

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes of the Full Board Meeting
December 5, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Full Board of Trustees met on Friday, December 5, 2014 in Engbretson Hall at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order at 11:36 am by Chair Brian D. Mitchell. Trustees Eileen Durkin, Bruce N. Friefeld, Jack Beaupre, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, and Anibal Taboas were in attendance. Student Trustee Jeremy Joyce was absent.

Others present: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Gebeyehu Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Karen Kissel, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Will Davis, Vice President for Development; Aurelio Valente, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations; Rashidah J. Muhammad, Faculty Senate President; Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President; Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost; Ann Vendrely, Associate Provost; Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean, College of Business and Public Administration; Andrea Evans, Dean, College of Education; Lydia Morrow-Ruetten, Dean, University Library; David Dixon, Internal Auditor; David Meadows, Executive Vice President Designee; and Thomas Vander Woude, Deputy Executive Director of Transportation and Infrastructure, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report of the Committees

Human Resources Committee. Committee Chair Tyson reported the Human Resources Committee met on December 5, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee heard a report from Trustee Mitchell on the Civil Service Merit Board meeting. The Committee adopted minutes for its meeting on October 10, 2014 and recommended to the Full Board the adoption of and placement on the Consent Agenda of *Resolution 15-13: Approval of Administrative Leave*.

Budget and Finance Committee. Committee Chair Ormsby reported the Budget and Finance Committee met on December 5, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee participated in a study session on GSU's Budgets and Budgeting Process. They also heard reports on Purchases \$50,000-\$99,999, the Operational Budget vs. Actual Expenses as of October 31, 2014, reports on the FY13 Financial and Compliance Audits, and the Internal Auditor's Annual Report for FY14.

The Committee adopted minutes for its meeting on October 10, 2014, and recommended to the Full Board the adoption by roll call vote of *Resolution 15-14: Approval of a Farm Lease Renewal* and *Resolution 15-15: Approval to Grant an Easement to the Village of University Park*.

Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations. Committee Chair Friefeld reported the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations met on December 5, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee heard reports on GSU's Open Access Task Force and the latest draft of the *Vision 2020* Strategic Plan, and adopted the minutes for its meeting on October 10, 2014.

Academic Affairs Committee. Committee Vice Chair Durkin reported for Chair Taboas, stating the Academic Affairs Committee met on December 5, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee participated in a study session on accreditation. They also heard reports on GSU's Program Accreditation Status for December 2014, the IBHE Cyclical Program Reviews for Academic Year 2014-2015, an update on the Academic Master Plan, and a report on the Dual Degree Program. The Committee adopted the minutes for its meeting on October 10, 2014, and recommended to the Full Board the adoption of and placement on the Consent Agenda of *Resolution 15-17: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates*.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Mitchell requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2014 Full Board Meeting, the October 3, 2014 Special Meeting, the October 1, 2014 Special Meeting, and the August 10-11, 2014 Board Retreat. Friefeld made a motion. Ormsby seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Recording Secretary Johns Maloney read aloud the Consent Agenda, which included *Resolution 15-13: Approval of Administrative Leave* and *15-17: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates*. Mitchell entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Items Not on the Consent Agenda

Mitchell requested a motion to approve *Resolution 15-14: Approval of a Farm Lease Renewal*. Durkin made a motion. Friefeld seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Taboas and Tyson voted aye. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Mitchell requested a motion to approve *Resolution 15-15: Approval to Grant an Easement to the Village of University Park*. Durkin made a motion. Ormsby seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Taboas and Tyson voted aye. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

REPORTS

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

Chair Mitchell made the following remarks: Can you believe it? It is already December and the first semester is almost over. What a difference a year makes. Last year, we were preparing for freshmen, watching Prairie Place's walls go up, and eagerly following the progress of the E/F wing renovation. Jax the Jaguar was not born yet, and our basketball court only hosted pick-up games. What a difference a year makes indeed.

On behalf of the entire Board I want to thank the GSU community for the great accomplishments in this past year. Your dedication and enthusiasm have produced wonderful things. I also want to thank President Maimon and Provost Bordelon for the time they took out of their busy schedules to present to the Village of Matteson Board. Yesterday we saw our president at the White House Summit on College Opportunity. What an experience for President Maimon and I'm sure she did us proud. Thank you, Dr. Maimon, for serving as a passionate advocate for GSU and our students. I would like to give President Maimon a round of applause.

Gebe, what can I say? You will be missed but we won't let you go too far. Your service to this Board has been impeccable; your service to the students and GSU community, unbelievable. I don't think we could thank you enough. It has been an honor to work with you. We will all miss you.

2015 is almost here, and I think everyone in this room can reflect on the various events we have had in 2014 with pride. I would like to wish you all a very joyous and safe holiday season as we celebrate a very full and productive year. I can't wait to see what next year will bring! Finally, I would like to welcome Mr. David Meadows to the GSU team.

Elaine P. Maimon, President

President Maimon made the following remarks: I simply want to say at this point that GSU in many ways is an Illinois miracle. The state is in dire straits, but our sailing craft moves forward and Gebe has had so much to do with that. But more than that I want to say some things that don't always go into resolutions. GSU's ethos of integrity, ethos of student-centeredness is something Gebe has enforced across campus, and now we will have continuity with Mr. David Meadows. Everyone, please join me in welcoming David.

The first White House Summit on College Opportunity, held a year ago, consisted of mainly private elite institutions. The message of that summit was that institutions with large endowments should be recruiting more underserved students. The higher education community, however, pointed out that institutions like GSU are already serving vast numbers of underserved students, and if you want to change this country you have to highlight some of the things we are doing. Therefore this second summit was a more inclusive call to action. When the second summit was announced and the call for proposals went out I emailed the White House Summit committee immediately, and was pleased when they responded the same day. The application process had very strict guidelines and boundaries we had to adhere to. We included our initiatives in admitting the first freshman class, the Dual Degree Program and work with transfer students, and our long standing service to returning adult students. At the summit I learned a great deal and discovered some new things that we are going to explore. I was also able to shine a light on GSU, and was asked to speak at one of the breakout sessions. We were also honored to have the Lumina Foundation ask us if they could list GSU as one of their nine completion universities for returning adults. I want to thank Charles Nolley and Keisha Dyson for taking advantage of social media and spreading the news of GSU's visit to the White House so efficiently.

Regarding the FY15 and FY16 state budget picture, I was in Springfield earlier this week with the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors, so I have some sense of the deep uncertainty that is pervading Springfield. People really don't know what is going to happen with a new governor. Prior to Thanksgiving Jim Applegate (Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education) met with budget specialists and Governor-Elect Rauner, and there was some talk about a 5-10% withholding of FY15 appropriations as well as a 20% reduction in appropriations for FY16 as worst case scenarios. At this point I think the presiding word is uncertainty. Other legislative priorities discussed at this meeting were procurement relief and the release of capital funds for new construction and deferred maintenance. When operating budgets are strained we need to look for some capital relief in this regard, so we are going to try to get some help from the General Assembly.

GSU does have some encouraging trends in enrollment, with spring 2015 enrollment up 12% over spring 2014. This is a result of our mission-business plan. International recruitment is going well, particularly in India. We currently have 473 applications for spring 2015 and 140 admitted. This reflects an actual enrollment to-date of international students for the spring 2015 semester, year over year, of 225%.

I would like to conclude by saying it's a dark fiscal time for the State of Illinois, but we have much to celebrate. I want to thank everyone here for the daily miracles that occur at GSU. Happy Holidays.

Rashidah J. Muhammad, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Muhammad made the following remarks: Thank you. The Faculty Senate is not saying goodbye to Gebe, but thank you, and we welcome David Meadows as our future Executive Vice President. We have come to the end of a very busy and innovative calendar year. I want to thank President Maimon, Executive Vice President Ejigu, and Provost Bordelon for having the vision to bring first year students to GSU, and the Trustees for supporting that decision. It has been a very challenging semester. I was blessed to have the experience of teaching early start and first year composition. It's been hard. It also feels like a second chance at parenting. We are looking forward to making improvements after reflecting on this past semester. We would like to see early start for all freshmen as well as a course on "how to do college." Students need to be instructed on how to write papers, do research, the importance of coming to class, how to ask for help, how to take notes, and how to study for exams.

Faculty Senate milestones this year include getting the Gen-Ed Task Force implemented and fully functioning and developing an organizational structure for assessment of Gen-Ed programs. The Senate foresees the need for a standing committee dedicated to Gen-Ed. The curriculum in each division is being closely looked at for continuous improvement measures, and members of the faculty are now participating in the Open Access Task Force. Finally, the Faculty Senate would like you to consider a more student-friendly and faculty-friendly class schedule, evened out over daytime and nighttime hours. Thank you all. Peace.

Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President

Ms. Jones-Harper made the following remarks: The Civil Service Senate continues to meet regularly and work collaboratively with Human Resources to create an environment for professional development and improved communication between supervisors and staff. I recently met with President Maimon and Joyce Coleman (Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity), and on December 10 Human Resources is sponsoring a Civil Service training session. Also we are working with HR on salary reviews. After that review there will probably be some adjustments to bring salaries in line with other Illinois public universities. We invite all the Trustees to Civil Service Day, December 11, 2014. On behalf of the Civil Service Senate I want to thank Gebe for all he has done for GSU, and welcome David Meadows. We wish everyone happy holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for Public Comment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion of Board Meeting Dates for 2015.** The dates proposed are as follows:

Friday, February 20, 2015	Committee Meetings
Friday, February 27, 2015	Full Board Meeting
Friday, May 1, 2015	Committee Meetings
Friday, May 8, 2015	Full Board Meeting
Sunday-Monday, August 9-10, 2015 TBD	Annual Board Retreat
Friday, September 25, 2015	Committee Meetings
Friday, October 2, 2015	Full Board Meeting
Friday, December 4, 2015	Committee Meetings
Friday, December 11, 2015	Full Board Meeting

Mitchell instructed the Trustees to contact President Maimon if they have conflicts or concerns with any of these dates.

2. **Resolution 15-18: Release of Executive Session Minutes.** Mitchell requested a motion to approve Resolution 15-18. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. **Resolution 15-19: Honoring the Service of Dr. Gebeyehu Ejigu.** Secretary Friefeld read the resolution:

WHEREAS, The Governors State University Board of Trustees was created on January 1, 1996 by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain Governors State University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board; and

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one whom is a Governors State University student selected by their peers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gebe Ejigu has served as Executive Vice President, Chief of Staff and Treasurer beginning June 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ejigu has served GSU with dedication, tenacity, a collaborative spirit, an ethos of integrity, and a fierce commitment to always keeping the needs of students first; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ejigu guided, directed, and oversaw the completion of over \$60 million in campus improvement initiatives, including the renovation of the E&F wings, 22 major deferred maintenance and building renewal projects, Prairie Place, the Cube, the Library, and the replacement of the outmoded administrative computing system; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ejigu served as architect and administrator of GSU's current resource allocation and management system (PBAC), doing so with an unerring sense of university priorities and an understanding of the difference between wants and needs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ejigu set the stage and led the planning for GSU's competitive athletics program, and increased and enhanced GSU's international presence; and

WHEREAS, his imagination and conceptual thinking contributed to GSU's Big Ideas, including the Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion, which in turn led to the award-winning Dual Degree Program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ejigu has served the Board as not only Treasurer, but as trusted advisor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Governors State University that Dr. Gebe Ejigu be formally recognized and commended for his service to the Board and the entire University. The Board of Trustees expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation for his work.

Mitchell requested a motion to approve Resolution 15-19. Beaupre made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ejigu made the following remarks: I am overwhelmed, honored and somewhat embarrassed. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me and my family. To have my 45-year career in higher education culminate at an institution which is turning a corner; which is on the brink of a tipping point; which has reinvented itself in many, many ways, and has become much more indispensable to the region it serves is extremely gratifying. To have been associated with such an institution and to go back to my family and wife, who I will celebrate my 50th wedding

anniversary with next October, I thank you. I could not have done it without the kind of wisdom, dedication, effectiveness and constructive engagement of this Board. More importantly, without the hard work, intelligence, commitment, and loyalty of the men and women who have been associated with everything I worked on. I have been blessed with quality people and they deserve the credit you have bestowed on me. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Maimon added that this is not goodbye as Ejigu will now direct his talents toward the classroom and GSU's students, which is a wonderful gift to GSU.

Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and the meeting of the Full Board of Trustees of Governors State University adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney