Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: March 26, 2014
Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March 19, 2014
IV. Special Guest: Jill McDonough, Rackham Director of Development and Alumni Relations
V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Vacant
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, ChuKY
VI. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
      i. Lunch with the Deans
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications Committee
   d. Elections Committee
   e. Legislative Affairs
   f. Student Life
VII. Open Discussion
VIII. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes March 19
AAC Minutes 3/24
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:16pm

a. Present: Representatives Pier Davis, Adam Duran, Dave Malewski, Alex Gutierrez, David Barton, Michael Benson, Malcom Tariq, Erin Sullivan, Chris Tom, Sidney Ellington, President Saccone, Treasurer Mbagwu

b. Absent:

c. Excused: David W.,

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Chris to approve the minutes with amendment to remove PSA appeal. Michael Benson, friendly amendment to add bracket and elections appropriation to agenda. Seconded by Benson. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

MB moves to approve with exec with editorial rights. Seconded by Adam. Approved with 1 abstention.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS

a. President Phil Saccone

We have a busy next few weeks. Met with Dean Weiss to discuss RSG initiatives for this term. NDP resolution. VAWA resolution. Instructor evaluations and student housing. Productive conversation, Dean is generally supportive. Dean is on-board with VAWA, believes it's reasonable, somewhat worried about how it will be enforced. Also mentioned that one of the objections would be about academic freedom, allowing profs to be have the freedom to choose to participate. Phil emphasized that those freedoms shouldn't equate with community safety, etc. Doesn't affect academic freedom of profs. Phil will next meet with the Provost regarding this. Having this on the books will be a significant step, even if it will not apply to entrenched profs.

Sidney: Have you spoken yet with any members of Rackham Executive board?
Phil: Not yet, but oncoming. NDP Resolution, Dean was also supportive on this resolution. These are important things to move forward with. Chris will have more on his update. Instructor evaluations have been somewhat stalled, due to wanting to make sure that faculty had adequate notification that these surveys would be going out. Some failure of communication in the ranks causing the stagnation. Phil also spoke with her regarding student housing, etc. - she was supportive and encouraging given RSG efforts with Munger. Dean also volunteered that they (administration) were working on getting the cost of Munger down.

In the next few weeks, we'll be hosting some events. Jill McDonough will provide us some prospective on development of graduate students is structured, etc. Please come prepared with questions, talk with your constituents and bring questions to the table. The following week, E Royster Harper will be visiting. We will discuss many of resolutions that RSG has been working on, and frame them as relevant to a student affairs perspective. Also come prepared.

Regarding events, we have the Red Wings game event coming up on April 4th. We will also have the lunch with deans on March 31st and April 4th. Rooms have been booked (not yet north campus), deans notified. North campus, April 4th. Central campus, 31st.

SAGE delegation has been set. Agendas have been more or less put together, more information to come.

Elections are coming up. Deadline for declaring candidacy is today. Encourage your friends and constituents to vote.

b. **Vice President (Vacant)**

c. **Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu**

$26,000 in the account. Please get me receipts for any events that RSG has planned (St Patricks, etc.)

V. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a. **Academic Affairs Committee**

Chris: Did not meet this week, just electronically. Lunch with the deans is coming along well. Central campus room booked, north campus one in progress. We are working on getting food for the events. Spoke with Holly regarding graduate student and faculty training for VAWA, etc. They are receptive.

Phil: Even though I made a point that academic freedom shouldn't play a role in this, I'm not getting the impression that that is a point they plan on focusing on.

Chris: I want to note that there is a large number of sexual harassment lawsuits in
philosophy departments nationwide, etc. So it is a current/national issue worth tackling.

Phil: I would like to also firm things up with Office of General Counsel.

b. **Budgetary Committee**

Chuky: We will not be covering the appeal today, removed from agenda.

Phil: There was a family emergency with the representative that was supposed to appear today.

c. **Bylaw Review Committee**

d. **Communications Committee**

Phil: Julian is excused from today, but we have great plans and formats underway for the upcoming Gazettes.

Benson: Please participate in the RSG bracket and win prizes!

e. **Elections Committee**

f. **Legislative Affairs Committee**

MB motions to approve minutes, seconded by David M. Approved unanimously.

Benson: Discussed a variety of issues. Hosting the Mayoral debate, taking place in early May, based on the 4 candidates availability. For those that will not be around, there will be recordings available electronically afterward. Students can submit questions to the candidates ahead of time, and we will ask them at the event.

Phil: SAGE begins April 4th. Monday we will go in to speak with committee leaders in 20 minute sessions throughout the day. Tuesday will be more of a national level lobbying on the hill. Have selected individuals for the SAGE Delegation: Michael Benson, Chuky Mbagwu, Dave Malewski, Phil (myself), and Ben Sweeney.

Motion to approve SAGE delegation by Chris Tom, seconded by Erin. Approved with 2 abstentions.

Phil: There will be a lot of information forthcoming regarding the SAGE trip, and we will provide reports afterward.

g. **Student Life Committee**

Benson: Red Wings game, cost is $46, higher than previous due to various
connections with bus companies and other items were lost/broken in last few years. Used to be $25.

Phil: Have people send Rackham/Natalie emails indicating issues with pricing.

Ben: St Patricks day event was a big success.

Benson: Sign up for the RSG bracket!

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Benson: Motion to reopen the budget and appropriate $250 to Elections Committee for prizes for voting incentives, etc. (rationale being it has improved voter turnout in the past, 2-3%). Seconded by Ben.

Open Discussion (for motion)- Benson: How do people feel about incentivizing voting? Ben: Same page as you, don't like it but okay if it improves turnout. Alex G: Agreed. Sidney: How does the percentage points equate to number of graduate students? Benson: It's a percentage of all (8000) Rackham students. Sidney: How do we gauge the effectiveness of the incentives? Benson: We didn't have incentives last year, we can compare it with this term. We can also include a non-binding question on this ballot.

Motion carries 9-2-1.

Benson: I've mentioned the issues that UMEC had with CSJ. Long story short, because UMEC didn't follow their bylaws for their elections, the elections were nullified. Current exec forced to resign and holding elections again concurrently with ours. Just a reminder to follow our rules.

Chris: Sorry for dropping the ball on some of the elections stuff as Elections Director, thanks to MB for helping me out with that.

MB: Chris didn't drop the ball, we are all fine with elections and complying with bylaws.
I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members: Chairs Chris Tom & President Phil Saccone, Malcolm Tariq, Benjamin Sweeney,
Present:  
Excused: David Barton, Alexander Gutierrez
Unexcused:

III. OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS
   i. Lunch with the Deans
      1. Monday, March 31st – Central Campus
      2. Thursday, April 4rd – North Campus

Talked about AAC stuff.

Coordinated Food, Chris will call 48 hrs in advance. We’re confirmed with all the Deans. Phil will coordinate email to student body.

IV. PROJECTS AND GOALS

V. OPEN DISCUSSION

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

VII. APPENDIX