

ATTACHMENT C



GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Campus Center 308 | University at Albany, SUNY | Albany, New York 12222

Council Members,

The GSA has had a very successful year. Since we raised the fee two years ago we have not substantially changed our spending patterns meaning that we have banked a very comfortable surplus for our future. We have spent a great deal of time rebuilding our organization by reforming our governing documents and overhauling our standard operating procedures. During this transformation we were able to gather broader participation from our own student body so that we could have a productive effect on the Senate, the SUNY Student Assembly, and the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students. With this progress and money to fall back on as enrollments drop, we are poised to extend our reach even further to more effectively represent graduate students.

We are proud to report that our efforts have not gone unnoticed. Recently, at the SUNY Student Assembly spring conference we were given the "Strongest Campus Student Government" award and also recognized for our "Commitment to Female Leadership and Empowerment". Winning the bid to host the National Leadership Summit for the NAGPS was another recognition of our potential and growth. To spearhead this growth is our new leadership, which is transitioning in to start on June 1st.

The 2015-2016 E-Board is as follows:

President - Bob Beach

Vice President - Kat Slye

Treasurer - Hina Thalho

Equity and Inclusion Chair - Amani Edwards

*Note: our constitutional amendment passed which changed this officer's position from Multicultural and Affirmative Action Chair (MCAA) to Equity and Inclusion Chair.

Lead Senator - Hanna Marie Pageau

University Council Representative - Caitlin Janiszewski

We will be working on appointments of the Programming and Grants Chair positions as well as Senators immediately. We have a very busy end of the semester with planning for the NAGPS Leadership Summit this summer, the President's Forum, as well as our trips to the NAGPS Northeast Regional Conference and SUNY Student Assembly meetings. We had very productive meetings in both places. But of course, what is keeping us busier than anything is the beginning of transition. We hope to have a very solid transition this year with several returning officers along with new and excited officers. The new E-Board is excited to work on strategic plans again and gear up for a productive 2015-2016.



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In reviewing the issues we have been tackling this year, the President's Forum in many ways captures what we have worked on and what we will continue to work on. At the forum which was framed by the theme of shared governance, we discussed wages and benefits for GTAs and contingent faculty (although time did not allow us to develop this topic), our core values; sustainability, equity, inclusion, and diversity on campus, and finally public engagement. We dialogued with President Jones about how we believe the efforts being made by the President's Diversity Council to diversify the faculty as well as the student body needs to seek more effective input from students. We are at the moment reduced to one student on that council and are mostly left out of those conversations. On the issue of sustainability, our student leaders in that area made a strong recommendation that a new and inclusive task force is due on this campus to revisit and re-envision the future on sustainability at UAlbany so we can continue to move towards being a model of sustainability for other universities. Students posed questions about the cycle of reciprocity involved in the President's public engagement agenda and found some clarification of the role we play in that cycle. On the topics of contingent faculty and graduate student compensation, we await the reports of the Blue Ribbon Panels to see whether any progressive solutions have been identified. One unplanned issue that did arise without proper context was the method through which graduate student representation has been and was chosen for these Blue Ribbon Panels and any committee outside of governance. This is a very serious issue, which the GSA President will be following up on and has already been discussing with the governance council in the Senate.

The GSA will be following up with President Jones on all of the topics discussed above and of course look forward to continuing this program in the future.

Best Regards,

Bryant E. Barksdale
University Council Graduate Student Representative