

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes of the Full Board Meeting
December 6, 2013**

Jack Beaupre, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, December 6, 2013 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Beaupre at 11:40 a.m. Trustees Brian D. Mitchell, Eileen Durkin, Anibal Taboas, Bruce N. Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, and Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark were present.

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; Courtney Kohn Sanders, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing; 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; Sandra Mayfield, 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; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President for Administration and Finance; Faculty Senate Representatives Vickie Person, David Golland, Shaalein Lopez and Susan Ji; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report of the Board Committees

1. **Academic Affairs Committee.** Committee Chair Taboas welcomed Faculty Senate Representatives Shaalein Lopez and David Golland. He reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. During the meeting the Committee discussed the GSU Program Accreditation Status Summary for December 2013 and the Annual Listings report for December 2013. The following resolutions were approved for inclusion on the Consent Agenda: *Resolution 14-12: Request for New Unit of Instruction (RNUI) – Bachelor of Arts in Theater and Performance Studies*; *Resolution 14-13: Appointment of a University Task Force for Open Access Legislation, Public Act 098-0295*; and *Resolution 14-14: Approval of Emeritus Status for Professor Jagan Lingamneni*. There were no requests for Public Comment.

2. **Human Resources Committee.** Committee Chair Tyson welcomed Faculty Senate Representative Vickie Person. She reported that the Human Resources Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. The Committee met in Executive Session, with no action taken. The following resolution was approved for inclusion on the Consent Agenda: *Resolution 14-15: Approval of Performance Day for Non-Negotiated Employees*. There were no requests for Public Comment.
3. **Budget and Finance Committee.** Committee Chair Ormsby welcomed Faculty Senate Representative Susan Ji. He reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. The Committee discussed reports on purchases, the FY14 Operating Budget – Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses as of October 31, 2013, the Internal Auditor’s Annual Report, and the First Reading of a proposed Board policy on concealed carry. The following resolutions were approved for inclusion on the Consent Agenda: *Resolution 14-16: Award of Contract for Gymnasium Renovations*; and *Resolution 14-17: Award of Contract for Commencement Venue*. There were no requests for Public Comment.
4. **Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations.** Committee Chair Friefeld reported that the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations met earlier today and there was a quorum. The Committee discussed compliance issues in higher education and at GSU, as well as future agenda items. There were no action items. There were no requests for Public Comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2013 Full Board Meeting. Ormsby made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Taboas made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve *Resolution 14-18: Release of Executive Session Minutes*. Mitchell made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

REPORTS

Jack Beaupre, Chair, Board of Trustees

Chair Beaupre made the following remarks: I have to say that probably no other Board Chair has had the opportunity to report on so many positive events going on at this University as I have. I really am privileged to do so. As we look back during the holidays we have a lot of things to be thankful for. We also have a lot of things to look forward to because we still have a lot on our plate as we approach the rebirth of GSU in the next year. We have broken ground on Prairie Place, our first student housing complex, and are moving forward with plans to create an athletic program which will provide us with more opportunities for full-time students. In fall 2014 we will celebrate our first freshman class, and we will soon launch the new website which is going to be a fundamental tool for communications and recruitment. Last night I was here for the Occupational Therapy pinning ceremony and I toured a portion of the E/F wing, which is nearing completion. I recommend everyone walk through the E/F wing as it is a beautiful improvement to the campus. With students soon living on campus for the first time we will have new challenges and new issues to face, but these are part and parcel of progress as we know it, and we will welcome our first freshman class. I would like to thank both the academic side and the administration for designing a new university. We are starting some initiatives from the ground up while carrying on with some of the fine traditions of the past to create the rebirth of what we believe is going to be a fine institution. Thank you.

Elaine P. Maimon, President

Maimon began her report by recounting a recent ceremony held in the Hall of Governors to celebrate the admission of GSU's first freshman student. Highlights can be seen on the GSU website. The student came to campus thinking she was going to an art show, and was surprised to be celebrated as GSU's first freshman. It was a momentous occasion with the student's mother, father, brother and grandmother joining her. GSU's partnership with the *Chicago Tribune* is expanding in important ways, having now partnered with *Printer's Row*. Several student leaders met Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at a recent *Printer's Row* event. *Chicago Live!* was here for the second year and there was an enormous audience, duly noted by host Rick Kogan. Maimon underlined the fact that as GSU becomes a full service comprehensive university, it will continue with a strong commitment to the working adult and students who attend in the evening or online. She announced that Provost Bordelon just informed her that the K-12 licensure board for the State Board of Education has approved the tract for School Superintendent.

Maimon provided a copy of a letter sent by the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors to Governor Quinn, Senate President Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Radogno, Speaker of the House Madigan, and House Republican Leader Durkin regarding public pension reform. She noted the General Assembly recently passed a pension bill which Governor Quinn signed. Maimon explained that the Presidents and Chancellors have been working for the past

three years to be constructive problem solvers in order to protect employees, the universities and the State. The bill that passed this week has some serious consequences for the University, especially SURS. The Presidents and Chancellors are united on this and will continue to work on trying to minimize what are seen as possible deleterious effects.

The Steering Committee for *Vision 2020* recently met and received their charge. Sub-committees were identified and are meeting to review the goals and identify additional goals. Maimon announced the appointment of Will Davis as Vice President for Development, noting that he increased donations by 31% in FY13. Currently donations are trending 12% above the FY14 goal. She pointed out that he has formed an executive advisory council with many corporate contributors and partners, which has been very effective. Maimon concluded by stating the University is moving forward on all fronts, and on behalf of the Administration, faculty and staff she thanked the Board as GSU prepares for *Renaissance 2014*.

Rashidah J. Muhammad, Faculty Senate President

Professor Muhammad made the following remarks: Good afternoon. As always I want to start by thanking the Board of Trustees for this opportunity to share with you the workings and concerns of the GSU Faculty. We do not want to take for granted this opportunity to participate in shared governance. Author and human rights advocate, James Baldwin once said, “The world changes according to the way people see it, and if you can alter even by a millimeter, the way a person looks at reality, then you can change it.” Nelson Mandela changed the way we look at the world. Nelson Mandela changed the world. He said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to the change the world.” The GSU faculty honor Mandela’s life and his work by taking up his challenge to continue to provide education that will change the world. Acknowledging Mandela’s gifts to the world, President Obama said, “Let us pause and give thanks that Nelson Mandela lived.” Truly we have become better humans by Mandela’s promotion of peace.

Mindful of the life work of Nelson Mandela, this season of thanksgiving, and the end of a remarkable year, GSU has much to be celebrated. We had 21 for Thanksgiving dinner with our son and daughters and their spouses, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. I thought the food would be beyond cold by the time everyone got in their “I am thankful for. . .” so I will try not to take as long as my family, but GSU has much to be thankful for . . . First, we, the faculty, applaud the Maimon administration which has led the charge to change the GSU reality. Our move to a full-service four-year university has been incredible: we have a first-year curriculum in place; we have expanded and added new academic programs; we have hired amazing new faculty and we are on target to hire 23 additional faculty members before the first-year students arrive; and our residence hall is near completion. I slow down on my drive in every day, just to check out the progress.

As we prepare for fall 2014, the GSU faculty has some significant concerns:

- (1) Faculty scheduling to accommodate both day/night classes, and the number of hours/days required to be on campus. The workloads will have to be adjusted so that faculty members are not teaching early morning and late night or all day. Considering: teaching, advising, research, course preparation and service, there should be a productive limit to the number of hours faculty are required to be on campus.
- (2) Scheduling. The Faculty Senate is very student-centered and agrees with the purpose for an open campus meeting time (for student club meetings, etc.). However, the Senate is opposed to scheduling this time 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. A Friday time slot would be more appropriate. Not being able to offer classes during the 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. timeframe or classes that may run into this timeframe is problematic and will seriously undermine our ability to offer our programs. Courses that are scheduled to run with the lab following would have to be rescheduled. Courses may have to be offered in shorter blocks of time on multiple days or less often during the academic year, which may mean that a 1 ½ - 2 year program completion may turn into a 2 ½ - 3 or more year program completion cycle. While we are preparing for the first-year students we have to continue to consider the needs of our transfer and graduate students.
- (3) Academic Calendar. The consensus of the Faculty Senate is that there must be set dates for student withdrawals and instructor grade submissions for courses taught in the 15 week term; exceptions can be made for short term courses.
- (4) Handicapped Parking. I am told that GSU is in compliance concerning the number of handicapped parking spaces. But it hardly seems to be in compliance when handicapped individuals have to park across the street several yards from the entrance or when handicapped students, faculty and staff have to park across the street when those individuals driving fuel efficient cars can park right outside the E and F wing entrance. The handicapped parking situation needs to be re-examined in light of the needs of the GSU population.

Our concerns are few; our challenges are many, but as long as we are working together: the faculty, staff, administration, and students, we will be successful! We are poised to be the model university for the 21st century. Thank you, Peace.

Laura Owens, Civil Service Senate President

Owens thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them at this meeting. She provided an overview of the Civil Service Senate in consideration of the new Trustees, highlighting the many fundraisers and activities the Senate oversees throughout the year. Owens thanked President Maimon and the Trustees who were able to attend the recent Civil Service Senate Day performance and luncheon. She thanked the Trustees and the Administration for their inclusiveness and belief in shared governance.

Kayla Randolph-Clark, Student Senate

Randolph-Clark reported on behalf of Senate President Lisa Wallace, who had to leave the meeting early. She extended a heartfelt thank you to the Board and Administration for supporting the Student Senate. Randolph-Clark reported on the many activities and initiatives the Senate is currently involved in, including enhancing programs, activities and events; improving campus communication through social media outlets; Awareness Thursday; increasing student attendance at campus-wide events; promoting school unity and spirit; increasing student and faculty engagement; and civic engagement. In support of shared governance the Senate is working on a forum and retreat for the Illinois public university student senates.

Public Comment

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Trustee Comments

Durkin thanked the Administration for all the work put into preparing for this meeting, which has been very informative. Beaupre thanked Senate President Muhammad for her report and her frankness in highlighting the challenges experienced with the many changes going on at GSU, while also embracing what the Board and Administration are trying to do. Addressing the Administration, Beaupre wished everyone a very joyous holiday season. He asked that everyone make the following New Year's resolution: to continue with the excellent work being put forth on behalf of the University, adding that he had faith that all involved will continue to do so.

Beaupre entertained a motion to adjourn. Mitchell made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting of the Full Board of Trustees adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney