Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: November 20, 2013

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. November 13, 2013

IV. Public Hearing: Instructor Evaluations

V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Kaitlin
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Chuky

VI. Second Reading of Binding Resolution: Instructor Evaluations

VII. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Elections Committee
   d. Legislative Affairs
   e. Student Life
      i. Bowling

VIII. Collaboration with GEO: Graduate Student Survey
   a. Format
   b. Types of questions

IX. Open Discussion

X. Adjournment

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes November 13, 2013
AAC Minutes November 19, 2013
SLC Minutes November 13, 2013
Resolution: Instructor Evaluations
GEO Survey
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16pm

a. Present: Representatives Mike Hand, Michael Lang, Julian Bahr, Yiting Zhang, David Malewski, Chris Tom, David Barton, Michael Benson, President Saccone, Vice President Flynn, Treasurer Mbagwu

b. Absent:

c. Excused: Ram, Julian, Yiting

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Phil: one amendment. New item 8. A motion by one of our representatives to support the North Campus Sustainability Initiative.
Motion by MB, seconded by Ben. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved by Michael Benson Seconded by Michael Lang. Ryne is not listed as attending. This will be corrected. Also, Laura’s last name is spelled Patterson. Approved unanimously with 1 abstention.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone I’m so happy to see all of you. It’s been a busy week but we have a lot going on.

Elections – Coming up quickly! Encourage people to run.

Website

Brooke

GEO

b. Vice President Kaitlin Flynn

Treasurer Chuky We have $28,400 in the account. Currently for the semester we are under budget. I do have some committee news too. We’ve allocated $3,000 at the beginning of the semester to give to student groups. I’m happy to say that we’ve allocated almost all of that! We have $45 unallocated in the committee’s budget. 11 groups have applied and we’ve funded 10. Student
organizations from across the University have put forward requests. In a few minutes I’ll be making a motion to increase the committee’s semester budget by $3,000 from the unallocated reserve to continue to provide this service to the student body.

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES
   a. Academic Affairs Committee
      As Phil mentioned, we did receive an email last night for Brooke’s resignation. I’m back to being the Chair-chair. We didn’t meet this week due to scheduling issues. We still need to sort out the best practices document. We’re going to bring that to the Board next week. Also, we will have a public hearing as phil mentioned as well.

   b. Budgetary Committee

      Chuky: I move that the Board reopen the semester budget to increase the committee’s semester budget by $3,000 from the unallocated reserve to continue to provide this service to the student body.

      Seconded by Mike Hand.

      Dave M: Remind me please about how far before an event someone has to submit a request.

      Chuky: 3 weeks.

      Phil: Its important to note that the treasurer has the ability to wave the three week deadline.

      Chuky: In addition to the discretion, there is a bit of overlap between the applications and the time of the events. Over the summer, we got applications that have events in the fall. The same is happening now for the winter. So, with our Fall budget, we’re going to be funding events for early winter term.

      Mike Hand: I think this is pretty cut and dry.

      Why did you make the bylaws so damn confusing?

      Benson: public funds require appropriate safeguards.

      Roll Call:

      Chris Tom: Aye
      Dave M: Aye
      Alex : Aye
c. **Elections Committee**

Dave M: As you’ve seen, there have been two announcements that have gone out. We have a few candidates thus far, including Alex.

Mike Hand: Is this something where if we have open seats we can be a bit more lenient with the nominations deadline.

Dave: No.

Michael: Speaks about the elections process

Ryne: Are we going to tell people who to contact about their election?

Michael: In the past the ED has confirmed to the candidates that they’re on the ballot and in particular which election they’re running in.

Phil: Good idea.

d. **Legislative Affairs Committee**

Benson: Sorry I couldn’t be there last week—GSI responsibilities. Chuky, Phil, David, and I went to UNC Chapel Hill for SAGE. Reviewed issues discussed at SAGE—Local, State, and Federal issues, student life issues, best practices. We will get minutes from SAGE. We will also provide comments on the questionnaires. SAGE advocacy issues are staying the same.

Phil is leading the charge on new issues.

Review of lease signing forum.
Malewski: Gathering of landlords (WAAA) and tenants. It went well. It was unfortunate and to a certain extent a self appointed CSG executive came to the meeting and essentially verbally attacked the WAAA representatives in the incorrect assumption that they came to the forum with an explicit agenda to reverse the ordinance or that they initiated it.

Phil: He actually went further than that saying that we were a pawn of the WAAA and that we were hosting the forum to go against CSG’s assembly.

Dave: When one of the landlords asked Jeremy Keeny to retract his statement, he refused. And then immediately left. After that, it became a lot more constructive. We had a pretty significant list of questions that had been submitted by graduate students to the Association. The members of the association also let us know their perspectives on the issue as well. The interesting thing is that it seems that the impetus behind this ordinance was a means to provide undergraduates a way to skirt around locking in a lease for the next year. An unintended consequence is that during the moratorium period, currently 70 days, the landlords are not allowed to show the apartments. While this has kept the heat of the tenants, this has lead to people fully avoiding the landlords and directly going ot the apartments w/o any supervision.

Phil: There were a lot of things going on there. I’d like to thank the board for showing up. With regard to the CSG executive, I have a meeting with the CSG President and Vice President. I’m not convinced that Jeremy was sent with instructions to do this. It was silly, it interrupted the conversaion on this.

e. Student Life Committee

Pistons game-

Ben – pistons lost. But it was a great game. No one got lost on the way back to the bus. We were expecting 2 -3 but thankfully that didn’t happen at all .Everyone was well behaved. It was a 2 hour drive in.

Mike Hand: Bowling is coming up on the 22nd everyone should go, it’s going to be fun. There will be less haranging of reps. There is also a slightly shorter commute compared to the pistons game. We’re also looking at pinball pete’s for December. I’d like to turn it over to Representative Lang to talk about COSAC.

Lang: Wolverine express is a . They send a charter bus to a school in Detroit or the surrounding area.

I’d like to make a motion to allow the SLC to advertise for the WOLVERINE EXPRESS and to attach RSG’s name in a sponsorship capacity on campus for this event. Seconded by Michael Hand.
Ryne: Why sponsor this as opposed to just advertise?

Phil: Difference between sponsoring and just advertising is that this gives RSG a little boost in that we’re helping to provide an event that aligns with our objectives. Mike, how does this align with our objectives?

Lang: This aligns with COSAC’s directive of community outreach.

Chris: Is there a budget for this?

Lang: No, but food will be provided to volunteers.

Approved unanimously.

Lang: The second event that I want to raise is about the Forsythe Science Fair. I had a meeting with the chair of the science department at Forsythe. They’re very interested in having graduate students judge. Last year there were 8 out of 250 graduate students judging. There are two categories, experiments and modeling. It’s really cool, they feed you.

For more information:

The Forsythe Science Fair judging will take place on Saturday, Feb 8, 2014. This year, all three grades 6, 7, and 8 will be submitting projects (last year 8th grade was optional). We will welcome as many judges as you can gather!

As you know, we involve the grad students on the day projects are judged. On that day, we provide judges with breakfast and lunch. Judging responsibilities include:

- Judging either "Experiments" or projects in the "Models and Collections" category. Judges rate projects based on: Creativity, Scientific Thought, Thoroughness and Skill, and Clarity (with specific points awarded under each category). Each project is judged twice in rounds one and two by two different judges in each round. The top ten projects receiving the greatest number of points in each category/grade are then judged collectively by all judges and ranked collectively to receive awards or honorable mention.

Website/registration link/more info:
http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/forsythe.sciencefair/home

VI. GEO Survey

Phil: In addition to the copy for the Gazette, I met with Liz Rodriguez who is the president of the Graduate Employees Organization. This is an organization that we’ve had great relations with in the past as well as less than stellar relations. We’re in a good
spot with them. GEO has a strong and dedicated following and we’re thrilled to work with them. GEO approached us looking to conduct a survey with us. GEO complimented us on our activism this semester notably our federal advocacy, our work with the munger process, as well as the lease signing forum.

