

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the October 11, 2013 Meeting**

**Anibal Taboas, Chair**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met on Friday, October 11, 2013 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Anibal Taboas. Also in attendance were Committee members Brian D. Mitchell and Kayla Randolph-Clark, and Trustees Jack Beaupre, Bruce Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby and Lorraine Tyson. Trustee Eileen Durkin was absent.

Others present: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Karen Kissel, Vice President for Administration and Finance; Courtney Kohn Sanders, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing; Will Davis, Interim Vice President for Development; Rashidah J. Muhammad, President, Faculty Senate; Laura Owens, President, Civil Service 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; Elizabeth Cada, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean, College of Business and Public Administration; Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President for Administration and Finance; Professors David Golland and Shaalein Lopez, Faculty Senate Representatives to the Board of Trustees; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

Taboas introduced Faculty Senate Representatives, Drs. David Golland and Shaalein Lopez, as well as Trustees Jack Beaupre, Bruce Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby and Lorraine Tyson

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Program Approval Process.** Bordelon provided an explanation of the program approval process through the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Two charts explaining the process were available in the Board book. There were no questions.
2. **IBHE Program Approvals – January-October 2013.** Taboas asked Bordelon to provide an explanation of the driver for change in the expansion of academic programs.

Bordelon stated that the Academic Master Plan (AMP) was developed by former Provost Terry Allison in 2010 and a committee was formed which includes faculty from each college, library staff, and student affairs staff. The Committee identifies gaps that need to be filled to serve the needs of the community as well as growing fields of study. Proposed programs are studied and developed, and then brought before the IBHE and the Board for approval. She added that the creation or deletion of an academic program requires Board of Trustees approval in order to move forward.

3. **GSU Program Accreditation Status Summary – October 2013.** Bordelon explained this report is an update on the accreditation status of GSU's academic programs and is provided at each Board meeting. Changes since the last report are highlighted in the report, which is in the Board book. Taboas commented that it appears the University is set for a while. Bordelon confirmed, adding that a site visit for the Master's in Health Administration program by the accrediting body is scheduled for mid-November, and the Counseling MA and EdD Programs will go through their reaccreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in fall 2013.
4. **IBHE Cyclical Program Reviews for AY13-14.** Bordelon provided an explanation of the chart in the book. Taboas stated he is interested in receiving information on the number of students that begin and complete each program in order to gauge success rates. Bordelon replied reporting of this information is due in early February, and this report will be presented at the February 2014 Board meeting.
5. **Reasonable and Moderate Extension Request (RME) - Undergraduate Pre-Law Minor.** Taboas asked Bordelon to explain the context of introducing this program, and whether it is driven by existing interest in getting students into this field, or is it part of a plan that includes going further than the minor? Bordelon responded that the University does not anticipate going further than the minor; rather GSU is looking at how this minor can fit into some other majors. She added that it has been very student driven, and a Pre-Law student organization is being formed.
6. **Annual Listings.** Bordelon pointed out the two programs mentioned in the report, the Certificate in Biotechnology and Bio-Analysis and the joint degree from two approved programs, Political & Justice Studies, MA and the Public Administration, MPA. She gave a brief explanation of why these changes are being made, adding that the combining of the MPA in Public Administration and the MA in Political Justice Studies was a very student driven initiative. Taboas asked if there was some tie in to GSU's partner universities. Bordelon responded that there has not been any interaction at this point, but it is perhaps something the faculty could take a look at. There are opportunities for guest

speakers and collaboration with other universities with regard to professional growth possibilities.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. ***Resolution 14—03: RNUI – Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Sexuality Studies.***

Bordelon explained that there is currently a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies that has been very popular with students. The interesting part is that the faculty worked across the Colleges to look at building this major. It is an interdisciplinary major with courses from all four colleges included in the program. Taboas requested a motion to include Resolution 14-03 on the Consent Agenda. Mitchell made a motion. Beaupre seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. ***Resolution 14—10: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates.*** Maimon provided an

explanation of how the Honorary Degree Committee compiles the list of candidates, emphasizing that the candidates must have a connection to the mission of GSU. Candidates remain on the list for three years. The Board delegates the choice of the candidate to be honored at the upcoming commencement exercises to the President, which can be complicated given the candidates' busy schedules. Taboas asked if there is much diversity on the current list of candidates. Bordelon stated there is, and she will provide the complete list of candidates to the Trustees. Taboas asked about the timetable for choosing candidates, to which Maimon responded that sometimes invitations are sent a year in advance. Taboas requested a motion to place Resolution 14-10 on the Consent Agenda. Randolph-Clark made a motion. Beaupre seconded. Maimon added that those individuals nominating a candidate provide a strategy for communicating with the individuals. Having a personal connection is important. Tyson commented that she is very impressed with the list. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Taboas asked if the Faculty Senate representatives had any comments, which they did not. There were no requests for Public Comment. Taboas requested a motion to adjourn. Beaupre made a motion. Randolph-Clark seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote, and the Academic Affairs Committee adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney