

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

**Jack Beaupre, Chair**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

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 by Chair Jack Beaupre at 10:42 a.m. Trustees Brian D. Mitchell, Anibal Taboas, Bruce N. Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, and Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark were present. 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; Beth 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; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

Chair Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the August 4-5, 2013 Board Retreat. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **Academic Affairs Committee.** Committee Chair Taboas reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. During the meeting the Committee discussed matters related to reporting to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and approved for inclusion on the Consent Agenda Resolution 14-03: Request for New Unit of Instruction – Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Resolution 14-10: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates. Ormsby made a motion to accept the report from the Academic Affairs Committee. Tyson seconded. There were no questions. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. **Budget and Finance Committee.** Committee Chair Ormsby reported the Committee met today and there was a quorum. The Committee discussed matters related to purchases and tuition waivers, the FY15 Capital Appropriations request, and the FY12 Financial and Compliance Audits. In addition the Committee approved the following items for inclusion on the Consent Agenda: Resolution 14-04: Award of Contract for Patient Simulation Manikins, Resolution 14-05: Approval to Expand Recreational and Competitive Athletics Programs, Resolution 14-06: Authorization of Differential Tuition Rates for International Students from Partner Colleges and Universities, Resolution 14-07: Approval of FY14 Operating Budget, and Resolution 14-08: Approval of FY15 Operating Appropriations Request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Tyson made a motion to accept the report from the Budget and Finance Committee. Taboas seconded. Mitchell commented that it is good to see the fruits of the Board's labor on items discussed at the Board Retreat come before the Board for approval, adding that it demonstrates what it takes to get initiatives accomplished. He commended President Maimon and the Administration for their hard work. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
  
3. **Human Resources Committee.** Committee Chair Lorraine Tyson reported that the Committee met today and there was a quorum. Trustee Mitchell reported on the most recent Civil Service Merit Board meeting. The Committee met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and collective bargaining matters. No final action was taken, and no action items were submitted to the Board for approval. Friefeld made a motion to accept the report of the Human Resources Committee. Mitchell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Resolution 14—11: Election of Board Representative to the Civil Service Merit Board.***

Beaupre entertained a motion to elect Trustee Brian Mitchell as representative to the Civil Service Merit Board. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The Board thanked Trustee Mitchell for serving in this capacity.

## **REPORTS**

### **Jack Beaupre, Chair, Board of Trustees**

Chair Beaupre made the following remarks: The Board has gone through a good deal of self-examination during the course of the annual presidential evaluation in the last few months. The entire Board feels that the University is traveling in the right direction to make a real difference, not only for the University but for the region and the State of Illinois. There is a good deal of discussion in the media about the problems in higher education, and I'm sure everyone is aware of the financial sacrifices students have to make to earn their education. We are also aware of the

problems the government faces in supporting colleges and universities. There is a real struggle going on throughout the nation and the State, and I think we should really be proud that President Maimon has been leading the charge of the State Public University presidents and chancellors to solve some of the budgetary problems that exist. Her efforts have enhanced the reputation of the University immensely throughout the State of Illinois, and GSU has acquired the respect of the other institutions. We have over the last year or two, under President Maimon's leadership, come a long way in establishing the Dual Degree Program, which will be looking forward to its first graduates in spring 2014. GSU has also come a long way in terms of capital development. You have to be proud driving onto campus and seeing the first residence hall being constructed. We are becoming the great hope for fixing a lot of the problems that exist in higher education today, and providing an example for everyone else. The regional universities are going to be the hope of the future because they are in a position to give students a financially acceptable option, while the great research universities have tremendous overhead to deal with. GSU is making great progress; we are solving some of the problems; we are a model example for what the future brings, and I would like to thank the Administration for this progress.

**Elaine P. Maimon, President**

President Maimon made the following remarks: Thank you Chair Beaupre for your report and for recognizing the progress of this University in its efforts to make all these dreams a reality. GSU is fortunate to have an independent, hardworking Board, and I think one of the reasons for our continued success is a Board that is committed to the Mission of GSU. Governors State University is experiencing *Renaissance 2014*, where Big Ideas are coming together as we think outside the conventional frames of reference. Yesterday I met with the son of GSU's first Foundation President. He was quite impressed by all that is going on at GSU, and by the end of the day he had joined our Foundation Board. Big Ideas require strategy for implementation. In 2008 the Board approved *Strategy 2015*, which has been our blueprint. As we close in on 2015 it is time to do strategic planning to continue our success for the next 5 years. As I said at my installation in 2007, when we launched our first strategic planning endeavor, a vision without a strategy is a fantasy. Therefore Provost Bordelon and Executive Vice President Ejigu have created a framework for our next phase of strategic planning. The goal of the development plan for 2020 is to review, revise and update *Strategy 2015* with the addition of a clear framework for performance that can be monitored. The Trustees will provide general strategic direction, feedback, and approve the final document. The committee will be respectful of prior work, building upon the work already represented in *Strategy 2015* including existing mission, vision, value statements, goals and objectives. The process will be inclusive and involve broad University representation in the development and implementation process. *Strategy 2020* will be informed by broad constituent participation and feedback achieved through active participation of faculty, staff, students and other constituent groups. The strategic plan will be data informed and measurable. The Committee will work on identifying realistic goals and benchmarks that will inform our success in achieving the University's mission. Relevant data will be identified

that will assist in assessing our effectiveness in achieving the identified goals and objectives of *Strategy 2020*. The plan should clearly demonstrate the linkages among budget, strategic planning, and resource allocation. Strategy 2020 will be balanced, reflecting the balance between the current realities and the possibilities envisioned by faculty, staff, students, and administrators. It is paramount that all stakeholders are knowledgeable of the University's mission, strategic goals, and success in achieving these identified goals. Communication will be ongoing through the development, implementation, and evaluation phases. Information may be shared through a variety of media, including print, electronic, and face to face communications. Strategic planning is a continuous process that involves regular review and assessment of the strategic plan benchmarks. This process is responsive to the assessment data and may involve making adjustments due to changing conditions or unforeseen events.

