Date: March 23, 2016

To: GSU Faculty and Staff

From: Elaine P. Maimon, President

Re: FY17 Budget Process

As we are all well aware, the budget crisis in Springfield continues, and a date for resolution of the crisis is unknown. GSU, along with all other public universities, has received no state appropriated funds since July 1, 2015.

By increasing enrollment, developing new programs, and careful planning and management of its available resources, including reserves, the university has been able to continue our excellent academic programs and services to our students. With strict restrictions on replacement and new hires, the university has also been able to sustain the employees who provide that instruction and service.

Our commitment to our students and the academic programs we all provide continues, as does our commitment to careful planning for the university’s financial resources. Given the length of the budget crisis, this planning must now include discussions and consideration of possible actions that could impact some employees. For this reason we will shortly invite discussions with the collective bargaining representatives, the administrative unit heads, PBAC, and the senates geared toward steps the university may have to take, after consultation or negotiation as appropriate, to effect a reduction in personnel costs and allow GSU to continue to operate on a balanced budget in FY17. We are in a planning mode, no specific decisions have been made, but we must think about and plan for the university’s future in very uncertain times.

I am writing to you now to continue the open conversation I have maintained with you and to keep you advised about the university’s financial position. As the discussions I’ve described above begin and continue, I will schedule another town hall meeting in the next several weeks so that I can speak with you directly, hear your concerns, and address your questions. These have been very difficult times for our students, our employees, and our institution. Let me repeat what I have said many times before: Governors State University will stay open. Any action that we undertake will be in the interest of the long-term health and stability of our university. Thank you all for your work and for your support of GSU as we continue forward.