CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Greetings Harvard Extension Student Association,

I am always excited about the wonderful and tireless sacrifices students have made over the years to make Harvard Extension Student Association a successful student organization. These men and women have dug their hands into the ground to build a student association that exemplifies the excellence of Harvard University Extension School. As we approach the 2010 – 2011 school year, we must continue our contributions to their amazing great work. It would be a privilege to serve the Harvard University Extension School student body as your President by increasing our digital operations, opening the doors to our student association’s governance, and implementing policies that uphold the integrity of Harvard University Extension School.

BRINGING HESA TO THE STUDENT BODY

As a degree candidate for the Master of Liberal Arts in Information Technology, it is important that we begin to increase our digital operations to focus on our distance learning community. We must research the number of students studying online and build digital landscapes around student networks already established. HESA must further engage our online community through the use of web tools (e.g., Second Life, Skype, Twitter, etc.) and other digital media. A digital HESA would broaden the scale of our association that will move our HES community forward.
A STUDENT ASSOCIATION THAT LISTENS

Transparent governance, built by student decisions, will encourage respect for student collaboration and contributions. While continuing the digital advancements of our student association, I will focus on community building by implementing transparent governance built for our students by all our students, as a President who listens.

STUDENT INTEGRITY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

We must uphold the integrity of Harvard University Extension School in our daily conduct, among ourselves, and throughout Harvard University. Our conduct must respect the Dean’s Office that works tirelessly for the opportunity to HESA. While most HES students exemplify the excellence that represents our school, I have recently become quite concerned about the misconduct of a few students left unchecked. I will work with the student community to implement policies that reduce unethical behavior from HES students.

My first semester as a degree candidate, I immediately ran for the office of the President of HESA. Filled with a passion for my new student colleagues, my desire to serve the student body was conceded to the then newly elected president. It was a privilege to enjoy the 2008 – 2009 HESA community networking through monthly socials, events, and even gathering signatures to form a new club at HESA. During the 2009 – 2010 school year, as team leader to two Harvard Graduate Council Day of Service events, I coordinated events with graduate student leaders and community service volunteers throughout the Harvard University community. It is important that HES students are included in community building efforts like these in the coming 2010 – 2011 school year.

A student association built by our student community is essential to moving HESA forward.
Sincerely,

Makazi Ife Mtingwa
Candidate for HESA President

Master of Liberal Arts
Information Technology
Digital Media Arts & Sciences

Harvard University
Extension School
Class of 2011