

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Approved
for release,
10-16-20

Minutes of the Friday, September 18, 2020 Board Meeting

Note: As permitted by Illinois Governor Executive Order number 2020-52, dated September 18, 2020, the May 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting was held via Zoom.

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Governors State University Board of Trustees meeting for Friday, September 18, 2020 was called to order by Chair Lisa Harrell at 8:33am. Roll call was taken and Trustees Kevin Brookins, John Brudnak, Pedro Cevallos-Candau, Lisa Harrell, Angela Sebastian, and Anibal Taboas were in attendance.

Also in attendance:

Cheryl Green, President

Susan Best, Of Counsel, Laner Muchin

Sarah Boeckman, Interim General Counsel, Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd.

Mary Pat Burns, Interim General Counsel, Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd.

W. Paul Bylaska, Vice President for Administration and Finance

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

Joy Connolly, President, American Council of Learned Societies

Kayla C. Elliott, Senior Higher Education Policy Analyst, The Education Trust

Barbara Gitenstein, President Emeritus, The College of New Jersey

Cindy Neitzel, Audit Management, State Universities Civil Service Commission

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

Danielle Routh, Classification Manager, State Universities Civil Service Commission

Gail Schiesser, General Counsel, State Universities Civil Service Commission

Catherine Balthazar, Dean, College of Health and Human Services

Zion Banks, Senior Writer, Marketing and Communications

Theresa Booker, Technical Associate, ITS

Sasha Cervantes, Faculty, College of Education

Mujahid Choudhary, Director of Auxiliary Services and Housing

Alli Cipra, Faculty, College of Education

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

Will Davis, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and CEO of the GSU Foundation

Jose De La Paz, Associate Director, Human Resources

Shannon Dermer, Dean, College of Education

Natalia Ermasova, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate Representative

Sondra Estep, Faculty, College of Education, UPI President

Kristoffer Evangelista, Chief Internal Auditor

LaSheena Fuller, Client Relations Rep III, Financial Aid

Anne Gill, Interim Associate Vice President for Human Resources
David Golland, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate President
Giesela Grumbach, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services, Faculty Senate Representative
Brenda Hannigan, Administrative Assistant to VP of Administration and Finance
Sarah Hirsch, Project Manager, Advertising and Marketing, Marketing and Communications
Rosemary Johnsen, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Carla Johnson, Academic Advisor, Senior Status
Denise Jones, Specialist, Office of Sponsored Programs and Research
Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Latrice Koger, GSU Student
Andrae Marak, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Sandra Marak, Director of Human Resource Service/Title IX Coordinator
Johnsie McAuley-Davis, Administrative Assistant, College of Health and Human Services
James McGee, Director of Public Safety
Brenda Moore, Client Relations Representative III, Financial Aid
Susie Morris, Office Manager, Student Affairs
Rashidah Muhammad, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Senate Representative
Heather Penn, Chief Broadcasting Engineer, DLMD
Paul McGuinness, Assistant VP for Enrollment Management and Dir. of Admissions
Monika Okitipi, Graduate Placement Officer, Center for the Junior Year
John Potempa, Associate VP for Facilities Development and Management
David Rhea, Director, Center for the Junior Year
Michelle Sebasco, External Programs Manager - Director Of Extended Learning
Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President of Procurement
Mark Tyler, Interim Student Senate President
Catherine Tymkow, Faculty, College of Health and Human Services, Faculty Senate Representative
Diane Urbanczyk, Business Administrative Associate, Transfer/Articulation Co, Admissions
Chelsea Vanderpool, Faculty, College of Business, Faculty Senate Representative
Corey Williams, Associate VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students
Rebecca Wojcik, Chair, College of Health and Human Services
Fred Yantes, Budget Analyst III, Budget and Financial Planning
Jun Zhao, Dean, College of Business
Sandra Zurawski, Director of Budget and Financial Planning

In addition, several members of the general public were in attendance.

Chair Remarks

Chair Harrell congratulated Dr. Green on the strong start of her presidency. On behalf of the Board, she expressed pride in how the university's staff, faculty, and students have come together during challenging times.

Public Comment

Sondra Estep, Faculty, College of Education, UPI President

Dr. Estep provided her remarks, welcoming President Green and thanking the Board for this critical hire.

There were no other requests for public comment.

President's Report

President Green began her report by thanking the Board for the trust they have placed in her and thanking the faculty and staff of GSU for working diligently to safely open the fall semester. She reported that she is conducting a listening/dialogue tour, attending over 105 meetings, listening sessions, and events to date. President Green reported that HLC is scheduled to visit campus on September 21 as the completion of their Verification Visit; Dr. Richard Enyard will assume the position of VP of HR on October 12; GSU will be rolling out a mandated digital security training program; the university will be implementing an electronic method of time reporting and the committee, led by Chuck Pustz, has been working diligently for over a year on this project; and the GSU Supply Chain Innovation Center and Business Incubator, an Illinois Innovation Network hub, has been awarded a \$578,884 grant.

Dr. Green reported that GSU enrollment census figures show that total student FTE is down 2.27% compared to last year. However, Graduate student FTE and credit hours are up 3.91% and international enrollment is up 23.97%. GSU has partnered with Ruffalo Noel Levitz for the creation and implementation of a new comprehensive plans for strategic enrollment management.

Dr. Green concluded her report by explaining her vision for GSU, which consists of three major components: increase the visibility and image of the university on a local, regional, national, and international stage; provide the tools and resources necessary to enhance academic programs and promote excellence across the academy; and, greatly enhance the spirit and experience of GSU for faculty, staff, and students. Some discussion ensued.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Harrell asked for a motion to approve the open minutes and executive session minutes of the May 15, 2020 board meeting and to keep the executive session minutes closed pursuant to the recommendation of counsel. Brookins motioned. Sebastian seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Elections of Officers

Chair Harrell called upon Trustee Brookins. Governance and Nominations Committee Chair Brookins reported that the Committee met on September 17, 2020 and brought forth a motion to adopt the recommendation from the Committee that the current slate of officers remain the same for the upcoming year. Sebastian seconded. The vote on the recommendation was conducted by secret ballot, as required by Article II, Section 2.03 of the Board of Trustees By-Laws, and General Counsel Mary Pat Burns reported that the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Brookins brought forth a motion to adopt the recommendation from the Governance and Nominations Committee that the committee chairs and committee membership remain the same for upcoming year. Taboas seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Action Item

Chair Harrell noted that in the absence of Trustee Kvedaras, she has a motion to adopt the recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee to approve Resolution 20-53, Approval to Submit AY19-20 Academic Program Review to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Sebastian seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

COVID-19 Information Session

Chair Harrell turned to Provost Cada who reported to the Board on the Fall 2020 Operating Plan. Discussion ensued.

Chair Harrell turned to Chuck Pustz, AVP of Information Technology Services, for a report on Information Technology Services. Discussion ensued.

Chair Harrell then turned to Corey Williams, Associate VP and Dean of Students, for a report on Student Support Services. Discussion ensued.

Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Emeritus Status

Tabled.

The next portion of the Board meeting was devoted to educational training for the trustees.

Discussion of Trustee Role and Responsibilities

Chair Harrell introduced Dr. Barbara Gitenstein, President Emeritus of The College of New Jersey and Senior Consultant and Senior Fellow at AGB Consulting. Dr. Gitenstein presented on Trustee Role and Responsibilities. Discussion ensued.

The Education Trust: “Hard Truths” Report

Chair Harrell introduced Dr. Kayla Elliott, Senior Policy Analyst for Higher Education at The Education Trust. Dr. Elliott presented the Trust’s “Hard Truths” Report. Discussion ensued.

State University Civil Service System

Chair Harrell called on Trustee Pedro Cevallos-Candau who introduced three individuals from the State University Civil Service System: Gail Schiesser, General Counsel; Cindy Neitzel, Audit Management; and, Danielle Routh, Classification Manager. They presented on the State University Civil Service System and how that System interacts with the university. Discussion ensued.

New Title IX Regulations

Chair Harrell introduced Susan Best, Of Counsel at Laner Muchin. Ms. Best spoke to the Board about the new Title IX regulations and what steps have been undertaken to ensure the university’s compliance with the new regulations. Discussion ensued.

Academic Freedom and Shared Governance

Chair Harrell called upon David Golland, Full Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty Senate President, who introduced Dr. Joy Connolly, President of the American Council of Learned Societies. Dr. Connolly on Academic Freedom and Shared Governance. Discussion ensued.

Old Business/New Business

There was no old business nor new business.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10pm with a motion from Trustee Brookins and a second from Trustee Sebastian. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Perdue
Recording Secretary