

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Jasmine Blanks

**Sunday, October 25, 2009**

Greetings Members of the Assembly!

GAPSA set a goal to increase visibility this year, and we are off to a great start! Graduate and professional student contributions and concerns are becoming increasingly more visible on university, community, state and federal levels. Adam Turman's artwork graces student lounges and administrative offices across campus, our Public Affairs committee made a strong showing at the Como Cookout welcoming new students into the neighborhoods surrounding the university, we had meetings with every office of the Minnesota Delegation while in Washington, DC and we are continuing our work with NAGPS and SAGE on developing and advocating legislative agendas that affect graduate and professional students nationwide. We are extremely proud of our ability to provide services directly to our constituency here at the University of Minnesota and increase visibility of GAPSA among new and returning graduate and professional students. Use of the GAPSA lounge at 234 Coffman Union has definitely increased since last year. We invite students to keep coming by to relax, meet other students and discuss important issues with the Execs during their regular office hours.

As we continue to implement new programs and provide more opportunities for student involvement, the roles of the GAPSA staff members have shifted as well. Our amazing staff members have taken on a variety of new projects, such as the regular dance parties at the Front and the larger scale of the President's Reception, while maintaining their regular workload, but the work is truly endless. We will be moving ahead with the application process for a Programming Assistant. Please spread the word to energetic students who have an interest in working on logistics surrounding GAPSA programming efforts.

At the MSA/GAPSA Meet and Greet, Julie Tonneson presented an overview of the University budget and process cycles. The timeline provides a month-by-month summary of activities completing the budget process from Board proposals and approvals to legislative hearings.

The Legislative Action Days (LAD) in Washington, DC with NAGPS gave us the opportunity to discuss the research other universities found surrounding the Open Access issue. NAGPS stands in strong support of the Federal Research Public Access Act (S1373) with the specification of "published research" in the white papers presented to legislators during LAD. We will continue this discussion in Seattle, WA this week as we finalize SAGE's legislative agenda. Here, we can also learn about ways that other universities are addressing this issue as we share best practices with this coalition.

The NAGPS Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on Nov. 14-17. Proposals have been submitted for presentations. National elections will be held at this time, and we encourage active participants in University of Minnesota student governance to considered running for open positions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There are still open GAPSAs with area neighborhood associations. Please spread the word to students living in SE Como and Marcy-Holmes neighborhoods.

Breakfast with the Execs will be held in the GAPSAs lounge at 9am on Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Please come discuss your concerns with the Execs. A light breakfast will be provided.

The Children's Defense Fund, Twin Cities will be holding a "Stroller Barricade" event on Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at the Loft. CDF encourages community members to write letters to Sen. Klobuchar supporting consideration for all children and pregnant women in health care reform. Their stance is that health care should be affordable, easy to enroll and remain enrolled in, and comprehensive including mental health.

Thank You,

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