

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes of the October 10, 2014 Full Board Meeting

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Full Board of Trustees met on Friday, October 10, 2014 in Engbretson Hall at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order at 11:59 am by Chair Brian D. Mitchell. Trustees Bruce N. Friefeld, Jack Beaupre, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, Anibal Taboas and Jeremy Joyce were in attendance. Trustee Eileen Durkin 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; 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; Elizabeth Cada, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Aurelio Valente, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Betsy Joseph, Director of University Housing and Auxiliary Services; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

Mitchell announced that the Board of Trustees will meet next on December 5, 2014. There will be no meetings on December 1, 2014.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report of the Board Committees

1. **Academic Affairs Committee.** Chair Taboas reported the Academic Affairs Committee met on October 10, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee discussed matters related to standard reports to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Committee adopted minutes for its meeting on May 9, 2014. The Committee also recommended *Resolution 15-03: Award of Professor Emeritus Status, Resolution 15-04: Approval of Division Name Change in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Resolution 15-05: Approval to Create the Division of Computing, Mathematics and Technology (CMT) in the College of Arts and Sciences* for inclusion on the Consent Agenda.

2. **Human Resources Committee.** Chair Tyson reported the Human Resources Committee met on October 10, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee heard a report from Trustee Tyson on Presidential Assessment. The Committee adopted the minutes of its meeting on May 9, 2014, and recommended adoption of *Resolution 15-06: Award of Rank and Tenure to Dr. Andrea Evans* by the Full Board, and adoption and inclusion of *Resolution 15-08: Approval of Personal Day for Non-Negotiated Employees* on the Consent Agenda.
3. **Budget and Finance Committee.** Chair Ormsby reported the Budget and Finance Committee met on October 10, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee heard reports on Purchases \$50,000-\$99,999 for the period of April 15, 2014 through September 16, 2014; Operational Budget vs. Actual Expenses as of August 31, 2014; and a report on Mandatory and Discretionary Tuition Waivers. Discussions took place on preliminary plans to upgrade the University's wired and wireless infrastructure and renovation of the campus dining facility. The Committee adopted the minutes of its meeting on May 9, 2014, and recommended inclusion of *Resolution 15-09: Approval of the FY15 Operating Budget*, *Resolution 15-10: Approval of Request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for FY16 Operating Appropriations*, and *Resolution 15-11: Approval of Request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for FY16 Capital Appropriations* on the Consent Agenda. The Committee also recommended including *Resolution 15-12: Authorization to Award a Contract or Contracts to Upgrade the University's Wired and Wireless Infrastructure* for inclusion on the Consent Agenda.
4. **Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations.** Chair Friefeld reported the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations met on October 10, 2014. A quorum was present. The Committee adopted the minutes of its meeting on February 28, 2014. A first reading of proposed revisions to Section V.B. of the Board of Trustee Regulations, which concerns Procurement regulations, took place. Chair Friefeld stated the remainder of the Board Regulations would be reviewed and revised as necessary in the months to come.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Mitchell entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2014 and June 19, 2014 Full Board meetings. Beaupre made a motion. Friefeld 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 15-03, 15-04, 15-05, 15-08, 15-09, 15-10, 15-11, and 15-12. Mitchell entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Taboas made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Items Not on the Consent Agenda

Mitchell entertained a motion to approve *Resolution 15—06: Award of Rank and Tenure to Dr. Andrea Evans*. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Trustees Beaupre, Friefeld, Mitchell, Ormsby, Taboas and Tyson voted aye. Trustee Durkin was absent, and Student Trustee Joyce is prohibited from voting on tenure. The motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

Chair Mitchell made the following remarks: I would like to welcome students from Professor Hodges' Higher Education course in the EdD in Leadership program. What a fall! We opened *Prairie Place*, welcomed FC14, introduced the completely renovated E/F Wing, and soon will have the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Library and *The Cube*. Just this morning the Board addressed the IT wireless and wired infrastructure on campus and approved renovation of these systems which are vital to our students' success. The Board of Trustees is listening to its constituents. What is best for our students and their curriculum is our focus, and this continues to raise the bar for President Maimon and the University. Intellectual life at GSU is strong and the Board is very thankful to everyone for their contributions in that regard.

Last week the Board was pleased to host retreats with the Civil Service Senate, the Student Senate, and the Faculty Senate. This type of collaboration is very rare in higher education, but we feel it is necessary for all sides to have the opportunity to hear from the various University stakeholders. Last night my son and I had an excellent time at the first Men's Basketball game where we met Jax, the GSU Jaguars mascot. The University has put together a great basketball program to represent GSU. Mitchell concluded by inviting everyone to GSU's inaugural *Family and Friends* events this weekend, and stated how very proud he is to be a member of this Board and to call himself a GSU Jaguar.

Elaine P. Maimon, President

President Maimon made the following remarks: I do agree with Chair Mitchell that Jax the Jaguar symbolizes more than athletics; it symbolizes GSU coming together as a comprehensive university. I also would like to welcome our doctoral students from Professor Hodges' class, whose first cohort will be graduating in May 2015. I also invite everyone to *Family and Friends*

Weekend and thank Dean Aurelio Valente and his staff for putting together an amazing array of activities.

On October 19 the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) awarded GSU and its Dual Degree Program its *Student Success and College Completion Award*, and on October 20, The National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition recognized the GSU Dual Degree Program with a second award which honors institutions that have designed and implemented outstanding collaborative initiatives enhancing significant transitions during the undergraduate experience. I would like to thank the Board for its commitment to the Dual Degree Program, and recognize Dean of Students Aurelio Valente, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Randi Schneider, Assistant to the President on Community College Partnerships Linda Uzureau, Director of the Dual Degree Program Roshaunda Ross, and their staffs for their dedication to its success, which these awards deservedly acknowledge. We have made the point, and made it nationally, that not just GSU but every 4-year comprehensive university must have an equal commitment to transfer students as it does to its 4-year students. In addition, the Lumina Foundation has recognized GSU as a completion university, and Provost Bordelon and I will be attending our second meeting of this elite group of universities in November.

A breakdown of our FC14 freshmen class identifies 242 student, 63% of which are female; 83% are age 17-19; 70% are Pell eligible, which demonstrates GSU's solid history of service to low income students; 61% are African-American and 12% are Latino/a; and 97% live within 30 miles of campus. The admit rate was 72.7% and the yield came in at 49.5%. This data will help our future recruiting efforts. It's been a wonderful transformation for the campus working with a full range of students and classes, and I believe our decision to become a comprehensive university has enhanced the education of everyone on campus. At Prairie Place we have 201 students and three faculty residents; 133 are freshmen, 58 are transfer students, and there are 10 graduate students. We've been learning quite a bit from this experience, and of course there has been some typical "sewing of wild oats" behavior by some of the younger students, but that is to be expected. As mentioned we have three faculty living at Prairie Place, resident assistants, and a Hall Council was recently elected. Everyone is doing everything in their power to help the students understand that their studies are their priority. We have an extensive early warning system in place, including *Save My Semester*, as part of our student success efforts. We are also finding out things about how to design the next phase of student housing; for example, most students don't like sharing a bathroom, and aren't interested in having a kitchen in their suite. We are providing a lot of on-campus activities and extending our shuttle bus service to students for shopping, etc. Wireless issues have arisen and I want to thank the Board for passing action to update the infrastructure.

I want to also thank the Board for participating in the *Vision 2020* strategic planning session, the Senate Retreats, and today's meetings. That is a lot of participation. We intend to bring a revised *Vision 2020* Draft to the December meeting. This has been a major transformative year and everyone on campus has been remarkably generous working together to make this a truly transformational 21st century university.

Trustees Beaupre and Tyson left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Rashidah Muhammad, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Muhammad made the following remarks: We must have the hardest working Board in the State. The faculty is excited about having first-year students at GSU. We are like second go-round parents; we learned from all the parents who went before us so we were able to develop a sound research-based general education curriculum. I had the opportunity to work with the first-year students over the summer in the Early Start program and I am currently teaching first-year composition. I am delighted to report that we have a group of eager-to-learn students. They are starting to feel the pressures of being in college. Our Administration, President Maimon, Provost Bordelon, and Dean of Students Dr. Valente are addressing several concerns. On the faculty side, the faculty cohort teams are working together on assignments, classroom expectations, etc.

We discussed this at last week's retreat, but Faculty wanted this item in the report, that is the need for increased marketing and recruiting efforts for GSU graduate programs.

The expectations for tenure and for promotion to full professor have increased, but so has the workload. This creates a very difficult situation for faculty with a 4-4 load, fall-spring. This means that they have to do research, publication and writing in the summer. That is causing some issues for some faculty. I have always tried to reserve one day a week for research and writing, and that's not working this semester. We need to look at this moving forward. Research is what makes you recognized nationally, and we need the time to do that.

Faculty are also concerned about scheduling research release time, which does not appear to be consistent across the board. We need to refine the procedures for release time.

