

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes of the March 4, 2016 Meeting

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The March 4, 2016 meeting of the Governors State University Board of Trustees was called to order by Board Chair Brian D. Mitchell at 8:32 am. Also in attendance were Trustees Bruce N. Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby, Anibal Taboas, and Student Trustee Yolanda Pitts. Trustee Jack Beaupre arrived at 8:45 am. Trustees Eileen Durkin and Lorraine Tyson were absent.

Others in attendance: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Gebeyehu Ejigu, Acting Executive Vice President and Treasurer; Barbara Winicki, Faculty Senate President; Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President; David Gethers, Student Senate Vice President; Jeffrey Slovak, Interim Vice President; Will Davis, Vice President for Development; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs; Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations; Penny Perdue, Executive Assistant to the President; Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Andrea Evans, Dean, College of Education; Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean, College of Business; Beth Cada, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost; Ann Vendrely, Associate Provost; Joyce Coleman, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Diversity; Keisha Dyson, Director of Marketing and Communications; John Buenger, Interim Vice President for ITS; James McGee, Director of Public Safety; Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President of Procurement; Mark Bennett, Attorney at Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin & Tominberg; Jim Jankowski, Cannon Design; and Greg Wachalski, Brailsford & Dunlavey.

Chair Mitchell welcomed and acknowledged Faculty Senate Representatives to the Board: David Golland, Jelena Radovic-Fanta, Melanie Ellexson, Susan Ji, Yonghong Jia, Xinghua Gao, and Vickie Person.

Chair's Report, Brian D. Mitchell

Chair Mitchell made the following remarks: Thank you for the many condolences I received following the recent loss of my Mom. Today the Board convenes in the eighth month of a budgetary stalemate in Springfield. Our responsibility and commitment to the students of GSU and to the University as a whole will guide the actions we take today, as they have guided the planning and steps already taken by the administration, faculty and students of the University. I would like to commend my fellow Board members for their dedication and willingness to tackle these difficult issues. We may not, at this moment, know exactly what our future holds but make

no mistake—and I am echoing President Maimon’s recent statement—GSU is open, and we plan to remain open. (Applause).

The careful planning by this Board and GSU’s administration has led us to our relatively stable current position. We have been vigilant stewards of our money. We have expanded the University and grown enrollment in spite of the budget situation and in a time of overall declining enrollments throughout the State. Much applause to the GSU administration for their hard work. (Applause). The progress that we have made should be a sense of accomplishment, noting the E&F wing renovations, the Dual Degree Program, the admission of freshmen, and the list goes on and on. And we will continue to move the University forward.

Today, we will make decisions about next year’s tuition and fees. We will also consider actions that may need to be taken if the budget stalemate continues. We have to plan. We will hear about the recent Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit which was an opportunity for GSU to show all that we do well. The HLC team could not fail to be impressed by the dedication and hard work of our faculty and staff. I look forward to hearing from our senate presidents later this morning, and would like to especially thank Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale who has done a great deal of advocacy work on behalf of GSU and its students. Mychael is a thoughtful and eloquent voice for the students. I also want to thank President Maimon. She does not have an easy job, especially at this time. She continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the institution and the students, and we will continue to support her as she carries the torch for GSU. Students are the reason we are all here. We are here to provide what they need. Everyone that has submitted an application is looking for a result. I stand here to make the hopes and dreams of all the students come true. Please continue to support one another and we will get through this together. (Applause).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mitchell requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Pitts made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to sections 2(c)1, 2(c)3, and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Taboas seconded. Roll call was taken and Trustees Mitchell, Friefeld, Ormsby, Taboas and Pitts were present. Durkin, Beaupre, and Tyson were absent. The Executive Session commenced at 8:39 a.m. Beaupre arrived at 8:45 am. President Maimon, Provost Bordelon, Acting Executive Vice President Ejigu, Associate Vice President Joyce Coleman, General Counsel Alexis Kennedy, and Mark Bennett, Attorney at Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin & Tominberg remained in Executive Session, which adjourned at 10:15 a.m. by a motion from Friefeld and a second from Ormsby. Roll call was taken by Kennedy. Mitchell announced that no final action was taken during Executive Session, and Open Session resumed at 10:25 a.m.

President’s Report, Dr. Elaine P. Maimon

President Maimon made the following remarks: Thank you, Chair Mitchell. Some things are worth repeating: GSU is open and we are staying open. We are rigorously recruiting for summer

and fall. We are going to celebrate the graduation of our first freshman class in 2018 and our 50th anniversary in 2019. Spread the word! Now, that doesn't happen without many, many people working together. First and foremost, I want to thank our Trustees. Illinois' organizational structure allows our regional universities to be governed by an independent Board, not a remote bureaucracy, and that governing structure makes all the difference in our ability to weather adversity. We are grateful for a Board that encourages GSU to be innovative and nimble, as together we reinvent higher education for the 21st century. We deeply appreciate the time, energy, intellect, and dedication that you give to Board service. (Applause).

We have reformed. We've done more than that. We've transformed. Our enrollment has grown because of the important initiatives that were all discussed and approved by this Board. I think you understand that our new initiatives are the things that are keeping us in a relatively good position. Our lower division initiative, the Dual Degree Program which brings more full-time community college transfer students to GSU, has opened new markets and has had a very important fiscal impact. Also, in a two-year timeframe, our international student enrollment has increased 700%. It should be noted that they are not taking seats away from Illinois students, which sometimes happens at other regional institutions. They are filling empty seats and enriching the lives of our place-bound Illinois students. As we say in our mission statement, we are committed to aiding our students in succeeding in a global society.

One might ask, how have we built an athletics program when there are all these budget constraints? Because our athletics program is low cost and funded entirely by student fees. The Athletic Director told me that with GSU's seven teams collectively they had one overnight stay. Having athletics has brought us students we would not have been able to serve otherwise. Prairie Place has allowed us to attract students who want a residential experience. Over the last two years our new initiatives have brought in about \$17M, and that is definitely helping us. If GSU looked today the way it did five years ago, we would be having a very different conversation.

So here we are in the ninth month, in a situation of independence from all state funds, without a penny for appropriations or a penny for MAP grants. Who would have imagined this? And we have no clear idea about the timing or level of current or future state support. Times of trouble test our core values. Our primary core value is to invest in student success, which has been our value since GSU's founding and is clearly stated as our number one core value in *Vision 2020*. The team from the Higher Learning Commission that visited campus last week commented on our commitment to student success, and told us that you can tell a lot about an institution from the attitude of its students. In these trying times putting students first is more than a catch phrase; it requires shared sacrifice. It means making tough choices and we have been making them. Offices are understaffed, but when a student has a question that takes priority. Our hard freezes on hiring and travel are not good, but we have to make choices and if it means covering the liability for the MAP grants we will continue these measures of sacrifice. Today we are affirming GSU's commitment to continue to accept liability for MAP awards in fall 2016 because it is essential for students to enroll and concentrate on their studies without worrying about whether the State of Illinois will fulfill their promise to the students. We will continue to fulfill this

liability because we know many of our students would not be enrolled without this financial help. They would be nowhere; not at another institution, nowhere. Putting students first is the right thing and a good business plan. The more students we educate and retain to graduation, the more we control our own destiny.

Last week, Moody's did not downgrade GSU when a number of our sister institutions were downgraded. In these circumstances we are going to take solace wherever we can find it. We are not announcing furloughs and layoffs today. Given our growth trajectory and already lean programmatic efforts we don't have much flexibility to cut back. We do not want to do furloughs and layoffs. But as good fiscal stewards we must plan for various scenarios and therefore today we will ask the Board for the authority to institute furloughs and layoffs, though these are measures we hope we will not have to take. We will continue to concentrate on the things we can control and not allow external factors to define us. I continue to work with the other university presidents and chancellors and we met this week on March 1, at which time we agreed on some items to present to the legislators. I want to extend a special thank you to Maureen Kelly, GSU's Director of Governmental and Community Relations, who has been working day and night on our behalf. Maureen tells me that there may be a small glimmer of hope that we will have some resolution of the FY16 budget before we are well into FY17, although it is very unlikely there will be much forward progress until after the primary elections on March 15. We are working very, very hard to make the case for the public universities. I also want to give a special thank you to the Student Senate and Mychael Vanarsdale, who is not here today, for organizing a regional rally scheduled for this coming Monday, March 7 at 3:30 pm at GSU's Main Entrance. This event is co-sponsored by the Prairie Place Council, the Graduate Professional Network, and the Coalition for Higher Education in Illinois. At the rally we will be hosting students from area community colleges and private colleges, business leaders, legislators, and GSU students, faculty and staff. Please attend and encourage the entire campus community to stand behind our students in their appeal to the State of Illinois to Invest in Higher Education!

To all of you gathered here, I want to thank you for investing every day in Illinois higher education and in GSU. I want to thank you for your dedication and sacrifice during these troubled times. By putting students first, we will prevail and survive.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Patrick Ormsby, presented the following items:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report on Purchases \$50,000-\$99,999 for the period of November 24, 2015 through February 14, 2016

There were no items to report for this period.

Budget to Actual Report as of February 29, 2016

Slovak presented. A handout was provided. Slovak explained the financial table was structured by standard line items, including the FY16 budget approved at the December 2015 Board meeting, a detail of actual expenses to date, and projected costs through June 30, 2016. As noted in President Maimon's report, a number of interventions have been undertaken to reduce expenditures including travel restrictions and not filling vacant positions. These interventions have led to over \$570,000 in savings, which he explained will aid the University in meeting expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

Status Report on Remodeling of the Dining Facility

Ejigu presented, pointing out that the Board authorized the Administration to implement this project at the December 2015 meeting. A Request for Proposal was issued following that action; however, given the kind of financial uncertainty arising from the continuing budget stalemate in Springfield, the President decided to preserve the University's cash position and hold off on the implementation of this initiative at this time. Ormsby stated he agreed with this position.

Status Report on the Document Imaging System

Slovak reported that the same position is being taken for this initiative: it is on hold. Maimon commented that for the public record the University is very sorry to be putting these projects on hold. The redesign of the cafeteria, which is 45 years old, is tenuous. The document imaging project is quite important in order to be responsive to students with regard to their applications. She reiterated these are not discretionary type projects, but that the State is putting the University under pressure. Ejigu pointed out that as soon as the State budget situation is resolved with a reasonable outcome the University intends to proceed with both projects.

Report on the Feasibility Study for Prairie Place 2

Slovak introduced Jim Janowski of Cannon Design, Chairman of the team that worked on the design study, and Greg Wachalski of Brailsford and Dunlavey. Slovak explained that any good feasibility study should answer three questions, 1) can we build the building we want to build for the amount of money we think we will have to raise in the marketplace; 2) if the answer to #1 is yes, can we actually go into the market and issue bonds; and 3) if the answer to #1 and #2 are yes, can we attract a sufficient number of students in a short period of time after the structure is complete? Slovak stated the answers the evaluation team came to were: 1) yes; 2) yes; and 3) not now.

He went on to explain that the Administration walked into this project planning to build a 300 bed facility, a dining facility, and a small healthcare facility. The teams at Cannon Design and Brailsford and Dunlavey took a long look at these proposals and their suggestion was that the dining facility would only work if there were 1000-1200 beds filled. Therefore, that piece of the project came off the design plan fairly early. A healthcare facility would add costs and not generate revenue, and the location would be ideal for residential students but out of the way for commuter students, so that piece came off the table. Going back to question 1, it was estimated that a student housing facility could be built at a slightly higher cost per bed than Prairie Place 1.

In response to question 2, the University went into the market with an RFP seeking responses to proposals for potential underwriters. An evaluation of these proposals revealed the University would be able to issue bonds and raise the money to build the facility, albeit at a higher interest rate than Prairie Place 1 as a result of downgrades and other financial conditions in Illinois. However, the answer to question 3 turned out to be “not now.” To provide more detail Slovak turned the discussion over to Mr. Wachalski.

Mr. Wachalski explained the process undertaken in their study, which included focus groups, a student survey, a financial analysis, and a demand analysis based on enrollment projections provided by GSU’s Institutional Research department. A total of 338 students, or 6.5% of all students, participated in the survey. When asked why they would choose to live on campus the major themes of safety and convenience arose. Concerns brought up included cost and privacy issues. Using various metrics, it was concluded it is too early to build Prairie Place 2, with an estimated demand of about 80 beds in the moderate scenario. It is recommended that the University continue to market Prairie Place 1, continue to grow enrollment, and recruit students with a higher propensity to live on campus such as out-of-state and international students.

Slovak concluded by asking if not now, then when? In order to answer that question the Administration will monitor enrollment closely, including retention of existing students, as well as increase efforts in international recruitment. The Board will be updated periodically. Ormsby asked if another feasibility study would be required when considering the construction of Prairie Place 2 in the future. Slovak responded an upgrade to the current data would be needed, but that some of the work has been completed within this study.

Report on Emergency Water Main Repairs

Ejigu provided a brief recap of the emergency repairs that were necessary following a water main break that occurred on November 30, 2015 that affected the first floor of both the C and D wings. Because of the emergency situation the President used her authority under Board of Trustees Regulations Section V.B.1.c. to allow for repairs by M & J Underground of Monee, Illinois for a total amount of \$165,252. Board Regulations require that the President present a report on exceptions granted under this provision at the next regular meeting of the Board, and a memo in the Board Book serves that purpose. There were no questions.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16—23: Approval of Tuition Rates for Academic Year 2016-2017

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-23. Friefeld made a motion. Mitchell seconded. Slovak reported the Planning and Budget Advisory Council (PBAC) met and discussed tuition and fee rates for the upcoming academic year. A zero increase at all levels was recommended by PBAC. He explained this is a price based strategy that demonstrates to prospective students and current students that GSU is paying attention to their ability to pay to attend the University. Slovak pointed out that some peer institutions have taken a similar stance while others are raising tuition. Ormsby commented that this is a good strategy not only because

some other institutions are raising their tuition, but also because an increase in tuition will not result in significantly more revenue. Additionally, it is good for current students and prospective students. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—24: Approval of Mandatory Student Fees for Academic Year 2016-2017

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-24. Friefeld made a motion. Pitts seconded. Slovak explained the Administration is proposing an increase in one fee and the creation of a second. The remainder will remain at their current levels. PBAC is recommending that the Facilities Fee be increased in order to fund deferred maintenance and/or respond to emergency facility issues; and the new fee is to create a student health center. GSU has an agreement with Riverside Medical, but for on-campus healthcare a facility needs to be developed. Maimon reiterated that GSU would still have the lowest combined tuition and fees amongst the Illinois public universities. Slovak pointed out that a student referendum was held and of those that participated, 68% voted “yes” on the health fee, while 61% voted “no” on the facilities fee. Taboas asked if there is a budgeting mechanism for maintenance, following a structured approach for preventative maintenance, or is it reactionary in response to emergencies as they arise. Slovak explained the University has been working for several years to build a reserve fund for deferred maintenance, and that funds from the Facilities Fee are set aside for maintenance and repairs. However, this year the Administration has been forced to use some of those funds to maintain University operations, and therefore preventative maintenance projects are not being done unless they are a matter of life safety. Ejigu added this is an area that concerns the Administration quite a lot because as this work is deferred a backlog of maintenance projects grows, which is wrong; however, without some capital funding the University will have to continue working on these issues piece by piece. He stated the major concern at this point is the deteriorating underground water pipelines, which following a comprehensive study was found to have a cost of \$5-6.5M to repair and replace. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—25: Approval of a Policy to Establish and Maintain an Operating Reserve Fund

Maimon stated that the Administration respectfully asks that this item be delayed until the May Board of Trustees meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES Items

Human Resources Vice Chair, Brian Mitchell, presented the following items:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report on the Civil Service Merit Board (CSMB)

Mitchell reported the CSMB has the same concerns as the Illinois public universities. The Merit Board sent a letter to Governor Rauner and the legislative leaders regarding the lack of a budget and the impact/concerns this is causing. The letter informed the Governor of the negative effects

being experienced within higher education for students, faculty and staff. Illinois' universities and agencies have long passed a critical stage to the point where layoffs are being experienced. The letter concluded by stating students are suffering from the inaction of the State's legislators and the long term effects and loss of confidence are reaching a point of no return.

The CSMB accepted and adopted an Emergency Furlough and Layoff rule effective March 1, 2016. The Merit Board has also reorganized and will elect the following officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and two additional members to the Executive Committee. The next meeting of the CSMB is scheduled for May 11, 2016.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16—26: Authorization of Contingent Cost Saving Measures that may be necessitated by a Prolonged State Budget Stalemate

Mitchell requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-26. Ormsby made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Maimon explained that as noted in her report, the University is not announcing furloughs or layoffs at this time; however, the Administration does need to prepare for that possibility. This action provides authority by the Board to do so. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS Items

Academic Affairs Chair, Anibal Taboas, presented the following items:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Program Accreditation Status Summary

Bordelon summarized the report, which can be found in the Board Book. There have been three accreditation visits for Academic Year (AY) 2015-2016. In October, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International Peer Review team visited campus for initial accreditation. Their report indicated the University met 17 of 20 standards and a one-year deferral of initial accreditation was granted. One of the issues was addressed immediately and the other two are in the process of being addressed. The AACSB team will return for a site visit in September 2016 and the Board will be updated at the October 2016 meeting. The Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (ASHA) completed a site visit on October 9, 2015. Bordelon noted this was a very positive visit and that the University was not asked to submit any additional information. The program awaits the final report from the accrediting board. The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) has indicated informally that both undergraduate and graduate programs in social work have been fully accredited after meeting two conditions: the hiring of a faculty member for a vacant position and the submission of some forms. Although the University is awaiting their formal letter, the CSWE website does indicate that these programs are fully accredited.

Report on Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Mid-Cycle Visit

Bordelon reported that this visit took place last week. She thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to this successful visit. Associate Provosts Ann Vendrely and Colleen Sexton and Institutional Research Director Marco Kratochivich led the team, who she noted constructed a very well written assurance argument. People across campus assisted with the visit, including student ambassadors and members of the Board of Trustees. Bordelon pointed out that the accrediting team was very impressed with the Board and enjoyed their meeting, stating it was refreshing to meet with a Board that is so passionate about the institution they serve. The final report should be received in about six weeks. Taboas commented that feedback he obtained indicated the visit went very well, and that he is grateful to all who participated.

Taboas asked that a report on completion rates be brought before the Trustees as a future agenda item.

FULL BOARD

ACTION ITEM

Approval of Minutes

Mitchell requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2015 meeting. Taboas made a motion. Pitts seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

SENATE REPORTS

Barbara Winicki, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Winicki made the following remarks: I want to again thank Provost Bordelon, Associate Provost Sexton, and Associate Provost Vendrely for their continued attendance at Faculty Senate meetings. This is an important mark of shared governance. I also want to thank Faculty Senate Vice President David Golland, Secretary Mary Carrington, and Standing Committee Chairs Sandra Gandy, Andrius Tamulis, and Beth Parin. Between the HLC visit and the numerous cyclical reports for IBHE this semester has been especially busy for us. The GSU faculty take seriously their role in shared governance and know their participation is important in protecting the integrity of our programs. I do believe the high quality of our programs will attract students most of the time, and it is my hope that students are attracted by the quality, and not the ease, of a program. It is necessary that faculty maintain the quality of our existing programs and meet the needs, not the wants, of our students. The hiring freeze has had some negative effects on some programs. Not replacing retirees has left some programs without sufficient faculty to staff courses, which is a burden to some faculty who often do not have the time to produce the research and writing necessary to meet division criteria for tenure. As a result, GSU has lost good faculty members to other universities. This lack of quality faculty members leads to non-retention of students and loss of potential students. We have to ensure by word of mouth that GSU is in a positive position.

Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President

Ms. Jones-Harper made the following remarks: We recently changed our meeting dates to accommodate scheduling conflicts. A committee was formed to begin organizing the upcoming elections. Current senators with terms ending in 2016 and who are also running for reelection are ineligible to serve on the election committee. Any civil service employee that has been employed at GSU for at least one year is eligible to run for the 11 vacant senate seats. Information regarding the election will be emailed to all civil service employees. During the month of February, I attended the President's Town Hall, a PBAC meeting, a PBAC IT Committee meeting, and met with the HLC accreditors. These are excellent opportunities to report back to the Senate, who is concerned about furloughs and layoffs. I have reinforced to Senate members that none are scheduled at this time. Joyce Coleman will be at our next meeting to answer questions about continued employment. The Civil Service Senate plans to support the *Save Our Schools Rally* on March 7, organized by the Student Senate. All available civil service employees are encouraged to stand in solidarity with the students of GSU and other regional universities, community colleges, public officials, and community members.

David Gethers, Student Senate Vice President

Mr. Gethers made the following remarks: It is truly an honor to be here. On behalf of the Student Senate I would like to personally thank our President, Dr. Maimon, for her outstanding leadership and service to our campus. The Student Senate has continued to fight for our rights for a quality education and the budget necessary to have that quality education. We've stood united with other public and private collegiate institutions with ambitions that our General Assembly will pass Senate Bill 2043 with regards to State MAP Grants. On February 16, Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale, Student Senate Secretary Marie Penny, and I went to Springfield to visit with legislators and the Illinois Federation of Teachers Director, where we handed over 50,000 petitions to the Governor's Office. Mr. Vanarsdale also spoke at a press conference on Capitol Hill held by the *Responsible Budget Coalition*. We then met with several representatives and participated in a group meeting with the Senate Democrats on the Higher Education Committee. The following day, February 17, a delegation led by Student Trustee Yolanda Pitts attended a statewide rally on Capitol Hill, where an additional 10,000 petitions from students statewide were handed over to the Governor's Office. In addition to our lobbying efforts the Student Senate has actively pushed the voting initiative which we call "GSU Rock the Vote". This has entailed numerous days of registering voters, and getting GSU designated as an official early polling place March 7-11, and March 15. Last, but certainly not least, we are hosting a rally on March 7 at 3:30 pm at the Main Entrance, and we're asking everyone who can attend to come and support Governors State University and the other collegiate institutions in our state. Thank you for your time, and that concludes the Student Senate Report.

Beaupre commented that in this state there has been a long tradition of students' voices being heard in Springfield. He congratulated GSU's Student Senate for taking on the programs they have and participating in the discussions regarding the budget crisis. He went on to say that what may be occurring, as far as student governance is concerned, is that some politicians may not

know what kind of response they should give the students enrolled in the state universities. Therefore, the work of the collective state student governments is making a big impact. Beaupre concluded by congratulating Mr. Gethers and the GSU Student Senate for their efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 16—23: Approval of Tuition Rates for Academic Year 2016-2017

Resolution 16—24: Approval of Mandatory Student Fees for Academic Year 2016-2017

Mitchell requested that Resolution 16-23 and Resolution 16-24 be brought for a roll call vote. Ormsby made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Johns Maloney and Mitchell, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Taboas, and Pitts voted aye. There were no nays. Durkin and Tyson were absent. The motion passed.

Resolution 16—26: Authorization of Contingent Cost Saving Measures that may be necessitated by a Prolonged State Budget Stalemate

Mitchell requested that Resolution 16-26 be brought for a roll call vote. Taboas made a motion. Pitts seconded. Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Johns Maloney and Mitchell, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Taboas, and Pitts voted aye. There were no nays. Durkin and Tyson were absent. The motion passed.

Board Elections

Friefeld, Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance, and Nominations, oversaw the annual Board Election process. Kennedy distributed ballots, and tallied the results. The slate of *Brian D. Mitchell, Chair; Eileen Durkin, Vice Chair; and Bruce N. Friefeld, Secretary*, was voted in unanimously. Mitchell thank the Board for their confidence in the current leadership.

Resolution 16—27: Appointment of Board Committees

Mitchell requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-27, which keeps the current Board Committee assignments intact. Taboas made a motion. Beaupre seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Dieringer, community member

Mr. Dieringer made the following comments: I was here last fall when we were looking at doing some good things on campus, but unfortunately they are on hold. I want to start with the most recent issue, students being involved in government. Last Tuesday we had a 2nd Congressional District debate at Prairie State College (PSC) and not a single student was there. So there is a problem, and I think it's more about communication. I think these board meetings should be put on cable. I think we would get more support from our community if we put this information out there. We have a big issue going on in Chicago Heights, the possible closing of St. James Hospital, and I think the University should join in that effort because you need healthcare as well. Balmoral Park is closed, and I think this would be the ideal place for a healthcare facility,

especially to serve veterans. You're involved in a cancer study with the University of Illinois and I think this is a good thing, so there are a lot of good reasons for you to be involved in the community. With regard to drinking water and the Flint, Michigan crisis, I believe we have the same problem in this community. Probably 80% of the people in this room have faulty service lines. There is a short term solution to dealing with lead in our water, clearing out the lead line, and we know that there is no minimum standard for lead in water. I have sent emails to you and PSC officials about getting involved in this issue. I think it would be a win-win situation for using your resources.

Alyse Ziemer, community member

Ms. Ziemer made the following comments: As I go through my daily life environmentally, I run into a lot of senior citizens and I'm always encouraged when I see that. The president of Thorn Creek Nature Center used to work here. Last night at a Park Forest Commission meeting I met another woman who graduated from here. The last time I was here I thanked you for the energy summit. A Will County Forest Preserve function was held here, which I was unable to attend, but it wasn't well advertised and I had something else to do. As far as attendance at political functions, students do show up at GSU. I did sign the petition for funding higher education. If anyone has been at GSU for 28 years or longer, please contact me regarding a personal research project after the meeting. I'm also involved in an environmental think tank.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Ormsby made the following remarks: As Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee I want everyone to understand that I have been very impressed by the fiscal management of GSU since I have been on the Board, and because of this we are in a stronger financial position to weather this budget crisis. We have experienced some pain, but I'm very confident that we will weather this storm. And the public will know that we are open for business and will be. We need that word to get out.

Trustee Mitchell made the following remarks: I enjoy being part of this Board. Thank you for the confidence. The Board of Trustees is very pleased by the work being done by the administration, faculty and staff. I know it's hard for students to continue in such a climate, but please encourage them. Keep everyone informed as much as possible. The Board and I stress open communication and we want to make sure people are getting accurate information. I wish everyone well.

Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn. Taboas made a motion. Ormsby seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote, and the Governors State University Board of Trustees meeting for March 4, 2016 adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney