

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the February 28, 2014 Meeting

Anibal Taboas, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 28, 2014 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Committee Chair Anibal Taboas. Also in attendance were Committee members Eileen Durkin, Brian D. Mitchell and Kayla Randolph-Clark, and Trustees Jack Beaupre, Bruce Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby and Lorraine Tyson.

Others present: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Karen Kissel, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Will Davis, Vice President for Development; Rashidah J. Muhammad, President, Faculty Senate; Laura Owens, President, Civil Service Senate; Lisa Wallace, President, Student Senate; Elizabeth Ruiz, President, GSU University Professionals of Illinois; Angela Latham, Associate Provost; Karen D'Arcy, Interim Dean, College of Education; Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean, College of Business and Public Administration; Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students; Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the Library; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President for Administration and Finance; Faculty Senate Representatives David Golland and Shaalein Lopez; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

Committee Chair Taboas introduced Faculty Senate Representatives David Golland and Shaalein Lopez.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. GSU Program Accreditation Status Summary – February 2014

Bordelon reported. There was only one update since the last Board meeting. There are CACREP, CAHME and Early Head Start accreditation visits scheduled for spring 2014. Taboas thanked Bordelon for the comprehensive chart, which demonstrates the complexity of accreditation.

2. Report on Off-Campus Programs – February 2014

Bordelon referred to the report in the Board Book, which highlights programs that GSU can offer completely off site. She pointed out that in order to do so the University has to go through an approval process with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Bordelon explained that the University is not

required to fulfill any licensing requirements; rather it is just necessary to notify these two entities that GSU will be offering classes out of a particular center so that teachers in various school districts in the area have the opportunity to take advantage of courses being offered. Taboas asked if this same structure is necessary when offering online courses. Bordelon responded that online courses being offered in Illinois do have to be reported to IBHE, however if the University wants to offer courses across state lines the federal government has a process that must be followed, which is quite cumbersome, requiring working with each state to get their permission to offer online programs.

3. Academic Affairs: Overview and Progress Update

Bordelon provided a report in the Board Book and a Power Point presentation of the Academic Master Plan (AMP), which is a five-year plan projecting out through academic year 2015-2016. The AMP includes both bachelor and masters programs, however emphasis has been placed on bachelor degree programs as the University anticipates the first freshman class in fall 2014. The AMP Committee meets regularly to discuss programming and their findings regarding regional needs, regional competitors and comparable programs. The Committee performs gap analyses to determine gaps that need to be addressed. Language studies were identified as an area of concern and therefore a language program is being built under the Global Studies program. Bordelon pointed out that when a new major is proposed to IBHE the University has to demonstrate the need for it as well as existing employment opportunities, which is accomplished in part by looking at the Bureau of Labor Statistics for job opportunities and potential earnings. Bordelon stressed the importance of being innovative and creative in a strategic way when planning new programs of study. Health informatics, for example, is interdisciplinary and therefore requires collaboration across colleges.

Bordelon pointed out that while it is important to build new programs, it is also essential to maintain enrollment in current programs. Therefore the strategic use of resources is a priority. Bordelon reported that reallocating resources across the colleges has been successful in this regard. If additional funds are needed the colleges request them through the Planning and Budget Advisory Council (PBAC). She explained that the AMP is a feedback loop for many entities including the Faculty Senate, Deans, Chairs and faculty. GSU is able to build programs from the ground up with the structures the University has put in place, which other higher education institutions are trying to do with less success. Bordelon highlighted other initiatives that are proving successful including the Dual Degree Program (DDP); the Junior Seminar, developed to enhance the experience as students move into their majors; a revamped Honors Program; an Undergraduate Research Program with students working with faculty in research across disciplines; and a very active Civic Engagement Center.

Tyson pointed out one of the itemized points made mention of capstone courses, and asked Bordelon to elaborate. Bordelon explained that a capstone course is a culminating course of the program that can involve an internship, a presentation, a project, or an experience. Maimon expressed her pride in the English Department in terms of the capstone projects, which include writing in a business setting, in a science setting, for advertising, grant writing and other non-traditional forms of writing where students can apply their skills. Ormsby complimented Bordelon on the very impressive AMP process in developing programs. He asked with regard to employment, what is the University doing to garner input from the community as far as skill sets that are needed? Bordelon explained that each college has an advisory committee comprised of University and community members that provide that type of input. Maimon added that GSU is very connected to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) which does massive national studies on employer needs. Friefeld pointed out President Maimon sits on the Board of the Will County Task Force for Economic Development and this is a regular topic of discussion. At the last meeting the Executive Director made the point that if workforce training is not part of economic development then there will be no economic development. Friefeld recommended inviting some people from outside the University to address this topic in the future.

Dean Aurelio Valente joined Provost Bordelon to discuss how a robust Student Affairs department is the difference between getting a degree and getting an education. He stated he is living proof that without the robust student affairs he experienced in his postsecondary education he would not be here today, given that he was a first generation, English as a Second Language (ESL) student. The mission of Student Affairs is to challenge and inspire students, and to include them as a full partner as the institution transforms itself. He pointed out research has shown there is a very distinct difference in students that come to campus for classes and leave as opposed to those that are involved in campus activities. Current initiatives include the development of an academic recovery program for students on academic probation, a student success team for first year students, recreational and competitive sports, compliance with student immunizations, civic engagement and community service opportunities, and supplemental instruction for high achieving students. Valente provided the Annual Report on Student Affairs to the Board and Administration. Taboas thanked Bordelon and Valente for their informative report. Maimon thanked them as well, stating that she is very proud of the paradigm shift initiatives taking place at GSU. The combined efforts of many are creating something very special and something that will help achieve the public agenda in Illinois in terms of reaching students with a very high quality of education unlike they have seen before. She added that commitment to the students is something people talk about, but don't always achieve, and she thanked Bordelon and Valente in this regard.

ACTION ITEMS

Taboas entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting for December 6, 2013. Durkin made a motion. Randolph-Clark seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Future Agenda Items suggested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Dieringer, community member

Mr. Dieringer made the following comments: I came here because I'm concerned about community involvement. You talk about this institution being a model. Community involvement can be enhanced by including them on the agenda. Regarding GSU holding classes at Triton College, where my son is a graduate, I'm a little concerned that we are getting out of our service area going that far. I believe the Master's in Manufacturing degree is needed in the south suburbs. But we need to have more community involvement. I received an award from the City of Chicago Heights for Volunteer of the Year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Tomorrow there will be a program on how to eat better. Those are the kinds of models we need to look at, and you have the wherewithal to do those things.

Katherine Armstrong, community member

Ms. Armstrong made the following comments: As a graduate of GSU I'm very pleased with what I heard today, but I have to comment again that GSU needs a public radio station.

Laverne Williams, community member

Ms. Williams made the following comments: This is my first Board meeting and I am very impressed. Community and civic engagement are important, and I hope it will bring people in so knowledge and technology can increase. I've lived in University Park for a very long time, and one day I'm going to attend GSU. School district 201U is a one unit school district in University Park, and my dream is that GSU will someday partner with 201U (pre-K through high school) to do some type of model in order to help each other.

Committee Chair Taboas requested a motion to adjourn. Durkin made a motion. Mitchell seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Johns Maloney