



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover™

P&A News – Brought to You by CAPA

December 2008 Issue

Latest News and Information

The Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators held its monthly meeting on December 19, 2008. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Vacation for P&As will be tracked in PeopleSoft beginning in March 2009. The tracking will be in half or whole days, not hourly. A conversion of vacation days to hours will need to occur in PeopleSoft since it only tracks in hourly increments. Departments will have to manually track medical leave.
- Executive Committee announced that the Office of Human Resources (OHR) is planning a recognition celebration for all staff next year. The tentative date is August 25, 2009 and will coincide with the opening of the new stadium.
- Faculty are being asked to adopt CAPA's recommendation of using a half percent of new money towards the health care savings plan (versus taking money from the current retirement benefit). The implementation of the HCSP will begin with the new fiscal year (July 1, 2009).
- OHR presented on a survey conducted with employees and students regarding whether there is support for a policy to create a smoke free environment on the Twin Cities campus. Survey results suggest that there is some support from employees and students for this initiative. The UMD campus already has a smoke free campus. The full survey is on the Provost's website http://www.academic.umn.edu/provost/reports/smo_survey08.html .

Featured Article

Support for U's Legislative Network Vital

As a CAPA member, you know how important it is to get involved in your department, college, and U community. In 2009, the most important place to get involved may be the state capitol. Policy leaders need to hear from all of us about the many ways the U brings value to our state.

On December 19th the University of Minnesota received a \$20 million cut to its general operating budget as part of the governor's plan to resolve the state's \$426 million deficit for the remainder of the fiscal year (ending June 30th). These cuts offer a preview of the upcoming legislative session, during which a \$4.8 billion two-year state budget deficit must be addressed. The U offers CAPA members and all U supporters a way to keep posted on U legislative news and take action when necessary: the Legislative Network <http://supporttheu.umn.edu> . The Legislative Network has nearly 10,000 online members who receive monthly updates and action alerts. The alerts provide pre-written letters for members to edit and send to local political leaders. It's fast, simple, and a great way to help the U.

The U of M,s Alumni Association will also hosts a Legislative Briefing on Wednesday, January 28th. This dinner event affords guests a special look at the U,s legislative request in 2009 and promises to have guests sharing their U stories with legislators. For more details, go here <http://supporttheu.umn.edu> or contact Mary Kay Delvo at (612) 626-1417.

The stakes in 2009 are great. President Bruininks acknowledged the U's responsibilities and risks just after the December 19th cuts were enacted:

"The University of Minnesota fully understands the seriousness of the budget challenge facing the state, and we're willing to do our part to address it. . . . As we move ahead to the larger budget challenges facing us in the next biennium, we will continue to explain to policymakers and all Minnesotans that dramatic cuts to the University erode the quality of the education our students receive and slow the creation of jobs and economic growth for the state by shutting off our human capital and innovation pipelines."

For more information on the U,s advocacy efforts, please contact grassroots manager and CAPA member Dana Bacon at dbacon@umn.edu.

Resources and Professional Development Opportunities

Welcome in 2009 with an affordable membership at the U,s Recreation Center

Use your New Year,s motivation to become a member <http://www.recsports.umn.edu/membership/stafffacultyaffiliates.html> at the University Recreation Center,s great facilities. It,s offered at an affordable rate compared to private gyms and be sure to ask about the Fitness Rewards program for further savings.

Workshop: Supervising Students

Student employees can be an important factor in the success of University units. For supervisors, they offer a unique set of challenges and rewards. This session <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/supervisors/courses/index.html#situation> will provide an overview of the process for recruiting and hiring student employees and offer guidelines for their effective management.

P & A Audio Spotlight Susan Tade, video production manager

Technology is a rapidly evolving phenomenon, especially when it comes to video production. But for Susan Tade, from OIT Video Solutions, that's part of the fun.

Click to listen. <http://mediamill.ca.umn.edu/mediamill/embed/24091>