Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: March 19, 2014

Agenda

I. Call To Order
II. Approval of Agenda
III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March 12, 2014
IV. Budgetary Committee Appeal: Persian Student’s Association
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
   b. Budgetary
      i. Deliberation on Appeal for PSA
   c. Communications Committee
      i. Status of plans for the next Gazette
   d. Elections Committee
   e. Legislative Affairs
      i. Approval of SAGE delegation
   f. Student Life
VII. Open Discussion
VIII. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes March 12 (p. 2)
BC Minutes March 10-- reprint (p. 5)
PSA Funding Application (p. 9)
LAC Minutes (p. 15)
I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 7:16pm
   a. **Present:** Representatives Pier, Sidney, Adam, Julian, Michael, Erin, David W., David B., Dave M, Malcolm.
   b. **Absent:**
   c. **Excused:** Alex, Ryne, Chris

II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
    Motion by MB, seconded by Erin. Approved unanimously.

III. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**
     Motion by Michael seconded by Adam. Approved Unanimously.

IV. **OFFICER REPORTS**
    a. **President Phil Saccone**

    Thank you everyone for showing up on this snowy miserable day. A lot has been going on. I guess heading from top to bottom, on Monday, I have a meeting scheduled with Dean Weiss. The meeting will focus on the NDP, VAWA, and the course evaluation platform that we’re working on with the office of the Registrar. For the instructor evaluations, this is a resolution that was approved by the Board over the summer wherein instructor elations would be posted online before students enroll in classes. We’ve hit a wall with the registrar. They’ve told us that they’re in a holding pattern until they give the faculty a warning that the information would be posted again. I’ll have an update in the future on this. Almost all of our peers do this, if you were go around the horn with the SAGE members, we’d likely be the only ones that don’t.

    Also, last we finalized our annual grant request to attend the SAGE spring conference. This was fully funded again this year; thank you to dean Weiss.

    Guests. For our last three invited guests this session, we will have VP Harper, the head of Student Life. We have a tentative date with Jill McDonough, the director of development for Rackham. I’ve also asked the president of SCOR, Leslie Upton to come to a board meeting to discuss the ongoing issues on campus and to hear her perspectives relating to graduate student challenges and what RSG can do to help.
Elections update: A general election solicitation email went out last week. Our first elections committee meeting will take place after this Board meeting. If you are leaving the board and/or planning to run for election or other, please encourage anyone whom you think would be a good rep to run. Please encourage them to join us! It really is a worthwhile endeavor.

One of our members, Josh Ma, a representative from division 2 has formally resigned from the Board. He had a very busy set of challenges this semester and while its unfortunate that he’s leaving RSG we’re excited for him in his future endeavors. I will not be appointing anyone to the open division 2 seats as we have an election coming in two weeks.

SHIC, the Student Health Insurance Committee met last week. This is the committee that deals with the domestic student health insurance plan (DSHIP). It was quite an education. Our plan is a great plan but it is currently illegal to continue, as it doesn’t fit into one of the ACA’s tiered levels. Likely there will be a plan increase in premium along with an increase in services. There was also an update about fertility. All plans in Michigan will be required to cover fertility. Grad care is excluded currently due to the University self-insuring.

Also, St. Patty’s day event is tomorrow.

b. **Vice President Vacant**

c. **Treasurer Chuky** – Absent due to prelims. $26k in the account. File receipts.

V. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

a. **Academic Affairs Committee**

Chris can’t be here today but here is an update. Chris met with SACUA’s AAAC (Their version of AAC). At the meeting our VAWA and NDP initiatives were discussed. AAAC was receptive to VAWA but were cautious that sexual assault training was touching in the past. AAAC didn’t make a firm commitment to on the VAWA plan at the moment but was interested in continuing the conversation.

For the NDP, Chris felt that the committee was warmer to the issue than expected. They understood that this was the next wave of protecting people that are not well represented on campus. This was and is a logical extension of the protections currently afforded on campus.

These issues will be brought up with Dean Weiss next week and we hope to have an ask for AAAC shortly.

**Michael Moved and Adam seconded a motion to receive and approve AAC’s minutes.** Approved unanimously.

b. **Budgetary Committee**
The committee met in person this week and reviewed 5 requests.

Michael moved that the board receive and approve the BC’s minutes. Seconded by Ben. Approved unanimously.

c. Communications Committee
Julian: Hopefully the next Gazette will go out on Friday highlighting volunteer opportunities on campus. Members were tasked with coming up with a mission statement for the Board. Also, in terms of institutional memory, we will be coming up with a list of things that are helping to have written down.

d. Elections Committee
Michael provided current enrollment information, as of the 3rd week of the term.

e. Legislative Affairs Committee
Phil: I will be selecting the delegation to attend SAGE on Friday. If you would like to go, please let me know (including why

f. Student Life Committee
Ben: Met today. Minutes will be included in next week’s packet. We’re planning a trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts for March 29th. Also we discussed tomorrow’s St. Patty’s day event. Try to arrive before 8pm. We’re looking to host an additional happy hour this semester, if you’re interested in helping, please let me know. We’re also thinking about a variety of other events, stay tuned.

IF you want to go to the redwings game, send Phil an email. The Redwings will be on Friday April 4th.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Dave M: Housing survey discussion. How many people received the housing survey. If you haven’t, please do so!

Julian: It’s an interesting survey.

Phil: If you have time, please try to fill out the survey prior to our visit with Vice President Harper.

VII. ADJOURNMENT at 8:45pm.
I. CALL TO ORDER:
   a. Present: Adam Duran, David Malewski, Sidney Ellington, Treasurer Chuky Mbagwu, President Phillip Saccone
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Ryne Peterson

Agenda

PSOC

Chuky: Bringing in a speaker to talk about her experience as a student of color. 11 active members. Day long event—expect about 40. Brining in food. Raised $1370 from other organizations. Event is on campus and open to everyone.

Phil: The application is well written, it is inline with what we would normally support. Given the culture on campus, I think it is important to give this application a very thorough evaluation. Enthusiasm limited by small number of people expected

Sydney: Event is expensive for a small group of people.

David: I’m thinking around $150 because of the small size. Department is covering the lions share. Only $690 that is not covered.

Sydney: Seems like they have enough to cover most of these things as is.

Phil: Motion to decide between $150 - $300. Seconded by Adam

Vote $150: Phil, Chuky, Adam, Sidney, Dave
Vote $300: Chuky and Phil

Fund at $150

ABSWS

Chuky: School branch of a national organization. National organization is holding a conference off campus in Indiana, and they are requesting funds for lodging etc.
David: This is off campus. We never fund these kinds of things. I think we should $0 fund.

Adam: How much?

Chuky: about $700

Sidney: Don't they pay dues?

Phil: Traditionally, we've never funded things off campus. It's good to follow precedent.

David: It’s important to be consistent with ourselves

David motions to $0 fund, Adam seconds.

Vote: Phil, Adam, Chuky, Sidney, David

Fund $0

AMS

Chuky: Speaker is coming to talk about his research. Dinner, breakfast and lunch. Full day thing. Largest part of what they do. They need $1000 more to meet their funding needs. It takes place on campus.

Phil: Mostly with graduate students. Has PIBS support. Premiere event, and strong attendance.

David: Motion to fund $400 or $500 in 100 increments. Plus advertise in Gazette

Second by Sidney

Vote: $400 Unanimous

Vote: $500 Chuky and Phil

Fund at $400

SPIC MACAY

Chuky: Cultural Event, reviewed what the event will cover.

Phil: Looked them up last year. Came and presented, heard from everyone that it was awesome. We funded them well last year.

David: Most of the admissions fee will cover food, but still some left over.

Sidney: Uncomfortable with funding just for food. Wish they had requested more stuff.

Sidney motions for $400, room rental and office supplies restricted. Must advertise in
Gazette

Adam second.

Adam motions for $500, same as above but only $100 for food. David seconds.

1st Ballot:
Vote $400 Chuky, Sidney, Phil

Vote $500 Chuky, Dave, Adam

No motion passes

2nd Ballot
Vote $400 Unanimous

Vote $500 Dave and Adam.

**Fund at $400**

PSA

Chuky: This is a resubmission

Sidney: Seems as if they were coached. Numbers seem disingenuous. Made to look like there are more graduate students than there might be. In my experience with events like this, it’s no where close.

Chuky: Checked original application, and the number of expected graduate student attendees went up an order of magnitude, and the number of graduate student participants increased substantially.

David: The admission fee should more than cover their costs.

Phil: Still, it looks like a good event, but are we the best funding body. That said, the application seems suspect.

David Motion for $0.
Adam second:
Vote $0 Phil, David, Sidney, Adam, Chuky

**Fund at $0**

SPIC MACAY
Chuky: Musical performer. $700 Honorarium for performer plus lodging. Cultural event.

Phil: Event has good cultural merit. They always write good applications. Event is very well attended and organized. Application is well done. Certainly within our funding guidelines.

David: The outstanding funding will mostly cover them. Maybe a little short

Phil motions $500
Adam: Second
Vote $500 Unanimous

**Fund at $500**

Open discussion:

Adjourn: 7:57p
Rackham Student Government Funding Application

Organization Name: Persian Students Association
SOAS Account #: 931771
Registered with MSA? Yes No

Primary Contact Name: Omid Behbahani-Nejad
Title: Vice President
Email: behbahan@umich.edu
Phone: 7342193595

Secondary Contact Name:
Title: Arya Ahmady
Email: ahmady@umich.edu
Phone:

Please check any of the following that describe your organization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic/Professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Arts/Expression (Visual, Performance, and/or Exhibition)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural/Ethnic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honorary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications/Journalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Science/Technical</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Describe the overall purpose/mission of your organization and the planned initiatives and activities intended to uphold said objective(s).

The mission of PSA is to uphold the integrity of the Persian/Iranian community as well as the various cultures that have been embedded into the Iranian nation. By raising awareness of our cultural identity, we hope that Iranian-Americans as well as our international students are able to tap into their traditions and express themselves freely in an already diverse community at UM. Annually, we hold a signature event for the Persian New Year, “Norooz”, which is a cultural show that upholds these values for undergraduate students, graduate students, as well as faculty and staff at the university. We hold many other events throughout the year, but none are as exemplified as our annual cultural show.

# of active student members: 50
# of graduate student members: 100

Average attendance at group meetings (Board, committee, event planning, etc.): 40
Average attendance at similar events: 70
Average graduate student attendance at similar events: 100

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.

9
How often does your group meet?  **Once or twice a week**

Does your group charge dues to members?  **Yes**  **No**

Do all of your activities/events take place on campus?  If yes, where do you prefer to hold your programs?  If not, where else do they take place?

**Yes. Usually in Mason Hall or Rackham Building. Our cultural show will be held at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, adjacent to the Rackham Building.**

Does your group engage in political activity, i.e., electoral, partisan, etc.?  If so, describe this activity.

**We do not. PSA is an areligious and apolitical organization in order to promote a unified community.**

Does your group engage in lobbying efforts?  If so, describe these efforts.

**We do not.**

Does your group work with any University department or other student organizations in any capacity?  If so, please describe this collaboration.

**Occassionally, we work with other cultural organizations to help throw an event that raises awareness on international traditions, such as Fusion of Cultures. We also participate in the annual MRelay for Life. We also work with many Other student organization such as the African Student Association, Iraqi Students Association, Latino Student Association and Vietnamese student Association.**

Is your group affiliated with a national, parent, and/or umbrella organization?  If so, please describe this relationship and how it plays a role in your organization's functioning.

**We are not.**

What is your yearly budget?  What % of your budget have you set aside for this event?

**Every year, we save what we make in profits from our cultural show for next year’s show. These costs can add up to make a tremendous bill, as we must reserve the Power Center for a high cost and provide high quality entertainment for our audience. Therefore, every year, we use 95% of the budget in our account for this event.**

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at [RSG-treasurer@umich.edu](mailto:RSG-treasurer@umich.edu) with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
Event Description

Event name: **Hope of Tomorrow, “Omide Farda” . 16th Annual Persian Cultural Show**  
Event date(s): **March 29th, 2014**  
Event location: **The Power Center for the Performing Arts**

1. Briefly describe this event. What is its overall purpose?

This is our annual signature event. The purpose of this show is to exemplify the presence of the Iranian community on campus by celebrating the Persian New Year with dancing performances, modern and ancient Persian poetry, a fashion show based off of cultural clothing, a comedian, along with other miscellaneous activities.

2. Describe how this event will affect our campus and the graduate student body.

Because the majority of this event leans heavily on the abundant Iranian graduate student population here at the university, we believe this event will help our community celebrate and express their culture by attending our event, whether it be through participation on-stage or being entertained within the audience. As for non-Iranian graduate students, this event is highly recommended by these students as they have stated it truly raises awareness about a nation that is viewed negatively by the media and provides a professional, cultural, and even humorous environment for anyone to be entertained by.

3. Describe how this event will include other groups or departments.

This event will be sponsored by many companies on and off campus, along with a few departments in the university such as the AAPTIS and MENAS departments in the LS&A. In addition we will have performances by the African Student Association, Iraqi student Association and Latino Students Association who will be helping us on and off stage.

4. With which other groups or departments are you sponsoring this event, if any?  
The African Students Association, Iraqi Students Association, and Arab Students Association will be featured in our event in order to expose the audience to a more multicultural show, but will not be providing any funds.

5. If your organization is traveling, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community.

We will not be traveling. The comedian will need travel funding to make it to the event.

6. If your organization is purchasing food, explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Also, where are you ordering from and what is the approximate food cost/attendee?

Because we plan on practicing and performing from 9am to 11pm at the Power Center, our participants will require sustenance. Graduate students will be among these participants.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
7. If your organization is bringing a speaker, performer, DJ, photographer (or any other paid individual for services rendered), explain why this is integral to your event and how it will impact the graduate student community. Please explain how the amount he or she will be paid was determined based on similar services. Additionally, attach a short biography to the end of this application.

Eslam Shams, a Persian stand-up comedian whose aim is to spread multicultural awareness, will be performing stand-up comedy during the show. Eslam is half-Iranian and half-American and will be able to incorporate a multicultural aspect to our show in a comical manner. Tehran will be able to put people at ease and make the show more interesting through his light-hearted humor, bring people together and tackling delicate subjects with the power of laughter. Attached you will find his website: [http://www.eslamthecomic.com/](http://www.eslamthecomic.com/)

Biography:
Eslam Shams aka ESLAM The Comic was born in Iran. He was raised in Shiraz And Tehran until the 1979 Revolution took place. Then he left his beloved country for advancement in performing arts by coming to the USA. While in college, he majored in performing arts. During this time Eslam also focused on mixing traditional Middle Eastern customs with American stand up comedy in addition to acting.

By then Eslam swept the Persian community and became a sensation among the Iranians and the Americans through his famous You Might Be Persian routine. Due to his uniqueness, he was featured on Persian television and magazine covers. One of his biggest achievements so far has been concert in the Dolby Theater (previously known as Kodak Theater) in Hollywood.

Today Eslam has reached a place where he has found his own personality through mixing Farsi and English better known as Farglish. Because of his unique style, he has been able to crossover into the international market and make non Persians laugh as well.

8. If your organization is applying for capital goods (anything that can be reused after the event has taken place), explain why such goods are integral to the event.

New clothing and costumes will be bought for our dancers in the show. In addition to new traditional clothing for our fashion show. We will also be selling T-Shirts at our event.

9. Who is eligible to participate? (Keep in mind the more diverse the graduate student participation, the more likely RSG will fund)

All undergraduates and graduate students are welcome to participate in the event. Those with unique talents are invited to participate as well.

10. How many participants do you expect? What % of those participants do you expect to be graduate students?

We expect to have about 1000 participants. Last year we had about 30% of them being Graduate students. This year we would hope to have the same numbers.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at [RSG-treasurer@umich.edu](mailto:RSG-treasurer@umich.edu) with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
11. Are your date and location confirmed?  Yes  No

12. Will you charge admission?  Yes  No
   If so, how much per person?  $15 at the door, $10 in advance

13. Will this be donated to charity?  Yes  No
   If yes, what percentage will be donated?

14. How do you intend to advertise, in particular to graduate students?

   **We will be advertising via the following:**
   - Hardcopy flyering
   - Facebook event on our official and public Facebook page
   - Email
   - Departmental advertising
   - Professors
   - Word of mouth
   - Sending information to various Iranian communities throughout the Midwest.

15. To what other funding bodies have you applied and/or have received funds from? Please note each funding body here, the amount for which you applied, the amount that was granted, and to what purpose you intend to put those allocated funds. Requests of funding for the majority of events cost solely to RSG will rarely be fully funded, please seek out additional funding sources as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Amount Requested</th>
<th>Amount Granted</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MESA-Trotter</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
<td>$ NA</td>
<td>Funding with other organizational groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Student Gov.</td>
<td>$ 2,200</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
<td>Power Center funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS&amp;A – Student Gov.</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
<td>$ 550 (appeal in progress)</td>
<td>General Funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. If RSG does not fully fund your event in the amount requested, how do you intend to cover those costs? Will the event still be held?

   **Many multicultural councils in the dorms have bought our prebox tickets. For example Baits and bursly and funded us an amount of $500 combined. Our goal is to spread the Persian Culture through out the arts and thus by doing so RSG will help us and its graduate students become more aware of the Persian Culture.**

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
Event Budget

List all expenses. Please use the notes section below each category to explain costs in greater detail. Be sure to cover ALL costs, not just those you are asking RSG for funding for.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Amount Requested from RSG</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising &amp; Publicity</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Posters/fliers</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes: For printing flyers, posters, and Diag advertisements</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Office supplies (please specify):</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing &amp; Publications</td>
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<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities &amp; Equipment Rental</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Equipment (please specify):</td>
<td>$1000 – Technical Staff</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Room rental</td>
<td>$4,284.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes: Funding for the Power Center and staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Speaker honorarium</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Speaker travel</td>
<td>$200</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Speaker lodging</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
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<td>$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Travel</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lodging</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vehicle Rental</td>
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<td>• Gas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Goods</td>
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<tr>
<td>• T-shirts and costumes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food: for dancers</td>
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<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$8,534.55</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
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</table>

Please remember to attach a mock-up version of the flier, publication, or t-shirt design with the RSG logo or “Sponsored by the Rackham Student Government” statement to your application.

Email application to the RSG Treasurer, at RSG-treasurer@umich.edu with subject “RSG Funding Request”.
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:40pm
   a. Present: Representatives Malewski, Barton, Davis, W, and Benson
   b. Absent: President Saccone, Treasurer Chuky
   c. Excused:

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

III. CHAIR’S REPORT
   Michael talked.

IV. State Issues
   Dave M. provided a brief update. Noone had updated the spreadsheet so he did it. (Do it next time, even if there is no change.) No real changes on our issues since our last meeting.

   Michael will reach out to Adam Zemke to attend a future committee meeting re crosswalks.

   David W. brings up that he’s on the RTA’s citizen advisory board. Dave M. speaks to the lack of interoperability between transit systems (such as AAATA).

   Dave W. Briefs the committee on the status of the RTA as well as the potential to add a millage

   Michael will send out the AAATA millage language to the committee. RSG will consider sending out a pro/con information sheet to the student body prior to the May 6th election.

   Dave W. wonders if RSG should take a position on the millage. Michael suggests taking a more neutral role on the millage and providing information on both sides.

V. Local
   Mayoral Debate / Discussion – location: Rackham Amphithea

VI. Federal / SAGE
   SAGE Discussion.
VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:32pm.