



## March 2009 Issue

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### Latest News and Information

The Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators held its monthly meeting on March 27, 2009. Highlights from the meeting include:

- The Representation and Governance Committee (R&G) reminded the committee that nominations are due for CAPA representatives and senators - CAPA needs to elect at least 8 new Senators at the April 2009 meeting. Also, R&G is sponsoring a forum about forming unit-level groups on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Education Sciences Building, room 325. All CAPA members and current unit-level P&A groups are invited. Please RSVP to David Bernstein at [berns009@umn.edu](mailto:berns009@umn.edu).
- CAPA is now accepting nominations for the 2008-09 Outstanding Unit Award. This award recognizes units of the University of Minnesota that are judged to be exemplary in their support of P&A staff and the critical role P&A employees fulfill in strategic positioning at the University. Visit the [CAPA website](#) to submit a nominee.
- CAPA heard from many of its constituents and is considering its role and stance on the issue of changing the Regents Scholarship. A draft letter will be presented to the CAPA body at the next meeting for review and discussion.

### Featured Article

#### Shining a light on the state budget discussion

In her March 28th column in the [Star Tribune](#), Lori Sturdevant asked President Bruininks about the consequences of state cuts to higher education. His response carried a clear message to policy makers and U supporters alike: "Higher education should be the last thing you cut, because it's an opportunity to invest in human capital and innovation. When you're in a recession, that's precisely the time to invest in the education and development of your people, and your capital infrastructure."

The impact of these anticipated cuts became clearer in a March 30th letter to U employees, in which President Bruininks outlined the budget challenges facing the U during the next few years:

"Earlier this month, Governor Pawlenty revised his proposed state budget, using temporary federal stimulus dollars to cushion deep and significant cuts to state support for the University of Minnesota. These federal stimulus funds are good news for the University, but they cannot permanently address the long-term challenges we face. Instead, this temporary funding extends our window of opportunity for addressing the proposed reductions strategically, without sacrificing our core commitments to excellence, innovation, and service."

The policy decisions that lie ahead will deeply affect the entire University. Fortunately, the [Legislative Network](#) provides tools for contacting your elected officials as well as local media with your own personal messages. The U also posts the latest advocacy news on [Twitter](#) to help you stay current. Participating in the Legislative Network is the most effective way for you to show elected officials how much the U matters to you and to the entire state.

On the University side of the budget conversation, the ["Economy and the U" website](#) gives U employees several ways to suggest and debate ideas about the U's budget future, including an open discussion board.

### Resources and Professional Development Opportunities

#### Continuing professional development

The College of Continuing Education is offering a host of [courses](#) to further your career. Some classes are being offered with a 50% discount so be sure to ask.

#### Read a book

Whether you're a fan of Dickens, Clancy or Austin, as a U employee you receive 5% off them all at [Barnes and Noble online](#).

### P & A Audio Spotlight

#### Dennis Donovan, Humphrey Institute research fellow

Between teaching, working with young people and organizing community programs, Dennis Donovan says he "has the best job at the University of Minnesota."

[Click to listen.](#)