Tyson asked what will be expected of the Trustees. Maimon responded that the first step is to discuss *Strategy 2020* with the Board today. An internal committee will meet soon to assess the University's goals, and the timetable will be established. Progress in this regard will be reported to the Board at the December meeting, who will be asked to offer their feedback on the process to that point.

**Rashidah J. Muhammad, Faculty Senate President**

Professor Muhammad made the following remarks: Good Afternoon. As always I want to thank the Board of Trustees for this opportunity to share with you the workings and concerns of the GSU Faculty. I want to start with an issue that should concern the entire GSU community. We are proposing a new BA program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, and I teach a course entitled *Exploding the Barriers: Studies in Race, Class, and Gender* in which we study how language choices serve to disenfranchise and/or disregard individuals or groups of people. As this is a university whose mission is to be inclusive and to honor all, the caution signs posted by the construction workers, "Men Working" must be changed. How about "Crew Working?" We, the faculty, applaud the work of the Maimon administration and we are excited about all the moves being made to make GSU a true full-service university. The GSU faculty is hard at work preparing for first-year students, while adding new majors and minors, and maintaining our current graduate and undergraduate programs. As we know our climb "ain't on no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it, and splinters, and boards torn up, and places with no carpet on the floor—bare" (poet Langston Hughes). As we move to a full-four year institution, the faculty has some concerns: In the interest of time I have limited them to six:

- (1) Faculty scheduling to accommodate both day/night classes, the number of hours /days required to be on campus. The workloads will have to be adjusted so that faculty are not teaching early morning and late night. Considering: teaching, advising, research, course preparation and service, there should be a productive limit to the number of hours faculty are required to be on campus.

- (2) Because there is limited amount of classroom space for the number of daytime classes that will need to be scheduled, this is the opportune time to focus on a library building, our existent library space is ideal for additional classrooms.
- (3) Diversity: Question posed by faculty: “Do we play a role in social injustice when we do not recruit in diverse areas.” We need to increase the marketing of our programs (especially those with low or no minority enrollment) to a wide range of communities.
- (4) General Education: We have a hard-working GE Task Force, but we should consider establishing a standing committee (undergraduate council) with a full-time Director of General Education who will be responsible for curriculum and assessment issues and concerns.
- (5) Sports: Funding required for facilities, scholarships, officials, equipment, travel, coaches’ salaries, athletic trainers and NAIA membership will likely outweigh any sports income for several years. Also, we need to ensure that procedures are in place to protect and advocate for student athletes and first generation students. Both groups are often new to the academic environment and can run into difficulties. First generation students can have problems navigating the college system, while student athletes may fall victim to exploitation through lack of sufficient academic guidance and poor grades. It is not unusual for first generation students to use athletics as a way to finance a college education. While supporting the move toward sports expansion and inclusion, the Faculty Senate would like to make sure safeguards are in place to guarantee the educational life of the student athlete comes first.
- (6) Pensions. It is important that the GSU Faculty, Administration, and the Board of Trustees work with legislators to ensure that our tenure at GSU is valued in our retirement. As we stated in our last report, without retirement safeguards, this mess known as our pension system may make it difficult to bring in new faculty in the future.

In terms of shared governance, particularly on budget issues, GSU served as the model to beat at the Council of Illinois University Senate Presidents meeting. Senate Presidents from UIC, Illinois State, Northern Illinois, Western Illinois and others were in awe of our preparations for public budget hearings. We believe in working together, to making sure all stakeholders have a voice in our University building processes. In conclusion, yes we have work to do and the path is steep and the challenges are many, but the opportunity to build the model 21<sup>st</sup> century educational institution is just amazing. We have the drive, we have the passion, and we will be successful!

### **Laura Owens, Civil Service Senate President**

Ms. Owens made the following remarks: The Civil Service Senate is looking forward to the freshmen coming to campus. We are looking forward to the First Year Workshop next week, as well as the Council of Councils. Ann Jaso will represent the Civil Service Senate at the next Civil Service Merit Board meeting in November. Upcoming events include the vendor fair,

which will take place on November 20. The Senate is also offering tickets to CPA events to Civil Service employees as a morale booster and to show our appreciation of these employees. Civil Service Day will take place on December 4, and all the Civil Service employees welcome the Trustees and the Administration to this enjoyable yearly event. Thank you.

**Kayla Randolph-Clark, Student Trustee, Student Senate**

Ms. Randolph-Clark made the following remarks: During the first week of classes the Student Senate sponsored Welcome Week in order to introduce students to University activities, clubs, and offerings. A campus crawl was part of the program and was enjoyed by many. The Senate is focusing on community service and civic engagement this year, and GSU is fortunate to have an AmeriCorps Vista intern, Neal Rana, on campus to assist with this initiative. October 17 will mark the opening of the Civic Engagement Center, to be housed in Student Affairs, A Building. The Student Senate has a number of upcoming activities. Please check your inboxes for notification of these ongoing events.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Beaupre asked if the Trustees had exceptions to any items on the Consent Agenda. There were none. Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Taboas seconded. There was no discussion. Roll call was taken and Beaupre, Friefeld, Ormsby, Mitchell, Tyson, Taboas and Randolph-Clark voted aye. Durkin was absent. There were no nays.

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Beaupre entertained a motion to adjourn. Mitchell made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The Board of Trustees Full Board Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney