Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: August 26, 2014

Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. August 12, 2014

IV. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Phil
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Chuky
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Vacant

V. Fall Picnic

VI. Committee Reports
   a. Academic Affairs
   b. Budgetary
   c. Communications Committee
   d. Legislative Affairs
   e. Student Life

VII. Open Discussion

VIII. Adjourn

Included in packet:
RSG Board Minutes August 12 (p. 2)
AAC Minutes Aug 12 (p. 9)
BC Minutes August 14 (p. 10)
LAC Minutes August 12 (p. 14)
SLC Minutes August 19 (p. 17)
I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:11pm
   a. Present: Representatives Mike Hand, Dave Malewski, David Barton, Kyle Lady, Alex Gutierrez, Pier Davis, Sidney Elignton, Malcom Tariq, David Weinreich, Patrick Pannuto, Michael Benson, President Saccone
   b. Absent: Representative Stefan Turcic
   c. Excused: Vice President Mbagwu

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
    Motion by MB, seconded by Dave M. Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES – July 29, 2014
     Motion by Mike Hand seconded by Kyle Lady. Approved unanimously.

IV. OFFICER REPORTS
    a. President Phillip Saccone
       Welcome everyone! It’s so nice to see you all! Welcome Pat! (Pat was traveling from SF) A search committee has been formed for the new Rackham Dean. Dean Weiss will be stepping down after 10 years at the helm of the graduate school. The head of the committee will be Alec Gallimore, a former associate dean in Rackham and a current engineering associate dean. I’ll be working with him to ensure that there is adequate student representation.

       I was also informed that there will be a conflict of interest committee formed to form a conflict of interest policy for students. RSG will be appointing people to serve on the committee. If this is something that you’d be interested in serving on, please email me and let me know.

       It is August 12 and that means that the fall is upon us. As our masters students return and the new students matriculate, we’re going to be ramping up. My highest priority at the moment will be to meet with the new president. In the past, RSG has not had the most cohesive relationship with the office of the president. I’ve sought council from a number of people and I have high hopes. I will keep you all posted.
Also, in the fall, I would ask that everyone help make known that RSG is going to be engaging in a large recruitment drive in the fall. We’re going to fill our board and our committees with quality candidates.

There will be a student poll. The last of these was conducted under president Benson in 2011. This is an extremely high priority. I’ve tasked this to the student life committee. The other committees, mainly AAC, will be able to consult with SLC. The other committees will be asked to give suggestions to SLC. SLC will be presenting a draft to the Board by the end of September with the intent of sending the instrument to the student body in October.

Fall picnic will be on Friday August 29th. Please clear time between 3pm and 9pm. If you absolutely have a hard conflict, please let me know in writing. This is a HUGE event, our largest of the year and the 3rd largest student run event on campus. This is a mandatory event and attendance will be taken. Please try to block time at strategic times of the event; namely at the beginning or at the end.

We have $19,102 in our account. We are in strong fiscal health and no committee is in danger of going over its budget.

Mike Hand: Question on the student poll. Do we have the old one that we can look at and what are we looking to get out of this?

Phil: Yes, we do and let’s talk about this off line. In broad strokes, what does our constituency want from their student government, what is lacking, and how can we help fill in those voids.

V. INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

I apologize for not printing this out but we’re going to put this into the minutes. I’ve asked every member of this board to come up with a project that they’re passionate about and to take the lead or co-lead on it until the end of the fall term. This is something that I’d like to hear updates from you on at every meeting or every other meeting; even if the update is “no update.” We all need to be more accountable as to moving the student body forward.

Alex G: I’ve been working on a project for about a year now which is addressing the issue of Machine shop training and access. The main source is secure in the physics area. This serves most graduate students. I’ve talked to the lab and have found out that graduate students from all over go there for their machine shop needs. It turns out that its largely a problem that could be solved by providing the access to college of engineering students as they represent the largest majority. Next Step(s): Dean Tillbery in Engineering has setup a task force and has presented to Dean Munson (ENGINEERING)
as to providing college of engineering students machine shop access within 5 years with new buildings coming on line. The deans are working to help us come up with a short term solution on the time-span of 1 – 2 years. They seem reluctant. Rackham associate dean Mike Solomon will be advising me on next steps.

