

PRESIDENT
Kristi Kremers

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Greetings Members of the Assembly!

We've been busy bees in the GAPSA office over the summer, and we're excited to launch many new exciting programs and events this year. We renovated our office to make it truly a lounge for Graduate and Professional student use. Come in and check it out!

I advocated to lower the proposed tuition increases for Graduate and Professional students at the Board of Regents meetings over the summer. Unfortunately, despite our efforts and that of Regent Frobenius, tuition increased by 7.5% for grad students and a whopping 15.3% of law school students. I'm proud to say we made sure that we received a lot of press coverage, and even had a front-page article in the Star Tribune. This attention has served us well, and the Board of Regents has dedicated meetings specifically to attend to graduate and professional student concerns. This is absolutely critical as to often graduate and professional students are an afterthought when creating priorities for our institution. We updated our indebtedness document and will be sending this out to the Board of Regents this week. This will also be posted on our website.

We are constantly striving to find new ways to raise the awareness of graduate and professional student issues, and of GAPSA itself. To aid in this effort, we commissioned local artist Adam Turman to create posters that will be hung in graduate student lounges, as well as Administration offices to raise our visibility around campus. Each administrator who receives one of these amazing prints will receive a note asking them to think of us when they make key decisions, and will also have some key facts on misconceptions about graduate and professional students. This artwork is also featured on our brochures, and our website. Regent Frobenius was the first to receive the Turman print last week. He sent this note of thanks that I wanted to share with the Assembly:

"Thanks for the great GAPSA poster. It is greatly appreciated. Please share my thanks with the other officers. Thanks for the hard work you, the other officers of your organization as well as its member all do to keep the issues faced by the U of M's Graduate and Professional students in front of the University community and the Board of Regents. Please help us to improve the University with your comments and recommendations.

You and your talented associates are an important key to the future of our University, State and the world. Keep up the efforts and make it better."

It's the first-year of football back at the TCF Stadium!! On September 12th I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for our gorgeous new facility, and giving a speech on its importance to graduate and professional students. Mark your calendars for our President's Reception which will take place at the Stadium on Wednesday, October 14th. Traditionally, this event was held at the Loring Pasta Bar, but we couldn't pass up the opportunity to show off the new stadium and hopefully instill some more school spirit in our activities.

I'm also excited by our new video series which is viewable on YouTube. Along with other technological updates, we have integrated our Facebook and Twitter accounts, and are currently in the process of renovating our website.

In the coming month, I will have a board meeting with the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS). Along with our Public Affairs Assistant, Jacob Chin, we created the first of a series of best practices for NAGPS. This installment focuses on lobbying for graduate and professional student organizations. You can find it on our website under the Government Affairs link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

I encourage you to participate in the interviews for our new Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education:

PUBLIC FORUMS FOR THE VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF GRADUATE EDUCATION FINALISTS will be held Sept. 22, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Sept. 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Sept. 28, 10-11 a.m., 402 Walter Library.

Thank You,

Kristi Kremers

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