The survey they’d like to send out is on the conditions of graduate student life. This is stemming from the recently approved Munger Graduate Residence. I’d like to see us use this as an opportunity to poll the graduate students on anything. The draft I’ve include in the agenda is from GEO, its very much in draft form and we’re going to work with them to add questions and to make changes. The more I think about this, the more I think that we should get this out at the beginning of the next semester. The flipside is that we might want to get this out during a semester where Munger was a big issue. Hopefully you’ve had an opportunity to review it.

Michael: Provides background on last survey.

Phil: There are no charged questions. I’m hoping that Ryne who has experience with surveys will be able to help us with this. For the first question, for example, I’d like to see options rather than fully open response.

Ryne: Looking at the survey, it’s kind of all over the place. We need to narrow down the type of questions we want to ask and really what we’re trying to get out of it. For example, if people say we need better facilities, what does that mean? Do you want a better gym? A better Michigan Union? Etc.

Phil: On a philosophical level, we need to figure out if we need...

VII. Student Health Committee Update

Benson: SHIC is a committee that oversees student health insurance. International students are required to get insurance through the University. Reviews who is on Gradcare and the various ways that they pay for it. DSHIP is a premier policy—covers an extensive array of services. Problem in health care—healthy people have dropped out of health insurance which raised the rate for everyone. Healthcare act is going to likely increase the cost of this plan.

LAC will look into State Medicaid issues and how that effects student health insurance. Michigan State does not allow states to pay for Medicaid supplemental health care—we may want to change that.

North Campus Sustainability:
Michael reviews the sustainability program. Michael would like RSG to support it. Explains how it fits with RSGs mission. No money involved. Any questions?

Ryne: Does this organization support sustainability?
Michael: It might come up although it is not on the agenda now. Perhaps we should talk about sustainability more generally.

Motion Michael: RSG will agree to cosponsor the North Campus sustainability initiative’s north campus sustainability hour. Seconded by Ryne. Seeing no objections it is approved.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Chris: On November 21st, Darlene Ray-Johnson, the Rackham Ombuds will be hosting a seminar on conflict resolution for graduate students. She is interested in having us to help advertise as well as for our ideas. I’ll send something out about that too.

Phil: I have that in the Gazette but we can also send a special announcement about.

Ben: I move that we adjourn. Seconded by Chris.

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 8:19pm.

LAC:

1. David will be supervising survey distribution
2. Phil we ot some great house bills to follow. I’d like to delegate this to the committee to track. It’s hard to just denovo figure out what’s going on. But with that said, with SAGE we have a professional political operative, Ellyn PErone help us. I’ll find them and hopefully we can
3. Michael: Michigan took the lead on the Student Debt paper. So please start looking at that. We’re also going to be looking at and updating the other paper.

David: It’s good to look at the other campuses and see what they’re doing. We look good in a number of areas and can improve in others. Also, we really ened to focus on the specific bills.

Chukey: I spoke about it a bit last time. But to reiterate, it was ahuge learning experience. I contributed a bit, but I was mainly listening to what everone else has to say and learning about how sage operates. When the minutes come out, I think that will be helpful.

Dave: Do we have things in our crosshairs relating to veto material? Also was anything brought up relating to STEM?

Phil: Not yet. In terms of stem we are plush full of stem stuff. That’s the low hanging fruit for all three of our current areas. It’s our friends in the social sciences and the humanites that are really getting slammed.
**Michael:** Provides background on Medicaid expansion and DSHIC

Ryne: Questions relating to ACA and an aca plan.

Dave: This wouldn’t be precedent setting. I’m in favor.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:06 pm

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members: Chris Tom, Phil Saccone, Janakiraman Balachandran, Alexander Gutierrez, Kaitlin Flynn, Erin Sullivan, Julian Bahr

Present: Chris Tom, Alexander Gutierrez, Kaitlin Flynn

Excused: Phil Saccone, Janakiraman Balachandran, Erin Sullivan

Unexcused: Julian Bahr

III. OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

a. Lunch with the Deans write up
   Postponed, Julian not present.

b. Women’s forum action plan
   Tabled.

c. Machine Shop training action plan
   Completed.

IV. JoVE SEMINAR

a. Sent out in the gazette this week: It’s been a week, only three responses. Handing over to Val with this information. AAC’s pledge is completed.

b. Responses & next steps: A few responses from fields related to medicine.

V. MACHINE SHOP TRAINING

a. Recap of meeting with Michael Folts: LSA is large source of machine shop training and access for graduate students at CoE. Training there is not relevant at other machine shops because of lack of communication and standardization of training.

b. Next steps: Meet with Chris Gordon of Wilson Center and Dean Gallimore of College of Engineering to discuss the issue.
VI. EXPANSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

a. Recap of meeting with Title IX coordinator, Anthony Walesby: Added points into resolution about existence of discrimination and added further to the definition of sexual expression. Anthony helped delineate scenarios that are not covered by current policies and are highlighted in the preamble.

b. Next steps: Motion to send to board by Chris, seconded by Kaitlin, and approved unanimously.

VII. BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENT

Postponed, Phil not present.

a. Research on best practices documents at other institutions

b. Overview of the intended document

VIII. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTS

a. Inactive or near inactive
   i. GSBOR
      1. With the board
   ii. Course Evaluation Bank
      1. With the board
   iii. JoVE Seminar
      1. Finished, with minimal follow up still to do
   iv. Lunch with the Deans
      1. Finished, other than documentation

b. Active with a plan
   i. Best Practices Document
   ii. Machine Shop Training
   iii. Expansion of Non-Discrimination policy

c. On the agenda, but nebulous
   i. Google Accessibility Issues

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

X. ADJOURNMENT: 7:52 pm

XI. ACTION ITEMS

a. [Julian] Lunch with the Deans write up
b. [Alex] Email Val with JoVE survey results.
c. [Alex] Meet with people for machine shop training
I. CALL TO ORDER:
   a. Present: Representatives Michael Lang, Chuky, Ben Sweeney, Benson, Chair Mike Hand
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Yiting, Phil

II. Recap- Piston’s Game
   Everything went smoothly. Everyone liked it; no one missed the bus. Pistons lost. Lot of very enthusiastic (mostly international) students. 2hrs there, 1 hr back. Fun even for non-sports fans.
   Reps in attendance: Ryne, Ben, Erin + 1 guest chaperoned. +Lucianna

III. Plan for November Socials
   a. Bowling: November 22
      Thanks to ML for designing the graphic
      Reps in attendance: Chuky, Phil, possibly Ben, Lang (late).
   b. Pinball Pete’s: Week before Thanksgiving
      Move to December. Talk to Natalie as it’s co-sponsored with RSG, do 2hrs with food (RSVP on website, google form). 12/13 for 2 hours. Benson will make logo and email.

IV. Looking ahead to next semester:
   a. Ice Skating- Jan 24th
      Rackham handling lead-up logistics.
   b. Red Wings Game
      Need to find a new promoter, no dice just yet Phil will talk to Natalie about Rackham involvement.

V. COSAC
   a. Forsyth Middle School Science Fairs/Wolverine Express
      Send this out in next email?
VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT—6:53pm

ACTION ITEMS:
Michael Lang: Bring up the Wolverine Express, and Forsythe. Attend Bowling.
Yiting:
Hand: Fill out Event Recap for Piston’s, Talk to Natalie about Pinball Pete’s.
Benson: Red Wings, Pinball Pete’s graphic/email.
Chuky: - Attend Bowling.
Phil: Attend Bowling
Sweeney: - Attend Bowling.
A RESOLUTION TO MAKE INSTRUCTOR REPORTS AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

WHEREAS, voluntary course evaluations are provided by the students at both undergraduate and graduate levels\(^1\); AND

WHEREAS, these individual course evaluations are consolidated into Instructor Reports by the Office of Registrar\(^2\) \(^3\); AND

WHEREAS, these Instructor Reports are currently available only to instructors and departments\(^4\); AND

WHEREAS, the availability of these Instructor Reports to students would enable them to make more informed decisions about crediting courses, especially those from other schools and departments; AND

WHEREAS, the university-wide accessibility to Instructor Reports would motivate the students to provide thoughtful evaluations; NOW ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Office of the Registrar, in conjunction with the Rackham Student Government, institutes a policy to ensure that the Instructor Reports are available to all students; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, following the adoption of this policy, the Office of the Registrar would communicate this policy to all enrolled students prior to the third week of each academic term; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, the compiled Instructor Reports shall be both hosted and disseminated by the Office of the Registrar to ensure accuracy, integrity, security and sustained

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\(^1\) http://www.ro.umich.edu/evals
\(^2\) http://www.ro.umich.edu/evals/#FS_Reports_Types
\(^3\) http://www.ro.umich.edu/evals/Instructor%20Report.pdf
\(^4\) http://www.ro.umich.edu/evals/CU_TE_TeachingEvals_QR.pdf
availability of the Instructor reports.

AUTHORS

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<th>Janakiraman Balachandran</th>
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ATTEST

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at the top of this resolution is accurate.

____________________________________
Kaitlin Flynn
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

I, Phillip A. Saccone, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto this resolution on this the _______ day of _____, 2013.

____________________________________
Phillip Saccone
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body
**Graduate Needs Survey:**

About you:

Department/Program:

Gender Identity:

Ethnic Identity:

Marital Status:

Are you a parent?

Age:

The University of Michigan has recently received a number of high profile gifts from donors who say they want to help graduate and professional students. This survey is an effort to better understand the wants and needs of the graduate student population.

1) If the University put you in charge of spending $85 million to improve the lives of graduate students, how would you spend it?

2) How could the university support you better academically (smaller classes, professional development, facilities, conference travel, research support)?

3) How could the university support you better financially/materially (salary, financial aid, parking, printing, office/workspace, emergency funds)?

4) How could the university better support more interdisciplinary collaboration?

[Circle all that apply]:

5) How could the university improve your workspace?
   a. Provide dedicated workspace
b. Provide locked storage space
c. Provide more computers
d. Provide more ergonomic furniture
e. Provide more privacy/quiet space
f. Other ________________________________

6) How could the university better support your research?
   a. Provide more conference travel funds
   b. Provide more lab space
c. Provide more mentoring
d. Provide more summer funding
e. Facilitate information-sharing between grad students (eg. archives of prelims lists/job letters/teaching statements)
f. Other ________________________________

7) How could the university make you a more effective teacher?
   a. I don't teach
   b. Provide more training and professional development
c. Provide more mentoring
d. Decrease class sizes
e. Improve classroom facilities
f. Promote a more diverse student body
g. Make e-learning tools more available
h. Improved undergraduate financial aid
i. Other ________________________________

8) How could your current housing situation be improved?
   a. Lower rent
   b. More parking
c. Better access to public transportation
d. Better access to groceries
e. More privacy
f. Better proximity to campus
g. Better response to maintenance requests
h. More space
i. Less allergenic conditions
j. Better sound insulation
k. More affordable utilities
l. Better sense of community
m. Other ________________________________

9) How could the university improve your health?
   a. Provide affordable health insurance
b. Provide better access to doctors/nurses  
c. Provide more exercise opportunities  
d. Provide better access to affordable healthy food  
e. Attend to occupational safety hazards  
g. Other ____________________________

10) How much would you pay to live on campus in a shared seven-bedroom apartment with an interdisciplinary group of graduate students that included a grocery store, fitness facilities, shared kitchens and personal bathrooms?

a. ________________  
b. I would not live in such a space