Updates from your Lead Senator, Dawn:

- I met with many of the Senators and Senate Reps last week to get an update on their councils.
- We will meet again before the next GSA Assembly meeting.
- Looking towards 2017-2018, I will be putting together a “call for applications” to fill any vacant Senator and Senate Representative seats, both campus-wide (GSA Notices) and the GSA listserv, mid to late Summer. Currently, the following seats are available:
  - University Academic Council – (1) Senator
  - Council on Academic Assessment – (1) Senate Representative
  - Graduate Academic Council – (1) Senate Representative
  - University Life Council – (2) Senate Representatives (encourage international students to apply)
- The primary difference between a Senator and Senate Representative is that you will need to attend the monthly Faculty Senate meetings in addition to your council meetings.

Dawn – UPPC (University Planning and Policy Council)

- There will be a budget analysis to see if hosting just one graduation commencement ceremony will save money.
- A marketing presentation on the new branding campaign and reviewed the online branding survey that students, faculty, and staff completed last fall about UAlbany.
- Discussion about the creation of an Assessment of Administrative Units (GSA President will hold a seat on the Advisory Board in addition to Deans, Vice Presidents, Faculty, staff, etc., 15 total)
- UPPC Subcommittees
  - University Facilities: n/a
  - Resource Analysis & Planning: international students are placing a deposit to come to UAlbany, but then if they do not attend, they lose their deposit. It was discussed if the deposits should be increased to deter international students from not enrolling. Also, there was discussion about the merging on SUNY Poly and UAlbany. At this point, meetings have taken place, but nothing more as both campuses need to talk about student services and academic collaborations.

Sydney and Merve – GAC (Graduate Academic Council)

- There has been extensive conversation during the last couple of meetings about executive orders concerning immigration, the effects that such orders could have on institutions of higher education generally (and on our university, in particular), whether the council itself should issue, encourage, or endorse official statements on the matter. Members of the council voted that the chair should raise the issue with the Senate Executive Committee.
- So far this semester, the Council has approved either the creation of, or revisions to a number of graduate degree programs. For many of them, there are additional stages that these proposals have to go through after GAC before they are officially "on the books" but so far, it doesn't seem like there will be any major concerns/obstacles for the proposals further along. In many cases, a representative from the relevant department/program is able to come to the meetings to explain the additions or revisions to existing programs or policies. This semester the council has:
  - Approved: Master of Science in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS)
  - Approved: proposal to add Distance Education delivery authorization to the Graduate Certificate Program in Public Health Surveillance & Preparedness
  - Approved: 2 dual degree programs a) Political Science Bachelor of Arts/Master’s in International Affairs b) Public Policy Bachelor of Arts/Master’s in International Affairs
- Reviewed and made decisions on couple of students’ petitions concerning their academic standing (petitions may concern a variety of topics from the way that credits are counted (or not counted) to dismissal from a degree program).

Amani – ULC (University Life Council)

- Charter has been amended to increase graduate student seats from 1 to 3.
- As there is currently no representation for international students, it is important to fill one seat with an international graduate student.
• Working on a resolution how to respond to trauma-based incidents.

**Tom and Amanda – COR (Council on Research)**
• There is an opportunity for grant funding as long as a student has faculty sponsorship.

**Dylan – UAS (University Auxiliary Services)**
• Next year, there is discussion to have a cooking class in the Patroon Room for students to learn how to make a quality meal for not much money. Students will be able to eat at the event and take home leftovers.

**Chad – GOV (Governance)**
• No update


*Does studying in the Science Library matter to you?*

Beginning in late spring or summer of 2017, the second floor the Science Library will no longer be part of the Science Library. There is a plan to convert the second floor into office space for other University services generally not associated with the University Libraries. When this happens it means that the 11 group study rooms, the 14 tables used for collaboration, the 11 tables for two, the 65 individual study carrels, the comfortable sofas and chairs, and the 6 PCs will no longer be available for student use. In addition, the bound journals will be moved to the basement and integrated with books after compact shelving is installed.

If you use and like the group study rooms or any of the other study or collaborative options on the second floor, you may want to contact the Dean of Libraries **Rebecca Mugridge (rmugridge@albany.edu)** and let her know that you use the second floor of the Science Library and why it’s important to your success at the University of Albany. Although it appears that the plans are moving forward, there may be some room to compromise and save some or all of the second floor for students to study and collaborate.