



# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

University Council Report  
August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Graduate Student Association is looking forward to an exciting year. We are kicking off the year by hosting the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students' (NAGPS) annual Leadership Summit from August 3-5th. The theme of the summit is "Sustainable Leadership".

New and returning members of the Executive Board are working on the yearly strategic plans required by our bylaws. A Senate team is being selected and trained not just to serve in our University Senate but also to take an active role in the NAGPS' Legislative Action Days and the SUNY Student Assembly. While strategic plans and agendas are not finalized yet it is fair to assume that the GSA will continue to focus on many of past priorities. On the campus and system levels we have focused on working conditions of graduate teaching assistants, research assistants, and contingent faculty, as well as access to higher education through the Ban the Box campaign. At the national level the GSA is likely to continue supporting the NAGPS efforts to pass domestic renewal of international student visas and open access legislation.

We are proud to say that the UAlbany GSA has become a key school in the NAGPS network, particularly in the Northeast Region. We are proud to sport recognition from the SUNY Student Assembly as "Strongest Campus Student Government" last year and for our "Commitment to Female Leadership and Empowerment". This year we have an ambitious programming agenda, strong team of advocates, and new and improved standard operating procedures.

At the very top of our concerns for the year is the question of graduate student representation and shared governance. As the President the last two years I can attest that there are many inconsistencies and issues with the way in which graduate students are given a voice on committees within and outside governance at the University at Albany. This issue was placed on the agenda of the Governance Council of the University Senate for immediate consideration this fall.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Janiszewski  
University Council Representative  
Graduate Student Association  
University at Albany