since the GSA appointment is not subject to the background check requirement.

8. What steps will be taken if the background check reveals a previous conviction or other relevant information?

RESPONSE: Information received as part of this standard screening will not in-and-of-itself disqualify you from receiving an offer of funding or an appointment as a GSA. Prior to making a final decision not to appoint you as a GSA, the University will inform you that the information received from your background check requires further review and you will be provided with an opportunity to provide input. Information will be reviewed on a case by case basis, consistent with University policy. The University has an interest in protecting your privacy. To that end, the results of your background screening will not be regularly shared with faculty in your department.
9. With whom will the results of a background check be shared?

RESPONSE: Generally, designees from Academic Human Resources, Office of the General Counsel and Rackham will review each case in consultation with the appropriate parties in the school or college. The reported information will only be shared with those who need to be involved in the review process.

10. What will be considered when reviewing information returned on the background check?

RESPONSE: With respect to criminal conviction history, the individualized assessment will consider, at minimum, the nature and gravity of the offense, the time elapsed since the offense or completion of the sentence, and its relevance to the particular position sought or the type of appointment typical in your program. For additional information, please refer to the SPG 201.95 procedures page (http://hr.umich.edu/procedures/spg201-95.html).

11. If I cannot be appointed as a GSA as a result of the background check, can I apply for another GSA position?

RESPONSE: Disqualification from one GSA position does not necessarily disqualify the applicant from other GSA positions. A student who is not appointed to a GSA position because of a finding from the background check is allowed to apply for another position. The relationship between the nature of the responsibilities or duties of the position and the potentially relevant information or conviction history will be considered.

12. If I don't have a GSA appointment (e.g., because I’m on a fellowship, training grant), will I need to undergo another background check before returning to a GSA appointment?

RESPONSE: No. A background check is required prior to the first GSA appointment only; so long as you remain enrolled (or on an approved leave of absence from your academic program during the Fall and Winter semesters), you will not need another background check, regardless of your funding source.
13. What happens if I decline to submit the necessary information for a background check?

RESPONSE: As a part of the GSA appointment process, you are required to provide the needed information for a background check. If you choose not to do so, you cannot be appointed as a GSA. Furthermore, your graduate program will not be obligated to offer alternative forms of support (e.g., fellowship).

14. May I begin working as a GSI (or GSRA or GSSA) before the background check is complete? Does the answer change if classes start before the check is complete?

RESPONSE: The answer is “No” to both questions. If a background check is required, the appointing unit cannot have you teach or perform any related tasks before the background check is completed. The same is true for GSSA and GSRA appointments. However, once the background check is successfully completed the GSA appointment will be effective with the start date indicated in the contingent offer (e.g., letter).
Dear Graduate Coordinator,

Effective November 18, 2013, graduate students are required to successfully complete a background screening prior to his or her first appointment as a graduate student instructor (GSI), graduate student research assistant (GSRA), or graduate student staff assistant (GSSA). For your convenience, we have created Frequently Asked Question for you and your students.

To facilitate this requirement, Academic HR will be working throughout the summer to complete the background screenings of matriculating Ph.D. students. This process requires all of your incoming Ph.D. students to be matriculated. Matriculated status is the trigger for our background check vendor, GIS, to initiate the background check process by sending an email to the matriculated graduate student. As GIS, the sender of the background screening email, will likely not be an entity with whom the student has had previous contact, we want to help ensure that students will respond to the email rather than ignore it or think it is spam.

On May 19, 2014 you will receive an email from Shelly Conner with an excel file with the names and email addresses of your impacted students. The excel file will contain two worksheets. One will be for your incoming Ph.D. students, and the other will be for your continuing Ph.D. students who have not yet satisfied the background check requirement. These two groups should be sent the appropriate message below.

To facilitate this process, we are asking you to send one of the messages below to your impacted Ph.D. students by May 21, 2014. In the coming weeks, we will also ask you to send periodic reminders to any Ph.D. students who have not completed the background screening. Thank you for your help.

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MESSAGE FOR MATRICULATING PH.D. STUDENTS

Dear Name_of_Incoming_PhD_Student,

We continue to be excited that you have chosen to join our doctoral program at the University of Michigan and we look forward to your arrival on campus. As you may already know, the University requires background screening for all individuals who will have an appointment or employment at the University. Because your funding offer
includes your anticipated appointment as a graduate student instructor (GSI), graduate student research assistant (GSRA), and/or graduate student staff assistant (GSSA), a background screening prior to your first appointment in any one of these positions is required. As part of your transition into the doctoral program, we would like you to complete your background screening prior to your arrival on campus.

The University of Michigan has partnered with General Information Services, Inc. (GIS) to conduct the background screening process. In the coming days, you will receive an email message from General Information Services, Inc. (eServices@geninfo.com) requesting that you provide your social security number, your date of birth, and your current and previous addresses. The message will also advise you of next steps if you do not have a social security number or have never resided in the United States (or have not resided in the United States within the past seven years).

The message from GIS is time-limited and it will expire. Please update your email filters so that the GIS invitation does not get marked as spam. We ask that you respond as quickly as possible. As noted in your support letter, your funding commitment requires a background screening and resolution of any issues that arise as a result of the check, prior to the start of your first appointment.

Please note that information received as part of this standard screening will not automatically disqualify you for funding; such information will be reviewed on a case by case basis, consistent with University policy. The University has an interest in protecting the privacy of students. To that end, the results of your background screening will not be regularly shared with faculty in your department.

For more information please see frequently asked questions and the Background Screening policy. If you have any questions about the policy or procedures, please contact Academic Human Resources (734) 763-8938.

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MESSAGE FOR CONTINUING PH.D. STUDENTS WHO HAVE NOT HAD A GSA APPOINTMENT

Dear Name_of_Continuing_PhD_Student,
Beginning November 18, 2013, the University began requiring background screening for all graduate students who will have an appointment or employment at the University. Because your funding offer includes your anticipated appointment as a graduate student instructor (GSI), graduate student research assistant (GSRA), and/or graduate student staff assistant (GSSA) (collectively called "GSA"), a background screening prior to your first appointment in any one of these positions is required. We would like you to complete your background screening prior to the fall semester.

The University of Michigan has partnered with General Information Services, Inc. (GIS) to conduct the background screening process. In the coming days, you will receive an email message from General Information Services, Inc. (eServices@geninfo.com) requesting that you provide your social security number, your date of birth, and your current and previous addresses. The message will also advise you of next steps if you do not have a social security number.

The message from GIS is time-limited and it will expire. Please update your email filters so that the GIS invitation does not get marked as spam. We ask that you respond as quickly as possible. In order to be appointed as a GSA, you will need to successfully complete the background check process. Any issues that arise as a result of the background check must be resolved prior to the start of your first GSA appointment.

Please note that information received as part of this standard screening will not automatically disqualify you for funding; such information will be reviewed on a case by case basis, consistent with University policy. The University has an interest in protecting the privacy of students. To that end, the results of your background screening will not be regularly shared with faculty in your department.

For more information please see frequently asked questions and the Background Screening policy. If you have any questions about the policy or procedures, please contact Academic Human Resources (734) 763-8938.
Mission
The Student Philanthropy team, in collaboration with the campus community, facilitates the transmission of the philanthropic tradition from one generation to the next by:
- Acknowledging students as volunteers and donors actively moving the university forward
- Instilling a sense of intergenerational responsibility among students
- Empowering students to grow and sustain the Michigan Legacy
- Graduating engaged citizens who give to the broader community and to U-M through service and financial resources

Institutional Commitment
Informed by comprehensive research completed in October 2011, the University of Michigan established a Student Philanthropy Taskforce. In February 2012, the Taskforce was charged with developing recommendations on how to reinforce a public ethos of giving and volunteering and how to encourage a culture of philanthropy on the University of Michigan campus and throughout its communities. The Student Philanthropy Taskforce is a division-wide and school/college level initiative that includes representation from Development, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs (Admissions, LSA Advising, etc.), Athletics, the Health System, the Alumni Association, and current students. The Taskforce is in the process of finalizing a vision for philanthropy at the University of Michigan.

Successes
- More than 4,000 students participated in the second Annual Student Day of Thanks - Hail Yeah! Every Gift Matters.
- The most successful Hail Yeah! pre-marketing post on the Forever Go Blue Facebook page, which is managed by the Forever Go Blue Ambassadors, yielded 2,518 likes, 286 shares, 24 comments, and reached a staggering 121,000 people.
- The Forever Go Blue Facebook page was launched in March 2012. After participating in three University Welcome Week events in 2013, the number of Likes increased by 20%. To date, the page has over 2,200 Likes.
- The Student Philanthropy team hosted the second Annual Student Organization Leaders’ Luncheon and had 23 student leaders attend, who represented 20 different philanthropic organizations on campus.
- One educational video, which demonstrates how gifts of all sizes have an impact at Michigan (Lenny Labelman), was viewed by over 10,000 students when it played in the Big House before the on-campus viewing of the Cowboy Classic. Another educational video, which explains how the university budget works (Dough Blue), has been viewed 4,234 times on the Leaders and Best YouTube channel.
- The philanthropic messaging included in prospective student tours reaches 45,000 visitors annually.
- The Student Philanthropy team received a 2012 CASE Circle of Excellence Silver Award for Collaborative Programs for its partnership with the Office of New Student Programs on an orientation sketch entitled “Standing on the Shoulders,” which is viewed by 6,000 students annually.
Programs and Resources
The Student Philanthropy (SP) team has created a number of programs, events, and opportunities for students to engage in learning about philanthropy. Below is a quick snap shot of the programming supported by the SP team:

- **Forever Go Blue Ambassadors** – team of students working to educate their peers about fundraising and alumni support for the University. These students plan events and create/manage the content for our social media platforms (facebook.com/ForeverGoBlue and twitter.com/UMForeverGoBlue).

- **Student Organization Sponsorship and/or Consultation** – SP staff advise student organizations on fundraising. We share best practices and provide support for student organizations on such topics as developing a fundraising strategy, planning events and stewarding their donors.

- **Forever Go Blue Tour Guides** – student guides provide visiting donors, alumni and prospective students with tours of campus that highlight the university’s mission, history and philanthropic tradition.

- **Workshops** – SP staff lead workshops for students on topics such as the role philanthropy plays in higher education, developing fundraising strategies and grant writing.

- **Toolkits** – the Student Philanthropy Toolkit and Student Fundraising Toolkit are on-line resources available to help student fundraising and giving efforts.

Initiatives

- **Philanthropic Messaging** – prospective students hear philanthropic messages on campus tours. Matriculated students receive philanthropic messages during Orientation, Convocation and Welcome Week.

- **Student Survey** – the entire student population (undergraduate, graduate and professional) is surveyed annually regarding their perceptions and experiences of philanthropy as it relates to U-M.

- **Forever Go Blue Award** – students or student groups are recognized for work that highlights the importance of giving to the University of Michigan and promotes philanthropy as a significant component of a well-lived life.

- **Day of Thanks - Hail Yeah! Every Gift Matters** – annual campus-wide day of thanks when students sign postcards to thank university alumni. Students thank alumni who gave gifts of $50 or less to the annual fund. Educational messaging stresses the impact annual giving has at U-M.

- **Forever Go Blue Grants** – two types of grants are available to students: a $1000 research grant and $700 program grant. Both grants are available to students and/or student groups that plan to promote philanthropic thinking, inspire collaboration around altruistic endeavors, and engage in charitable projects that benefit U-M.

- **Student Campaign Committee** – for the first time in U-M history, students are part of the formal volunteer structure of the Victors for Michigan campaign. This committee will determine how to educate their peers about the goals of the campaign as well as publicly recognize current student giving to and fundraising on behalf of U-M.

For questions or giving opportunities, contact:

Megan Piersma
Program Manager
Student Philanthropy
mpiersma@umich.edu
734-615-3047
Understanding Philanthropy: The U-M Student Perspective

Executive Summary

Context
In April 2009, OUD launched a longitudinal study to better understand current student perceptions of philanthropy and changes in these perceptions over time. The target population for the study was all University of Michigan undergraduate, graduate, and professional students enrolled during the winter 2011 term. From the available population of 39,901 students, a sample of 4,520 students responded, yielding a response rate of 10.7% (which is consistent with response rates among college students, 5-20%). For the purpose of this study, we employed one dependent variable for the logit regression: whether the respondent expected to give within 12 months of graduating from the University of Michigan.

Key Findings

1. Students currently donate at higher rates to charitable organizations over the University of Michigan. According to our survey, while 29% of respondents donated to the U-M, 64% donated to a charitable organization. These findings suggest that the University's need for student/alumni support should be emphasized in future interventions.

2. Students believe that, post-graduation, they will prioritize giving to other non-profit organizations more than giving to U-M. Those who agreed that giving elsewhere after graduation would be more important than giving to U-M were less than half as likely to expect to give than those who indicated otherwise (OR = .500; p < .001). This finding suggests that students value giving to causes or organizations in which the need is immediate (e.g., urgent) and the perceived impact great.

3. Students prefer to designate their gift. Student respondents indicated that they prefer to designate their gift to a specific unit or activity. The development community might benefit from considering this preference when developing a culture of giving on the U-M campus.

4. Many students do not understand how their Michigan experience is funded. While the majority of students understand that state funding has decreased, their understanding of non-profit vs. for profit status suggests that we should consider educating our students about how funding for higher education works (e.g., 59% of our operational budget is subsidized by private giving as compared to 29% from tuition and 12% from state funding).

5. Students who recognize private giving as contributing to the advancement of the University are more likely to expect to give within one year of graduation than those who do not. Students who recognize the value of small gifts and the value of alumni gifts tend to be more likely to expect to give. Students also seem to understand the importance of alumni gifts - agreement with the importance of alumni aid is a significant predictor of expecting to give, holding other variables constant.

6. Perceived future earnings appear to be a barrier to giving for most students. Of those students who responded that they would not give to U-M as an alumnus, most listed financial means as a primary barrier to giving. However, our findings from this survey indicate student loan debt, even at high levels ($50K+) does not appear to have a significant relationship with one’s propensity to give. Therefore, while students list financial means as the top reason for not giving, our research indicates that respondents may be refering to perceived future earnings rather than student loan debt.

7. Specific student populations at Michigan indicated a higher likelihood to give to Michigan within one year of graduation. For example:
   - Even when controlling for a whole host of demographic and attitude variables, women have significantly lower odds of expecting to give than men.
   - Those students who report ever attending religious services are much more likely to expect to give within one year of graduation.
Rackham Student Government Committee
Assignments Spring/Summer 2014

**Academic Affairs**
Patrick P.
David B.
Stefan T.
Chris T.

**Legislative Affairs Committee**
Dave M.
Michael B.
David B.
David W.
Pier D.
Pat P.

**Student Life Committee**
Sidney E.
Malcom T.
Pier D.
Chris T.

**Budgetary Committee**
Dave M.
David W.
Sidney E.
Michael B.

**Communications Committee**
Michael B.
Malcom T.
Stefan T.