

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Bree Richards

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007**

Madam President &amp; Distinguished Assembly Members,

Since the beginning of this term as Vice President for Student Affairs, here's what I've been doing:

1. Meetings
2. Interviews
3. Internal/external document updates
4. Liaising
5. Resolutions
6. Website
7. Other GAPSAs events/activities

**Meetings***Executive Board meetings*

I attended the Executive Board meetings on May 21, June 19, July 17, August 15, and September 12.

*Internal Affairs Committee meetings*

I attended the Internal Affairs Committee meetings on August 15 and September 5.

*Public Affairs Committee meeting*

I attended the Public Affairs Committee meeting on September 12.

*Student Senate Consultative Committee meeting*

I attended the SSCC meeting on September 20. We approved the agenda for the October 4 Student Senate meeting, as well as a letter to those involved in the revision of the evaluation forms. The Student Senate began revision of the student release questions in September 2004, which were approved on May 10, 2006. These are not yet in place because the faculty decided to revise the standard evaluation questions as well, and due to the cost involved in reprinting evaluation forms, we are waiting for the faculty to finish their questions. The letter urges those involved to approve the final version of those standard evaluation questions so that new forms can be printed and in use for the spring semester 2008 evaluations.

*Senate Consultative Committee meeting*

I attended the SCC meeting on September 20. I brought the Central Corridor resolution forth for informational purposes; it may be brought to the entire University Senate at a future date. There were no comments or changes.

A member of the Social Concerns Committee spoke and talked about what they are working on this year. All of the issues save one are carryovers from past years:

- Getting the University to lobby against the Military Commissions Act.
- Divesting from the Sudan.
- Corporate sponsorship implications.
- Vendor code of conduct.
- Designated supplies program and potential antitrust violations.
- Minnesota DREAM Act

The last issue that they are planning to discuss is something new:

- Lack of family-friendly policies at the U and the potential for an employee/student bill of rights.

We also approved the agenda for the University Senate meeting on October 4.

### **Interviews**

I've participated in the numerous interviews that GAPSA has held in its search for new grants and public affairs assistants. We've hired a great new grants assistant, Monica Howell.

I also participated in the search for the Associate Vice President and Dean of International Programs, through public forums and closed meetings. Meredith McQuaid, a former dean at the Law School, was ultimately chosen.

### **Internal/external document updates**

Along with the other execs, I've helped edit our constitution, bylaws, and job descriptions, as well as internal policies. In addition, I've created a conflict of interest statement for all execs, staff, and candidates to fill out and sign in effort to make GAPSA more transparent.

### **Liaising**

I've been in contact with the chairs of the Faculty Senate, Council of Academic & Professional Administrators (CAPA), and the Civil Service Committee in effort to continue and expand our liaison relationships.

### **Resolutions**

I've worked on two resolutions – one for the Central Corridor and one for media neutrality. Both will be presented at the Assembly meeting.

### **Other GAPSA events and activities**

I attended the School of Pharmacy orientation on August 29.

Matt and I attended the Como Cookout at Van Cleve Park on September 15. We met several people and gave away a lot of information (and many, many whistles, much to the chagrin of several parents).

I attended the GAPSA/MSA meeting with the University administration on September 17. We met with multiple administrators who talked about what the University does, gave updates on things like the stadium and the strike, and redefining the categories that GAPSA and MSA fall into for classification purposes (*i.e.*, we're not just regular registered student groups, but we're not really campus life organizations either).

Kristina and I attended Women's O.N.E. (Women's Organizations Networking for Equity), hosted by the Office for University Women, on September 17. We met with other organizations on campus and learned more about how GAPSA can work with them, and what resources for students are out there.

I attended the President's Reception for incoming students on September 19.

### **Website**

I continue to update and maintain the website. I have also begun training our office assistant, Kellie McAlister, on how to update the website in hopes of shifting that job to a staff member.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **Student Senate open seats**

As of last Thursday, there are the following open seats for the Student Senate:

CEHD - 1 seat  
Grad School - 7 seats  
CSOM - 1 seat (MBA)  
Med School - 1 seat  
Public Health - 1 seat  
Vet Med - 1 seat

If you are interested in filling a seat, or know of someone who is, please let Becky Hippert (hippe003@umn.edu) know. A schedule of meeting times can be found here:  
<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/meetings/ssccmtg.html>

### **Office hour**

My office hour is generally on Wednesdays from 11:15-12:15. Any changes will be posted on the schedule on our website.

Thank You,

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