

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Approved for  
posting at 5-7-21  
board meeting.

**Minutes of the Friday, February 19, 2021 Board Meeting**

*Note: As permitted by Public Act 101-0640, Illinois Governor's Disaster Proclamation issues on November 13, 2020, and Executive Order number 2021-04, the February 19, 2021 board meeting was held via Zoom.*

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Governors State University Board of Trustees regular meeting for Friday, February 19, 2021 was called to order by Chair Harrell at 8:32 am. Roll call was taken and Trustees Kevin Brookins, John Brudnak, Lisa Harrell, Janine Latrice Koger, Jim Kvedaras, Angela Sebastian, and Anibal Taboas were in attendance. Trustee Pedro Cevallos-Candau joined the meeting at 8:34 am.

Also in attendance:

Cheryl Green, President

W. Paul Bylaska, Vice President for Administration and Finance

Elizabeth A. Cada, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Therese King Nohos, Vice President, General Counsel and Interim Vice President of Human Resources

Penny Perdue, Chief of Administrative Operations and Liaison to the Board

Catherine Balthazar, Dean, College of Health and Human Services

Villalyn Baluga, Associate Vice President for Finance

Zion Banks, Senior Writer, Marketing and Communications

Theresa Booker, Telecommunications Engineer, Information Technology Services

Karen Caesar, Director of Special Events

Mushtaq Choudhary, Director of Auxiliary Services and Housing

Alli Cipra, Faculty, College of Education, Faculty Senate Representative

Vickii Coffey, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services

Marlon Cummings, Faculty, College of Education, Faculty Senate Representative

Danny Davis, United States Congressman

Will Davis, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Marketing and Communications

Jose De La Paz, Associate Director, Benefits and Employee Relations

Shannon Dermer, Dean, College of Education

Kristoffer Evangelista, Internal Auditor

David Golland, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate President

Andrienne Gray, Business/Administrative Associate, College of Business

Giesela Grumbach, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services, Faculty Senate Representative

Brenda Hannigan, Administrative Assistant to Vice President for Administration and Finance

Sarah Hirsch, Project Manager, Advertising and Marketing, Marketing and Communications

Jane Hudak, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences (retired)  
Joan Johns Maloney, Coordinator of Benefits and Employee Relations, Human Resources  
Rosemary Johnsen, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Carla Johnson, Academic Advisor, Senior Status  
Kara Johnson, Director, International Services  
Sheryl Jones-Harper, President, Civil Service Senate  
Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations  
William Kresse, Faculty Senate Representative  
Andrae Marak, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Sandra Marak, Director of Human Resources Services  
James McGee, Chief of Police  
Paul McGuinness, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions  
Paula McMullen, Academic Advisor, Senior Status  
Rashidah Muhammad, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate Representative  
Heather Penn, Chief Broadcasting Engineer, Digital Learning and Media Design  
John Potempa, Associate Vice President for Facilities Development and Management  
Chuck Pustz, Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services  
David Rhea, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Director, Center for the Junior Year  
Lisé Schneider, Director of Admissions  
Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Uday Shinde, Faculty, College of Business  
Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President of Procurement and Business Services  
Catherine Tymkow, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services, Faculty Senate Representative  
Chelsea Vanderpool, Faculty, College of Business, Faculty Senate Representative  
Jason Vignone, Director, Graduate Admissions and Retention  
Dave Weissbohn, Director, Information Security and Compliance  
Maristela Zell, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services  
Jun Zhao, Dean, College of Business  
Sandra Zurawski, Director of Budget and Financial Planning

Members of the general public were also in attendance.

### **Chair Remarks**

Chair Harrell welcomed attendees to the meeting, expressing best wishes for their health. She noted that the Board conducts much of its business at committee meetings, and thanked the GSU community for their engagement.

### **Public Comment**

*David Rhea, Faculty, Director of Center for the Junior Year, Director GSU Honors Program*  
Professor Rhea provided remarks regarding the December Faculty Senate report and the Center for Junior Year and University Honors Program.

*William Kresse, Faculty, College of Business*

Professor Kresse acknowledged his presence at the meeting and thanked Trustee Sebastian for keeping the faculty senate representatives to the Budget and Finance Committee up to date.

*Uday Shinde, Faculty, College of Business*

Professor Shinde provided his remarks regarding the University Honors Program.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Green began her report by introducing United States Congressman Danny Davis. Representative Davis expressed his appreciation for GSU's partnership with the Illinois Black Hall of Fame, which will be located on campus.

Dr. Green expressed her thanks to Representative Davis and the other members of the Illinois Black Hall of Fame planning committee. She continued her report, noting that the spring semester continues with the same operational plan as fall of 2020. She also updated the Board on a number of topics, including notification received by the University of additional Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security Act (CARES) funding from the federal government, consisting of \$4.5 million for institutional support and \$1.8 million for awards to students. These dollars will enhance the University's ability to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic, promote student persistence, and provide continuity of operations.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Harrell asked for a motion to approve the open session and closed session minutes of the December 11, 2020 Board meeting and to keep the executive session minutes closed pursuant to the recommendation of counsel. Trustee Kvedaras motioned. Trustee Brookins seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote and the minutes were approved as corrected.

### **Information Items**

#### **Report on Purchases \$50,000 to \$99,000 for the Period November 18, 2020 through January 31, 2021**

Dr. Bylaska called the Board's attention to the Report on Purchases, which was provided in the Board book. A discussion ensued.

#### **Budget to Actual Report**

Dr. Bylaska called the Board's attention to the Report on Budget to Actual, which was provided in the Board book.

## **COVID-19 and CARES Funding Update**

Dr. Bylaska reported on various COVID-19 issues and provided a CARES funding update. A discussion ensued.

## **Report of the Academic Affairs Committee**

Committee Chair Kvedaras reported that the Committee met on February 1, 2021 and heard reports on several information items. He noted that he is bringing one of the topics to today's meeting and asked Elizabeth Cada, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Shannon Dermer, Dean of the College of Education, to provide an accreditation update. They reported that GSU received approval from the Higher Learning Commission to transition the existing Ed. D. in Counselor Education and Supervision to a Ph.D.; GSU's first Ph.D. Discussion ensued and congratulations were expressed for this important milestone.

Chair Kvedaras then reported that the Committee considered one resolution at the February 1, 2021 meeting and motioned to approve Resolution 21-7, Approval of Professor Emeritus Status to Dr. Jane Rhoades Hudak. Trustee Taboas seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote. Professor Hudak expressed appreciation to the Board and offered remarks about her tenure at the University.

## **Report of the Budget and Finance Committee**

Committee Chair Angela Sebastian reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 and again immediately preceding this meeting, heard reports on several information items and considered a number of resolutions. Chair Sebastian called on Paul Bylaska, Vice President of Administration and Finance, to report on the possibility of refinancing the University's current debt. Dr. Bylaska reported. Discussion ensued. Chair Sebastian reported that the Committee would continue evaluating debt refinancing and would keep the Board updated as appropriate.

Chair Sebastian asked Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President of Procurement and Business Services, to provide a Supplier Diversity update. Sullivan reported. Discussion ensued.

Chair Sebastian motioned to approve Resolution 21-10, approval of no increase in AY21/22 tuition rates from AY20/21 rates. Trustee Brookins seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. There was no discussion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Sebastian motioned to approve Resolution 21-11, approval of no increase in AY21/22 mandatory fee rates from AY20/21 rates. Trustee Koger seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. There was no discussion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Sebastian motioned to approve Resolution 21-12, approval of an increase in Prairie Place housing rates of 3.5% for AY21/22. Trustee Cevallos-Candau seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. Discussion ensued. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Sebastian motioned to approve Resolution 21-13, award of a construction contract to FE Moran Inc. in the amount of \$1,350,000 for heating construction work and to Amber Mechanical Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$440,000 for ventilation construction work at the GMT Building. Trustee Brookins seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. There was no discussion. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Trustees Sebastian ended her report by noting that the Budget and Finance committee met earlier that morning and voted to withdraw its recommendation to advance Resolution 21-14.

### **Report of the Governance and Nominations Committee**

Committee Chair Brookins reported that the Governance and Nominations Committee met on February 12, 2021 and discussed three information items.

Review of GSU Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures – Chair Brookins reported that Therese King Nohos, General Counsel and Interim Vice President of Human Resources, prepared a written report regarding the Board’s governing documents, a copy of which was provided to the full Board. It outlined certain types of Policies and Regulations that have not been designated to any standing committee. Trustee Brookins suggested responsibility for each as follows: Board Procedures (Governance and Nominations Committee); Administrative Affairs (Budget and Finance Committee); Physical Facilities (Budget and Finance Committee); and, Intellectual Property (Academic Affairs Committee). The report also identified policies Ms. Nohos recommends adopting: (i) the Human Resources Committee should consider a University wide non-discrimination policy, affirmative action plan, and University code of ethics; (ii) the Budget and Finance Committee should consider a policy on contract review and approval; (iii) the Governance and Nominations Committee should consider a president emeritus policy, policy on the Board’s duty to establish, disseminate, and keep current on University mission, and policy on the Board’s duty to review and approve the University’s strategic plan. Chair Brookins concluded this section of his report by noting that the Committee asked Ms. Nohos to make a recommendation to the Committee regarding which policies should be established at the Board level versus delegation to University personnel, adding that the Committee will report back to the full Board at a future meeting.

President Emeritus Policy – Chair Brookins reported that the Committee has consulted with Ms. Nohos on a proposed policy for awarding president emeritus status. Chair Brookins advised that according to Article III of the Board’s governing policies, any proposed policy is required to be read at a meeting before any action is taken on it. Trustee Brookins proceeded to read the proposed policy, adding that it will be posted for public comment and will be brought for consideration to the next full Board meeting.

Chair Brookins ended his report by reminding the Board that all trustees are required to complete the Illinois Secretary of State Statement of Economic Interests form.

### **Report of the Human Resources Committee**

Committee Chair Cevallos-Candau first gave a brief Civil Service Merit Board report, noting that the Board will be meeting next week and there is nothing related to GSU on the agenda.

Chair Cevallos-Candau next reported that the Human Resources Committee met on February 3, 2021 and approved two resolution recommendations. He motioned to approve Resolution 21-8, Approval of the 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan and Employer Participation Agreement with the State Universities Retirement System Deferred Compensation Plan. Trustee Kvedaras seconded. Therese King Nohos presented the resolution. Discussion ensued. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Cevallos-Candau motioned to approve Resolution 21-9, Approval of the Amendment and Restatement of the Governors State University Tax Deferred Annuity Plan, effective January 1, 2021. Trustee Cevallos-Candau seconded. Therese King Nohos presented the resolution. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

### **Senate Reports**

*Dr. David Golland, Faculty Senate President*

Dr. Golland provided his report to the Board.

*Ms. Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President*

Ms. Jones-Harper provided her report to the Board.

Chair Harrell noted that Mark Tyler, Student Senate President, was unable to attend today's meeting.

There being no new or old business, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 am with a motion from Trustee Brookins and a second from Trustee Koger. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Perdue  
Recording Secretary