**Pat P:** I wanted to work on a Farmers Market. Last year, they put a farmers market on campus twice, once during the fall and once during the winter term. I’d like to work to make this more regular. It seemed like there was a lot of buying from the local community. I have a business card from one of the guys in food services.

**Kyle L:** I’m currently working on improving awareness of library academic resources as well as providing resources for if someone wants to improve / ask for something new e.g. who to talk to. The information is all there, but it isn’t easy to access or in a central place. I’m also working on a number of other projects. Stay tuned.

**Pier D:** I’d be interested in helping to get RSG more on the map for other masters and graduate students. E.g. Reaching out to other graduate student organizations for co-sponsorship. Ideally to create more turnout. For the fall picnic, we’re the only one s that are emailing the student body. I would reach out to administration in each department to see if there is a president of a student council to be in touch with.

**Phil:** By early September, lets put a list together of organizations in Divisions 4 and 1 to coordinate events and ideas.

**Dave W:** What if each rep suggested a list serv?

**Dave M:** I’m interested in seeing us bring more attention to developing soft skills for graduate students. The college of pharmacy is working on this; from the time you come in to the time you leave including skills like how to interview for a job or how to write a resume. I think that this might be something that we could roll out and or establish as a program with Rackham to help expand the horizons of students. I’d need ot know who in Rackham would be the right person to talk with.

**Phil:** Paula Wishart is the person that you want to talk with, I’m emailing you her contact information now.

**Dave W:** Lets see, one project that I am kind of in the midst of right now is trying to build a partnership between the Detroit connector service and the Michigan flyer service. I’m working with some people in the regional transit authority. We met last week with some folks from the Detroit Transit Center (Greg ) we’re looking to put a meeting together for mid-September that would have people from the University as well as AAATA. It might be a long shot, but we’re looking to make the Detroit connector a more permanent service.
Phil: That’s a rather large undertaking. Is there something else that you’re also passionate about that you might be able to make an ongoing priority?

Dave W: Sure, in general, I’m not sure about the info side of things, but I’d say better bus service to north campus would be helpful. The location of the bus stops is an issue that we discussed previously that I think is a good idea.

Mike H: I guess there are two that I’d be picking from. Regarding the instructor evals, is that beyond us a this point?

Phil: As far as I know, yes. It’s in the hands of the provosts’ office. I don’t think that there is much use for us to host a temporary one at this point… it’s imminent that the registrar and provosts office will get this done quickly, if they don’t we can re-visit.

Mike H: Given that, I’d like to look at 24-hour busing on campus. This is slightly bigger, but some of the first steps would be getting in initial contact with PTS to see what would be involved as well as talking with CSG to partner.

Malcolm T: I think I need to find a new project. I was going to work on getting the busses to run later and to move the north campus stops.

Phil: Think of something else that could be independent but also work with Dave W and Mike.

Michael B: It looks like busing is an issue. Talks about old

Sidney E: I think what would be interesting would be organizing a graduate student wide / RSG wide intramural sports league. This would allow people to play ball with people from out side of their department.

Phil: To clarify, would this be an RSG sponsored team?

Sidney: Yes, we’d send an email out to the student body to signup on our team to play for X sports.

Phil: I’m wondering if Intramural Sports doesn’t already do this?

Sidney: You can be an individual agent but there is no affinity.

Phil: I think this is a good idea. What are we going to know about come September?

Sidney: I think we’re going to take for granted that there will be interest in this.

Phil: Agreed, figure out which teams we want to form a team in.
David B: So, from our discussion last time is something that I want to work on. The campus plan that we have for all of our campuses. I’d like to find out what the current plans are and then try to make them available to students. I’d also like to get more student input as those plans develop and make that institutional.

Michael B: Alumni, Election Forum, Masters Student Study Space

Phil: Great! This all sounds great. Please stay on top of it and ask us for help when needed!

VI. STUDENT BODY POLL

Phil: There will be a student body poll. The charge is to ask the student body what they need; what will make their experience fuller in terms of a variety of factors. It can be as broad or as narrow as is necessary. The student life committee will be doing much of the legwork.

Dave W: Going off of the comment before relating to transportation to off-campus locations, perhaps we could include transportation on and off campus in the survey?

Phil: Yes.

Kyle: It might be valid to / interesting to in regards to the alumni to poll recent graduates (a few years out) as to what should or shouldn’t have been. SLC can take on creating a dual survey to recent alumni.

Phil: Great idea. If you think of something please send me an email or email kyle or mike hand.

VII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR STUDENTS

a. STUDENTS FOR THE COMMITTEE

A committee is being formed by Rackham. IF you would like to be on the committee please let me know. I’d like to open the floor to see if there are issues that I and the Board need to be made aware particularly as relates

Michael B: I would ask that the issues raised by Eugene D. a few years ago as regards research conflict of interest be considered by the committee and ideally that the resultant policy address said issues.

Phil: As background, a conflict of interest policy would cover preserved as well as actual conflicts of interest. For example, if you work in a lab and you want to do personal work in the lab. Also, amorous relationships with students and/or faculty to ensure that that doesn’t have an undue influence. For students this could also take the form of Intellectual Property issues as well as advisors that spilt time
between a private company and their University mentoring responsibilities. It will also cover the issue of people enrolling in graduate school and then advertising themselves as consultants for that program.

Again, if your interested in participating in this, please let me know. Depending on how this develops, we might want to look into passing a sense of the Board.

VIII. COMMITTEE UPDATES
a. Academic Affairs Committee
   David: We don’t have any minutes for our last meeting. We’re continuing to look at issues that we want to focus on going forward.

b. Budgetary Committee
   Phil: The BC will be meeting at 7pm on Thursday in this room.

c. Elections Committee

d. Legislative Affairs Committee

   Michael: LAC had a productive meeting two weeks ago, our minutes are attached We will be meeting again tonight briefly. The bylaw review is being punt to next meeting.

   I move that the Board Receive and Approve the LAC minutes. Seconded by Kyle Lady. Approved Unanimously.

   Phil: As an aside, Dave W and Pier, did you get the email that I sent to SCOR as we discussed at the last meeting? (Both indicate yes) Please follow-up with them.

e. Student Life Committee

   Mike H: We met last week. We discussed one more happy hour in august. We talked about other potential venues. We will be looking into that and figuring out when to do it juxtaposing with the other events. We also talked about the different individual projects and what we as a committee should be prioritized. The top four were:
   • Local student councils (in programs)
   • Later / night buses
   • Gym and rec facilities
   • Bus frequency

   That was the majority of the discussion. With that I move that the board receive and approve the minutes from the SLC meeting. Seconded by Dave M. Approved unanimously.
IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Phil: Fall picnic, August 29th. Please clear your schedules from 2 – 9 pm. The event runs from 5 – 8.

Sidney: A lot of the things that we discussed in the SLC meeting last week had a lot of overlap with CSG. How do we go about facilitating those relationships.

Phil: the ones that I’m aware of that are immediate are transportation and rec facilities. I know that CSG has already started to move on some of these things. The best thing to do would be to contact the CSG President if it’s your individual project to see what they’re doing on it. Remember, when in attendance, if an opportunity arises where we can make

Kyle: I’m already in contact with Bobby regarding rec facilities.

Sidney: Doesn’t CSG elect Rackham students?

Phil: Yes but honestly it’s a bit different. When graduate students come up in the university, RSG is approached. CSG has generally been an undergraduate focused organization.

Michael: Speaks to RSG and CSG and the role that RSG plays in the university. Also, please remember to cc rsg-exec@umich.edu on your emails such that the execs will know what’s going on.

Phil: And as a follow on, please remember that representatives can’t speak officially for the graduate student body; save for positions that have been articulated by the President (myself) or through a Board resolution.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mike Hand and was seconded by Kyle Lady to adjourn. Seeing no objections, President Saccone declared the Board Adjourned at 8:04pm until 7pm on August 26th.
I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:50p
   
   a. **Present:** David B, Kyle L., Phil S, David M, Alex G
   
   b. **Absent:**
   
   c. **Excused:**

I. Review of AAC initiatives/individual projects

Kyle: Comprehensive guide to academic conference and journal resources—library has some stuff but needs to be centralized.

II. Adjourned 7:00p
CALL TO ORDER: 7:11pm

a. Present: Representatives David Malewski, David Weinreich, Michael Benson (Co-Chair), President Phillip Saccone, Representative Sidney Ellington

b. Absent:

c. Excused: Vice President Chuky Mbagwu,

II. Introductions

a. GuestsKaren Schroeder, Taylor Johnson, Melissa Holt, Nathan Scharf. GUests

Michael: Welcome. I hope everyone reviewed the agenda. Thank you for coming.

Motion to approve the agenda? Made by Malewski, and seconded by Saccone. Passes Unanimously.

Michael reviews the procedure for application adjudication.

III. CoE application

Karen: Purpose of the committee is to execute the graduate symposium. Goal is to bring together the research from across the college and to promote the work of graduate students—not only in CoE but also for related departments. Good place for students to meet other students but also to network and for recruitment. Reviews the budget. Would like RSG to sponsor the event—is largely for food. Good to fund and reaches.

Phil: Write in question.

Karen: We try to raise as much money as possible because it is such an important event for students. Are you asking what is the upside for RSG?

Phil: No, we just want to know why the student body should pay extra for a well funded event?

David: Is your funding locked in? Should students be asked to pay in given that it is so prestigious.

Karen: Kind of. The industry sponsors are covering the prize money. Students usually need a little encouragement to submit. We don’t want to make a barrier to participation.

Michael: Need a motion to extend time. Motion to extend time by Phil, secoded by dave, passes by voice vote.
David W: how many people do you get?
Karen: 800 people.
David: Does that come to $13.00 per box lunch?
Karen clarifies some figures.
Sydney: How much is CoE covering?
Karen: They are strong, sponsors of the event. Space, promotion, food. But there are still things that are uncovered.
Michael: Food is the highest priority. Who can attend the dinner?
Karen: Winners form the poster sessions, the organizing committee, faculty.
Michael: We need a motion to extend time: Phil motioned, seconded by David, passed unanimously.
Michael: Can you amend your budget to prioritize other stuff.
Karen: Flyers.
David: Makes some recommendations on how to divide up funding requests.
Karen: I’d amend the request to $200 room rental, $100 Honorarium, $200 for publicity, and $2500 for food.

IV. College of Pharmacy Aps

Melissa: We’re a new organization that came together this year. Would like to combine students from related departments across graduate and professional schools. Our first event is a seminar/symposium that will introduce the research of the newly appointed COP dean. It will be a symposium and a reception. Doing out best to promote across different programs. Largely graduate students. Reviews application and funding priorities.

Michael: We can help advertise for you. Tell me more about the award.
Melissa: The award is just a token of appreciation it was selected democratically.
Michael: Are you reaching out to new students, and how extensive is your advertising apparatus.
Melissa: We’re reaching out to a bunch of places.
Michael: What food will you be doing?
Nathan: Finger food etc.
Michael: Shall we proceed to closed session? Motioned by Dave M, seconded by Dave W. Approved with two abstentions.
CoE

Michael: There is a problem, considering our bylaws, with funding the dinner which is a little exclusive.

David W: Good event but seems very well funded.

Phil: Agrees

David M: A good event, and it will promote students.

Michael: It’s a good event for student body for RSG.

David M: Motion for $500, no second

Phil: Motioned for $300 with the caveat that no food is funded. David M seconds.

David W: The food is a bit exclusive.

Michael: The event is strong and we have funded it higher in the past. If we’re going to support it, than we shouldn’t do it half-heartedly. Food is the number one priority, so we should restrict it.

David W: Motion $400 no food, Sydney second.

Fund at $400-4-0-1

Fund at $300 2-0-2

COP

Michael: Per the bylaws that we cannot fund the award plaque.

David W: It’s a pittance anyway.

Phil: I don’t think that they even meant it as an award.

Discussion about David M’s conflict of interest.

Committee decides there is none, and he can vote if he so chooses.

Phil: Motion to fully fund except for the awards plaque, $291.25, seconded by David W.

Vote: 4-0-1

MLA

Michael: Normally this would not make it to the committee on its merit. Not really in favor of doing it. But there may be a role for RSG to help move an undergraduate student org into developing a graduate component.

David M: They are undergraduates—generally this sets a bad precedent.
Michael B: My concern is that, ostensibly, there is no graduate student following.

Phil: It’s a clear case for non-funding—they don’t meet the criteria. But should we help develop undergraduate student organizations that want to have graduate student participation.

David M: A group that is looking for funding should develop a relationship with RSG first. That has benefit. But, we should still be cautious about setting this precedent.

Michael: Agrees with Phil. Through the bylaws and the exec we should set a policy about this. We have a variety of mechanisms to do this.

Phil: Motions to $0 fund. But RSG execs should reach out and help them develop a plan to incorporate graduate students into their organization. Seconded by David M.

Vote: 5-0-0.

Motion to move out of closed session, Motioned by David M, seconded by David W.

Approved unanimously.

Michael: We need to clarify the budget question.

David M: It gets confusing. We need to be able to differentiate between what they have on hand versus what they need.

Michael: CSG makes people show cash flow. We can do that. Or we can have them divide it up by event or by what they want for the year.

David W: Might be useful to have people specify how much per person.

Michael B: We can also ask them to justify above or below a certain amount for above or below a certain number of people.

Discussion ensues about ways to improve the application.

Sidney: We may want to clarify how many graduate student members they have.

Michael: We can ask them to list names.

Phil: Can we check this on Maizepages.

Michael: We can write a resolution to have Maizepages denote graduate students. Let’s meet again in a few weeks to discuss improvements. September 4th. Email text for changes.

V. Adjournment 8:32p
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS Committee
August 12, 2014
Rackham, West Study Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER: 8:08p
   a. Present: David B, David W, David M, Pier D, Pat P, Phil S, Michael B
   b. Absent:
   c. Excused: Chuky
   d. Guests:

III. Chairs' Report
Michael B: Chris Taylor ran the democratic primary. We will look forward to
meeting all the candidates forum.

IV. Local Affairs
   a. Election Forum
Michael: Rooms are reserved for Tuesday, Wed, and Thursday Oct 28th, 29th and
30th. We need to narrow it down and think about content. Ballot initiatives etc. will
need to wait. Who should we co-sponsor with? Perhaps SCOR? For format,
tables with reps present outside of auditorium. Question: who should speak and
what should the format be for the interactive portion. Description of what we did a
few years ago.

David W: Open to sponsorship. Thinks that having reps for the different issues
would be important. Maybe we should invite CSG to cosponsor?

Michael B: We can if we want.

David M: What about a keynote?

Michael B: Not necessary but open to the idea.

David W: We should use this as an opportunity to have one of the RSG members
present the candidates?

Michael B: We will. Let's pick a date soon. The propositions will be divided up as
soon as possible so we can reach out to people.

   b. Meet and Greet with Chris Taylor
Michael B: Won the primary. English major from UM is running against him. Chris Taylor will be invited to the board. He was a graduate student here. Ran on a platform of good government. Has always been a friend of the graduate students.

c. Ann Arbor Lease Signing Ordinance

Michael B: Everyone is familiar with this issue. We will be following up.

i. History
   ii. 12-month lease guarantee
Michael: Sidney brought this up. Some people are forced out for two weeks for cleaning. We will be reviewing this.

   iii. Next Steps
We have invited Jane Lumm who is a city council member to the board. Michael will pass out a landlord tenant guide book that we will be asked to edit.

V. State Affairs

Michael, and David no updates.

VI. Federal Affairs

   i. New Initiatives – Research
Michael: Think of an issue that is related graduate students and that could be addressed at the federal level. Campus safety and the Cleary Act— it needs to be updated. David B: passes  
David W: Passes  
David M: Prescription monitoring programs. Programs are underfunded, it is an important public health issue. Pier: Passes  
Pat P: Passes  
Phil: Sexual Harassment—McCaskill

Michael: Write something up on it and bring it to the meeting.

   ii. MI white paper(s)
Michael: Should we do this? It would also be great to keep in better contact with our delegation. Through this mechanism or another.

Phil: Maybe.
Michael: Newsletter to send out to congressional members to keep them posted.

VII. Open Floor

Michael: What do people think about the committee?

VIII. Adjourn 8:43p
I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm
   a. Present: Representatives Kyle Lady, Mike Hand, Sidney Ellington, Malcom Tariq, President Saccone, Vice President Mbagwu
   
   b. Absent:
   
   c. Excused: Michael Benson

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT

V. Rec Sports and Buses

   Kyle: Met with _________ to discuss rec sports and renovations, as well as to not engage in redundant or contradictory work. They’re open to discussing with rec sports for increasing/changing hours, however they were just able to increase hours last spring.

   Mike: Who got extended hours? Likely IM Sports. If NCRB is not included, there could be an argument there.

   Kyle: The extended hours affected spring/summer session only on days that weren’t previously available. Other arguments include 40% of grad students are on north campus, incentives to renovate. Also, right now both NCRB and CCRB are closed for cleaning – can work to ensure at least 2 of 3 rec facilities always remain open.

   Kyle: Busing and routes is another issue that we’re looking into. Would be nice to find out where students are living.

   Phil: We should find the best way to ask that on the survey, etc. to answer both busing and rec sports concerns.

VI. Fall Grad Survey
Mike: Last board meeting we talked a bit about sending out a survey requesting information about issues students are interested. Will be useful for formulating an action plan for what we will tackle during the term. Should include busing and rec sports.

- where located/work (how much are you paying for rent?)
- optional id
- program or school/college
- why do you live there?
- family demographics and services (child care, etc)
- Academic Affairs stuff
- transportation and housing
- rec sports
- communications stuff
- guaranteed funding
- BGCs
- access to Duderstadt libraries/journals
- social events and ideas
- staff centralization (ask about support services in department)

Malcom: I think it would be worthwhile to ask whether students live where they live by choice or by other factors (cost, environment, etc.)

Phil: Other campuses are also experiencing a housing bubble similarly to what we had with Munger with unaffordable or out-of-touch student housing

Malcom: Also, does this demographic have family or dependents and not feel supported or accessible services?

Malcom: Finances and financial support for students. How much of your program is being covered, and by whom?

Sidney: How well do you feel you are financially supported, specifically to live in A2?

Phil: Should include questions-- Did you receive a BGC? For those not grandfathered into BGC how did that process go? If something popped up, how was it handled? Etc.

Phil: We can retain some of the workspace questions from last survey.

Sidney: Technology and connectivity, MWireless access. Using Ubuntu, I have to jump through a few hoops to get connected, and still having trouble.

Phil: I’m not sure we’d want to delve into conflict resolution topics, advisor/advisee relations and support

Kyle: Has support in your department gotten better or worse in the last [time frame]?
Mike: There’s a lot of items here, how long do we want to make it? Also we don’t need to send out these surveys only once every 4 years. We can break it down once a year and focus on different subject areas.

Kyle: Agreed, but for this one it would be good to be somewhat comprehensive since the data is so old. Perhaps deemphasize GSI/GSRA/workspace issues tackled last survey.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Phil: I’m meeting with the university president tomorrow, what questions or issues can I bring to him from SLC/RSG? What do we want from the president’s office?

Mike: Continuously increasing prices for sports events.

Sidney: Perhaps ask about more funding, dollar for dollar on student fees.

Phil: Can definitely discuss better representation, etc.

Sidney: One of the president’s focuses was to change the culture away from sports and more towards academic. Perhaps we can leverage that and enable more graduate student and program support

Mike: Need a graduate (and undergraduate) student representative at committees and councils, etc. He will likely be in strong support of that.

Kyle: It would be nice that the student reps would actually be full members (voting rights and all) of aforementioned committees and councils.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT at X:XXpm.