GSU is now a 24/7 campus, and the all day class scheduling is creating problems for faculty participation in shared governance. It is difficult to schedule committee meetings. Committee members must arrive late and leave early due to teaching schedules. We have a full senate and most committees are staffed fully, but we fear that the schedule may be preventing several faculty members from serving on committees.

The General Education Task Force completed its charge and our first-year curriculum is in place. The Faculty Senate voted to convene the General Education Implementation Task Force for

AY14-15. This committee, with faculty members from all colleges, the Library, the University Curriculum Committee and the Administration will a) monitor and report the assessment outcomes and recommendations for enhancements; and b) identify and create a permanent organizational structure to assess the implementation of the General Education plan with an attention to shared governance, a clear path of leadership and duties, and bylaws and establishment of appropriate membership that comports with University governance structures. The first meeting of the General Education Implementation Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2014, from 10:30 to noon in the COE Conference Room, G261. At that meeting the Task Force will determine a schedule and structure for future meetings.

Faculty are very excited about the Junior-Year Seminars. Among its many benefits, these courses will provide a place where students going through GSU's gen ed curriculum can be compared with transfer students, and we can determine where improvements in instruction can be made. For their junior seminar many GSU programs are developing new courses while others are revising their intro-to-the-major course. Following the leadership of President Maimon, GSU intends to be the model for junior seminars.

One final area of concern is that as of July 1, 2015 all Illinois Public Universities will become smoke-free campuses. The Faculty are concerned about our student smokers who will no longer have the option to step outside on class breaks for a cigarette. We need an awareness campaign, counseling services and perhaps assistance from the Board of Health.

Please allow me to thank the Board for your guidance and support as GSU becomes a new university. Thank you. Peace.

Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President

Ms. Jones-Harper made the following remarks: On behalf of the Civil Service Senate I want to thank the Board of Trustees and the Administration for the recent retreat. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in these important discussions.

One item the Senate would like to keep in the forefront is the salary rates at GSU, which are not comparable to other Illinois Public Universities. We are also concerned about training for supervisors as we believe some supervisors do not have the skill set to supervise well. An employee handbook would be helpful, and in it we would like to include provisions that would allow civil service employees to participate in activities during work hours.

Family and Friends Weekend is coming up, and the Senate is very involved in the planning and running of this new GSU event. Another initiative of ours is to bring a breakfast cart to various departments throughout the year in order to recognize employees' hard work. The Annual Civil Service Senate Vendor Fair will take place November 19, 2014. This year's Council of Councils

meeting will take place October 16-17, 2014 at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and our Executive Committee plans to attend. It should be noted that Senate members not on the Executive Committee will need to use vacation days in order to attend.

Civil Service Day will take place on December 3, 2014, and I want to thank the Board and the Administration for attending and helping out that day.

With the addition of student housing and freshmen on campus, some departments have become stretched quite thin. The Department of Public Safety and Facilities Development and Management are seeking to add additional full-time staff. They have been utilizing 900-hour workers, but we would like you to consider hiring full-time staff so the temporary workers don't have to be continually trained. Finally, in an effort to project a unified professional front on campus the Senate would like to work with Marketing to develop materials for the Senate that mirror those of the University. The Senate has set aside some money in its budget for this purpose, and we look forward to working with them to develop these materials. Thank you.

Jeremy Joyce, Student Senate Representative to the Board of Trustees

Trustee Joyce made the following remarks on behalf of Student Senate President Lisa Wallace: On behalf of the Governors State University Student Government Association Student Senate, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you for your commitment to supporting the Governors State University Student Government as we continue to support the mission and the strategic plan of the university.

I want to thank you for taking time out of your schedule and giving us the opportunity to address some concerns and provide feedback on behalf of the students at Governors State University. Student Senate is committed and dedicated to assisting the Board of Trustee and the administration with achieving the mission and strategic plan for the University.

Student Senate would like to thank you, President Maimon, for the *Chat with the President* on October 1, 2014. Student Senate would also like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for the mini-retreat on October 3, 2014. Your continued support and guidance has helped make our mission and goals a reality. They are: advocating for students, promoting awareness, providing student and civic engagement, and most of all allowing us the opportunity to create a conducive learning environment and college experience for the students.

As we continue to work towards the mission, please know that the relationship with our Board of Trustee members and the Administration are vital to the success of the students. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the time and commitment given by the members of the Board of Trustees and the Administration. You have the profound gratitude of the University's students for all you have done to ensure a bright future for Governors State University Students. Please feel free to contact us for events, comments, questions and concerns. Thank you again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Mitchell entertained a motion to adjourn. Friefeld made a motion. Taboas seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote by Joyce, Ormsby, Friefeld, Taboas and Mitchell, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney