

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes of the October 2, 2015 Meeting

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The October 2, 2015 meeting of the Governors State University Board of Trustees was called to order by Board Chair Brian D. Mitchell at 8:42 a.m. Also in attendance were Trustees Eileen Durkin, Bruce N. Friefeld, Jack Beaupre, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson and Student Trustee Yolanda Pitts. Trustee Anibal Taboas was absent.

Others present: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; David J. Meadows, Executive Vice President and Treasurer; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Will Davis, Vice President for Development; Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs; Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations; Barbara Winicki, Faculty Senate President; Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President; Mychael Vanarsdale, Student 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; Beth Cada, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Andrea Evans, Dean, College of Education; Penny Perdue, Executive Assistant to the President; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

Mitchell welcomed and acknowledged Faculty Senate Representatives to the Board; David Golland, Melanie Ellexson, Susan Ji, Vickie Person, Yonghong Jia, and Xinghua Gao.

Chair's Report, Brian D. Mitchell

Chair Mitchell made the following remarks: Good morning and welcome. We have a full schedule today and much to discuss. As you can see from the agenda the Board will hold a single meeting going forward, allowing for full discussion of issues by all Trustees, input from the senates and the public, but also in a more streamlined meeting format. Today we will hear from President Maimon and Executive Vice President Meadows about the FY16 budget as the State of Illinois deals with very real and very serious issues. As a result of the State's budget crisis GSU is dealing with unprecedented uncertainty. It is gratifying to me that the administration, faculty and staff are facing these challenges with creativity and tenacity. While we are dealing with having no budget, the work of the University is being done; students are in class, research is underway, athletic teams are competing, and programs and initiatives are moving forward. In short, we are engaged in the process of educating our students while providing them with a robust campus life. In the midst of a state budget crisis, GSU is thriving. As the budget

discussion will show, we are, as best we can, controlling our costs while increasing enrollment. GSU is student centered and we need to maintain our focus on them.

Today we will also deal with the ordinary business of the University with reports on student waivers, housing, and accreditation. We will take up the matters of professor emeritus status for two faculty members and tenure for another two. We will hear reports from our three senate presidents. I want to take a moment to welcome Dr. Barbara Winicki to the table. Congratulations on your election as Faculty Senate President. We look forward to hearing from you. I am now going to turn to President Maimon for her President's Report.

President's Report, Elaine P. Maimon

President Maimon made the following remarks: Thank you, Chair Mitchell. Despite the state budget impasse, August and September were great months to be a Jaguar, and October promises to be even better. According to official fall census figures, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment is up 5.4%, a very strong showing in comparison with other Illinois regionals. More students, undergraduate and graduate, are attending GSU full-time. That means a more efficient pathway to their degrees, the most important thing. Full-time undergrad enrollment is up 9% over last year and full-time master's enrollment is up 42.5%. The international student population is up 233% over a year ago, and Prairie Place is now at full capacity. One important reason for the success of Prairie Place is the documented safety factor. Chief McGee informed me yesterday that GSU is now officially the safest public university campus in the State of Illinois. If you include public university campuses in northwest Indiana, we are still number one. Safety is a big priority here. Many thanks to our public safety officers and the whole campus community.

On a more somber note, accidents may still happen even on safe campuses. In August we lost our historic barn to fire. For safety purposes, the silo will be demolished and we are clearing the area of debris. The fire was an accident as confirmed by the Fire Marshal. Insurance claims will allow us to replace snow removal equipment and construct a place to store it. Facilities Development Management (FDM) is currently working on a site plan for the barn area and we will keep you informed.

Now back to the good news. On September 9, I had the pleasure to tell the GSU story to 500 eminent Chicago citizens as part of *Know Your Chicago*. Following that event 200 members of this group traveled to GSU on two subsequent days to tour the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and learn more about GSU. During these three separate events we made incredible connections that we feel confident will result in philanthropic opportunities. In other recent events, GSU was the first university to respond to Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's challenge to join the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) in developing an alliance with Chicago City Colleges' Star Scholarship Students. Because of the Dual Degree Program (DDP) we were already ahead of the game; and on Tuesday I met with Mayor Emanuel and representatives from UIC, Roosevelt, and Loyola to develop the project. I will be reporting to the Board as this project evolves.

GSU takes its commitment to create a culture of democracy on campus and in our partnerships very seriously. It's very important that this culture of democracy is embedded throughout the campus. October 23 we will host our eighth university-wide symposium on the topic of Citizenship Across the Curriculum and Across the Campus. Caryn Musil, author of "A Crucible Moment," will guide us through activities designed to bring civic engagement from the periphery to the center. These university-wide symposia have been wonderful, productive community building activities that have aided in GSU's transformation. Yesterday we celebrated the 5th birthday of the Chicagoland Alliance for Degree Completion, our community college partnership that created the Dual Degree Program. We marked the occasion with a keynote by Dr. Shaun Harper, the founding Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Harper's visit was the culmination of a year's work in partnership with Prairie State College to explore strategies to help male students of color complete degrees. Linda Uzureau, GSU's specialist in community college alliances, gave her heart and soul to this project. Both Linda and (Provost) Deb (Bordelon) are such careful managers of our Kresge Grant that we were able to fund the entire event with those funds, in this 5th and final year of the grant. At this summit we hosted over 200 people from GSU, Prairie State College, and the superintendents of Homewood-Flossmoor and Crete-Monee High Schools. Prairie State College President Terri Winfrey and I signed a commitment to the Male Success Initiative and asked our other community partners to join us. Therefore it's pretty clear that GSU is an excellent steward of grant funds, and now we have some new grant funding to celebrate. The College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) just won what is called a P20 grant for \$716K that will be conducted in partnership with the UIC Cancer Center. Congratulations to Drs. Catherine Balthazar and Rupert Evans, Co-Principal Investigators, to their colleagues, and to Dean Beth Cada.

Finally, I have discussed with you our ambitious plans for the Center for the Junior Year. We aspire to provide advising from this Center to freshmen and sophomores that will assist students in making informed choices about majors and careers. Through this intensive planning, we also think that we may have found the cure for sophomore slump. Juniors will meet in specially designed cornerstone courses in each major. Our faculty has designed these cornerstone courses to bring transfer and native students together. We were determined to move forward with the Center even in this current budgetary atmosphere, but Monday we got news that we were awarded a Title III Grant, which received perfect scores from every reviewer. The grant proposal was written by Provost Deb Bordelon and a team of faculty members and administrators. Now we can move forward on the Center for the Junior Year with close to \$2M in funding over a five-year period. So, to paraphrase Charles Dickens, it may be the worst of times in the State of Illinois, but at GSU, if we don't read the newspapers, it is the best of times.

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY16 Budget Scenario

Maimon provided an overview. A letter from the nine Illinois university presidents was recently sent to Governor Rauner, Senate President Cullerton, Senate Minority Leader Radogno, House Speaker Madigan, and House Minority Leader Durkin, urging them to end the fiscal 2016 budget standoff. The letter stressed the importance of putting students first, even in this situation.

Maimon presented the Board with a working budget and asked for their approval to continue with this budget until the next Board meeting. She pointed out this budget reflects a 2% reduction from the one proposed in May 2015. Also in place is a campus-wide spending freeze requiring close scrutiny of any purchase over \$1500 and approval by a vice-president or the President. Meadows explained that in May the Board authorized a preliminary operating budget of approximately \$56M, representing an estimated 2.3% increase over FY15 attributable to negotiated salary increases effective July 1. Under President Maimon's leadership the Cabinet authorized purchase restrictions including travel and personnel hiring, and the Administration is now recommending a preliminary budget extension that is \$1M less than the one presented in May. He noted the lack of a State budget also means there will be a delay in (Monetary Assistance Program) MAP funding; however the University has committed to supporting MAP funds this fall semester. Ormsby asked what the MAP liability was, and Meadows replied it is approximately \$1.4M. Maimon stated an educated decision was made to protect the students and not make them fearful about losing their MAP funding, adding that the budget proposed by Governor Rauner keeps MAP funding steady while the Legislature's proposed budget includes an increase in MAP funding. Therefore, she believes when the budget impasse is settled there will be MAP funding.

Meadows noted the fall enrollment picture demonstrates census data that is tremendously favorable to the University, and because of that there is a solid projected income fund stream for the remainder of the year; however that income stream is conservative relative to what is expected for spring and summer enrollment. Durkin asked what could be expected if the State does not pass a budget by the December Board meeting. Maimon responded that she could not imagine state leadership would put the University, or the citizens of Illinois, in that position.

Student Housing: Present and Future

Maimon reflected on how amazing it is that in only the second year of student housing Prairie Place is at capacity. She therefore has asked David Meadows and his team to form a committee charged with exploring the possibility of Prairie Place Phase 2. She explained the current financial climate provides a window of opportunity with regard to interest rates that should be explored, noting there is a long term cost in many ways for having to turn down students who want campus housing. Maimon indicated the University is at a point that it needs to keep the momentum going. Tentative plans are to bring approval of an architectural and engineering firm before the Board in December. Tyson asked how long it took to build Prairie Place. Maimon responded it took 18 months. Meadows added that his team is currently outlining the necessary

steps, feasibility studies, and programmatic work that need to be done in order for phase 2 to move forward.

Report on Mandatory and Discretionary Waivers

A summary of the FY15 and FY16 undergraduate and graduate tuition waivers is in the Board Book. Meadows explained this report is brought before the Board at each October meeting. Of note is that FY16 waivers are up approximately \$500K, much of which represents the influx of student athletes.

Report on Purchases \$50,000-\$99,999 – April 2, 2015 through September 21, 2015

There were no purchases to report.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2015

Ormsby requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2015 Budget and Finance Committee meeting. Mitchell made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—03: Approval of Extension of FY16 Preliminary Operating Budget

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-03 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—04: Approval of FY17 Operating Budget Request to the IBHE

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-04 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Meadows explained that every October all Illinois public universities submit their requests to the IBHE for future planning purposes. He noted that for FY17 GSU is seeking an increase of approximately \$3M in funding for anticipated personal service increases, costs to continue university upgrades, deferred maintenance, increased utility costs, and to enhance the library collections to serve the academic needs of the University. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—05: Approval of FY17 Capital Appropriations Request to the IBHE

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-05 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Meadows stated these are the same capital requests as in previous years, for the innovation center and a stand-alone library. Marginal increases are added each year to account for the anticipated increased cost of construction. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—06: Approval of Midwest Tower Lease Extension

Meadows explained that in 1994 the University entered into an agreement to lease land and the necessary easements for the erection of a cell tower. The owners of that entity are looking to

retire and divest out of their tower business. The Administration is requesting an extension of the current lease for a period of 10 years (two 5-year renewal options) in order to lock in the favorable revenue sharing agreement GSU has with Midwest Tower. Tyson asked what percentage of revenue GSU is entitled to on a yearly basis. Meadows stated it is approximately \$30K per year. Kennedy indicated Resolution 16-06 would require a roll call vote, to be taken later in the meeting.

Maimon announced that Governor Rauner just this week invited the nine Illinois public university presidents and some community college presidents to meet with him in groups of five on October 22, for 45 minutes. GSU has been assigned to a group with four community college presidents, including Prairie State College. Ormsby thanked Maimon and her staff for putting together a scenario that hopefully will allow GSU to act properly once a state appropriation is made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mitchell requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Pitts made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to section 2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act. Durkin seconded. Roll call was taken and Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Tyson and Pitts were present. Taboas was absent. Executive Session began at 9:40 a.m., and adjourned at 10:19 a.m. by a motion from Tyson and a second from Durkin. Mitchell announced that no final action was taken in Executive Session.

Open Session resumed at 10:30 a.m.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Program Accreditation Status Summary

Bordelon reported there were three items of interest. First, regional accreditation is coming up in February with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) with their mid-cycle visit on February 22-23, 2016. She explained that approximately three years ago the HLC changed the structure of their visits to include a mid-cycle review typically at the 6-year mark. GSU is up for full reaccreditation in 2020. She noted the HLC representatives may want to meet with the Board and the Trustees will be kept informed of this. Also of note is that everything is now done electronically by uploading documents into their system for evaluation, which should be more efficient and provide a lot of the ground work for the 2020 reaccreditation process.

Bordelon went on to report that two accrediting agencies will be on campus next week, including the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International on October 3-6. The AACSB is the gold standard for accreditation in a College of Business (COB), and GSU's COB has been working extremely hard to prepare for the visit. In addition, on October 8-

9, 2015 the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (ASHA) will be at GSU for reaccreditation of the communication disorders master's program. Bordelon stated the two programs are confident these will be successful visits.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2015

Durkin requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2015 Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Mitchell made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—07: Award of Professor Emeritus Status

Durkin requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-07 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Friefeld made a motion. Beaupre seconded. Bordelon stated she is very pleased to bring both these faculty members to the Board for emeritus status. Dr. Karen D'Arcy retired last spring as a professor of analytical chemistry after over 25 years of service to GSU. Dr. D'Arcy was active across campus, having earned three Faculty Excellence Awards and serving as the Coordinator of the Chemistry program, Chair of the Division of Science, and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and later the College of Education. She was always willing to step up and take on additional responsibilities including serving as co-primary investigator for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that coincided with the renovation of the E/F wing science labs. Dr. D'Arcy remains active in the community as Chairman of the Board of the Land Conservancy of Will County and is a volunteer member of River Watch.

Dr. Phyllis Klingensmith retired as a professor of biology after serving GSU for over 30 years. She was a truly wonderful educator and mentor, reaching out across various disciplines including the physical therapy program. Dr. Klingensmith was Coordinator of the Biology/Environmental Biology Program for over ten years, and served as chair of the University Curriculum Committee, on the Faculty Senate, and numerous other committees. She earned three Professional Advancement Increases (PAI) and three Faculty Excellence Awards. She continues to serve the community as a PATH International certified therapeutic horseback riding instructor. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—08: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates

Durkin requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-08 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Mitchell made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Bordelon gave a brief summary of the six candidates being nominated which include Shaun Harper, Martha Nussbaum, Clarence Page, Daniel Keenan Savage, Marilou (Hedlund) von Ferstel, and Jill Wine Banks. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

HUMAN RESOURCES ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report on Civil Service Merit Board

Mitchell reported on the August 19, 2015 Civil Service Merit Board (CSMB) meeting. He stated the Human Resource Directors Advisory Committee of the CSMB plans to have a joint meeting with the Employee Advisory Committee in January 2016. Because of the lack of a state budget the System Office may not be able to make their payment for the Public Officials Errors and Omissions Insurance for FY2016. The “Rule of 3” change was approved by Governor Rauner, effective January 1, 2016, which means when a position needs to be filled the Executive Director shall certify to the employer the names and addresses of the persons with the three highest scores on the appropriate register instead of the three persons standing higher on the appropriate register. Essentially this means GSU will be able to send all applicants with the top three scores instead of just the top three applicants. Mitchell reported the Illinois Residency Requirement was discussed, as well as a proposal to alter the audit schedule from every two years to every three years. Both items will be discussed further when a new Executive Director is named. An open meeting is to be held on August 27 where the three finalists for the Executive Director vacancy will make presentations. On September 17 a special CSMB meeting was held and Jeff Brownfield was named the new Executive Director.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2015

Tyson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2015 Human Resources Committee meeting. Durkin made a motion. Ormsby seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—09: Award of Rank and Tenure – Dr. Effie Kritikos and

Resolution 16—10: Award of Rank and Tenure – Dr. John Sowa

Tyson requested a motion to approve Resolutions 16-09 and 16-10 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Durkin made a motion. Mitchell seconded. Bordelon commented that she is very pleased to bring these two individuals before the Board for award of rank and tenure. Dr. Kritikos, newly appointed Division Chair in the College of Education, comes from Northeastern Illinois University where she served on the faculty for over 15 years and taught courses in special education, assessment, development, evaluation, and research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has an excellent record of scholarly accomplishments, excellent service, and has earned numerous awards and honors. Dr. Sowa, newly appointed Division Chair of Chemistry and Biological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, was a full professor in his previous academic appointment at Seton Hall University where he taught courses in organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental chemistry at the undergraduate and graduate levels, in addition to serving as a department chair and associate dean. His record of scholarship is also very strong, having been awarded patents and grants as well as completing 35 peer reviewed publications and one book. Dr. Sowa’s record of service includes college,

university, professional, and community activities. He also serves his profession as a reviewer for National Science Foundation proposals, textbooks, and numerous journals. Bordelon asked Dr. Sowa to stand as he was in attendance. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—11: Approval of Personal Day for Non-Negotiated Employees

Tyson requested a motion to approved Resolution 16-11 for adoption and inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Durkin made a motion. Mitchell seconded. Meadows stated the administration is pleased to present this recommendation for the traditionally awarded personal day for non-negotiated employees which occurs each October. This action will impact approximately 50% of GSU employees. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

FULL BOARD ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2015

Mitchell requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2015 Full Board Meeting. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Senate Reports

Barbara Winicki, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Winicki made the following remarks: Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. I would like to begin by thanking Dr. Rashidah Muhammad for her strong leadership of the Faculty Senate the past four years. At present there are very few vacancies on the Senate and its standing committees. We have faculty members that take seriously our role in shared governance and are focused on protecting and strengthening the academic quality of the programs GSU offers to its students.

The Faculty Senate and its standing committees have been working with other committees across the University and with the Administration. For example, the Faculty Senate and the University Curriculum Committee have been actively involved in the evolution of what is now the General Education Council, which is charged with monitoring the cohort classes for our undergraduate students. The Faculty Senate and the Educational Policies Committee continue to work with Dean Valente's office on revision of policies necessitated by the introduction of lower-division students and student housing, including the ever-edited Policy 4 on Student Conduct.

Of course, we have ongoing concerns. The budget is a worry because, if we are to maintain the quality of the programs offered to students, GSU must attract and retain the excellent professors our students deserve. The Faculty Senate is concerned that, while there are newly hired tenure-track faculty members in CAS, in some programs retirees are not being replaced. Some programs have only one or two tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Another concern is related to the creation of new programs. Development of new programs has put heavy demands on faculty members, including new faculty members working toward tenure. Some new, non-tenured faculty members have been appointed coordinators of programs and it puts a strain on the demands that they have for scholarship and other areas for retention.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the Faculty Senate wants to be sure the growth of GSU is not a “Zero Sum Game.” Support and attention to freshmen, and now sophomores, should not and cannot mean less support and attention for transfer students and graduate students. Building and maintaining a strong institution will benefit all students.

Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President

Ms. Jones-Harper made the following remarks: Good morning. GSU has 276 Civil Service employees who assist in the operations and maintenance of GSU in several capacities. The Senate held a town hall meeting this week at which time concerns were discussed including slow medical insurance payments by the State, professional development, and continued employment. The Civil Service Council of Councils meeting is coming up and GSU is sending several representatives. This year’s Vendor Fair will take place on November 19, and Civil Service Day will occur on December 10. This past year the Senate awarded nine people with Employee of the Month honors, which includes a \$150 stipend and other perks. Educational assistance awards in \$500 increments are awarded each semester to Civil Service Employees, their spouses, or dependents. This semester there were 11 applicants. Recently the Senate contributed \$100 to the GSU Promise in a gesture to thank the Board for the 2.8% increase granted to non-negotiated employees. Thank you.

Mychael Vanarsdale, Student Senate President

Mr. Vanarsdale made the following remarks: Good morning. Since the *Save Our Education* campaign in Springfield the Student Senate has returned with a new determination. The State budget impasse is of great concern to students and we are actively contacting our Illinois legislators. Forums are being held at South Suburban College and other locations to address the budget issue and GSU’s students are engaged in those activities. The Student Senate is working with the senates at Western Illinois University and Northeastern Illinois University on possible collaborations in the future that would address the state budget and its impact on higher education. Another lobbying day in Springfield is being planned and Senate members are reaching out to the academic deans of each college to begin a dialogue. The Senate will host forums in November to allow students to ask members of each college questions about possible majors and minors. Student Senate elections will be held the second week of November. Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

The following Resolutions have been recommended for adoption and placement on the Consent Agenda:

Resolution 16—03: Approval of Extension of FY16 Preliminary Operating Budget

Resolution 16—04: Approval of FY17 Operating Budget Request to the IBHE

Resolution 16—05: Approval of FY17 Capital Appropriations Request to the IBHE

Resolution 16—07: Award of Professor Emeritus Status

Resolution 16—08: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates

Resolution 16—09: Award of Rank and Tenure – Dr. Effie Kritikos

Resolution 16—10: Award of Rank and Tenure – Dr. John Sowa

Resolution 16—11: Approval of Personal Day for Non-Negotiated Employees

Mitchell requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Durkin made a motion. Ormsby seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—06: Approval of Midwest Tower Lease Extension requires a roll call vote.

Mitchell requested a motion to approve. Ormsby made a motion. Tyson seconded. Roll call was taken and Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Beaupre, Ormsby, Tyson and Pitts voted aye. Taboas was absent. The motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Dates for 2016

A list of dates was provided to the Trustees, who were asked to contact the Administration if there were any concerns/conflicts.

Resolution 16—12 was withdrawn.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Griffin, GSU employee

Mr. Griffin made the following remarks: I would like to distribute some information to the Trustees regarding the university check-in policy at the Athletic and Recreation Center and violations of this policy. Thank you for indulging me this morning. In the aftermath of yesterday's tragedy in Oregon I have come to address and inform this governing body of recent events in our Athletic and Recreation Center. The safety and security of all Center patrons is of paramount importance among our staff, but not necessarily endorsed by the Athletic Director's Office when established university policies and procedures are circumvented. It is my understanding at this time that Athletic Director Bates has not denied any of the details outlined in my initial complaint or supplemental report. I'm going to read an excerpt from my complaint highlighting some of the primary elements of this document. "The interference of Bates (A.D.) in the discharge of my duties as an officer of the university may constitute grounds for official misconduct charges and the enforcement of all associated penalties. Note: a student/athlete was present during the entire exchange as previously stated in my initial report." A subsequent meeting with me and the A.D. took place on September 16 at which I attempted to resolve this issue. I have determined that nothing short of a genuine sincere apology from Athletic Director Bates will suffice as a starting point for further in-house discussion toward mediation. It has always been my attempt to resolve this matter, but I come to this Board in an attempt for jurisdiction or influence so we can move forward judiciously. Any further information you may request can be provided by me or Human Resources, who I have discussed this matter with. Thank you again for your time. If you wish to contact me I am in the Recreation Center Office.

Sondra Estep, UPI President

Dr. Estep made the following remarks: Good morning. I am the new president of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) chapter at GSU, which has approximately 250 members. As the new president I would like to thank each and every Board member for their service to GSU. I am delighted to welcome our faculty, students and staff this fall and look forward to another successful year at GSU. UPI held a successful welcome back event for the faculty that was well attended, demonstrating how engaged the membership is. Also in attendance were State Representative Anthony DeLuca, President Maimon, and the state president of UPI. The UPI is in the process of the due diligence process for the completion of a new bargaining agreement. The chapter's new mindset is students first; what's good for our students is good for our faculty. Like most people we have high hopes and lofty goals, and if achieved we will establish GSU as one of the most desirable places to work. However retention of employees is expensive and we acknowledge these financially challenging times. Faculty members recently traveled to Springfield to lobby for the University's common goal of a fully funded FY16 budget. I would like to state our appreciation to the faculty, staff, administration, students and most importantly our Board of Trustees who we all know collectively make good things happen at GSU. You work selflessly and make sound decisions. I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you.

Chair Mitchell recognized David Dixon, Internal Auditor, who is retiring after 21 years of service to GSU. On behalf of the Board Mitchell thanked him for his tireless service.

Trustee Comments

Durkin welcomed Faculty Senate President Winicki, stating that she always learns a lot from the faculty senate president, including the challenges faculty face, and she looks forward to working with her and the Faculty Senate. Durkin also thanked Civil Service Senate President Jones-Harper and Student Senate President Vanarsdale for the wonderful work their organizations do here at GSU.

Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. The meeting of the Governors State University Board of Trustees was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney