

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes of the May 6, 2016 Meeting

Brian D. Mitchell, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Governors State University Board of Trustees meeting of May 6, 2016 was called to order by Chair Brian D. Mitchell at 8:40 am. Trustees Eileen Durkin, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, and Yolanda Pitts were present. Trustee Anibal Taboas participated via conference call. Trustees Bruce N. Friefeld and Jack Beaupre were not present at roll call, but Beaupre did arrive at 9:18 am.

Others in attendance: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Deborah E. Bordelon, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Gebeyehu Ejigu, Acting Executive Vice President/Treasurer; Barbara Winicki, Faculty Senate President; Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President; Mychael Vanarsdale, Student Senate President; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Will Davis, Vice President for Development and CEO, GSU Foundation; Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations; Aurelio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs; Keisha Dyson, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Kimberly Lambert-Thomas, Director of Budget and Financial Planning; Penny Perdue, Executive Assistant to the President; Villalyn Baluga, Chief Internal Auditor; Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost; Ann Vendrely, Associate Provost; Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Beth Cada, Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Lydia Morrow-Ruetten, Dean, University Library; Melinda Gieseke, Associate Vice President for Finance; John Buenger, Interim Associate Vice President for ITS; Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President for Procurement; Marco Krcatovich, Director of Institutional Research; James McGee, Chief of Police; Betsy Joseph, Director of Housing and Auxiliary Services; Charles Nolley, Assistant Vice President of Digital Learning and Media Design; Carol Morrison, Executive Director, Family Development Center; Sondra Estep, President, University Professionals of Illinois Chapter 4100; David Rhea, Associate Professor; and Gökçe Sargut, Assistant Professor.

Chair Mitchell welcomed and introduced Faculty Senate representatives David Golland, Melanie Ellexson, Yonghong Jia, Susan Ji, Vickie Person, and Jelena Radovic-Fanta.

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, 2(c)3, and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Ormsby seconded. Roll call was taken at 8:42 am and Trustees Mitchell, Durkin, Ormsby, Tyson, Taboas, and Pitts were present. Maimon, Bordelon, and Kennedy were also present. Ejigu

was called in at 9:03 am. Beaupre arrived at 9:18 am. Open session resumed at 10:35 am. No final action was taken.

Chair's Report

Brian D. Mitchell

Chair Mitchell made the following remarks: The Board convenes today in the eleventh month of a budget stalemate in Springfield. The work of the University cannot wait for the State. We have decisions that need to be made and we will do that with fiscal responsibility and our overarching goal of student success. Today we have a full agenda, including the passage of a preliminary FY17 operating budget in the context of no state budget. The passing of Senate Bill 2059 was appreciated, but did not give us a budget.

The Board is appreciative of everyone's efforts in terms of innovative, collaborative approaches to managing, and even thriving, during this difficult time. Today we will discuss establishing a reserve fund, which is essential to any university, especially one with 45-year-old buildings and operating systems. I also want to thank the Enrollment Management group, led by Dr. Randi Schneider, for their hard work and dedication to increasing enrollment, providing us with some happy news.

We have more happy news today as we approve Professor Emeritus for two worthy individuals, and the approval of Tenure for four outstanding faculty members. Excellent faculty is the hallmark of a first rate institution and our faculty certainly meet that mark. We will also tend to more routine matters, including the approval of various contracts, submitting program reviews to IBHE, and receiving program accreditation status.

Last, but certainly not least, we will hear from our three Senate Presidents. I always look forward to hearing from them and I appreciate their unique perspectives. I would also like to repeat what I said at the beginning of my remarks—this University has done a remarkable job of working together, collaboratively and openly, to give our students the tools they need to succeed and to meet the challenges thrust upon us. Dr. Maimon and her administration have fostered an atmosphere which allows for this collective work, and we appreciate that. Thank you.

President's Report

Dr. Elaine P. Maimon

President Maimon made the following remarks: Thank you, Chair Mitchell, and thank you to the trustees, faculty, administration and staff for working together and putting students first during these challenging and unprecedented times. On Friday, April 22 the General Assembly passed SB2059 and Governor Rauner signed the bill into law the following Monday. The law provides Governors State University with 31% of its FY15 budget, or about \$6.9M for operations. It also reimburses the University for \$1.9M for fall 2015 MAP grants. Of note, we are still covering the liability for spring 2016 and fall 2016 MAP grants. All state universities, except Chicago State University (CSU), received the same 31% of their FY15 budget. CSU received 60% of its FY15

budget which allowed our sister university to continue its proud 150-year tradition of service. For all the state universities, SB2059 was a stop-gap measure—a tourniquet to slow the bleeding. However, we are grateful to the General Assembly and the Governor for providing some relief. We are especially grateful to our local state representatives and senators for having our backs. I am pleased to report that we have already received a total of \$8.4M of these funds. I want to take a moment to give special thanks to Maureen Kelly, our Director of Governmental and Community Relations. That week in April was exceedingly difficult, and Maureen managed it all very well.

The April 20 rally in Springfield also helped. Our students, led by Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale, showed remarkable leadership. We also appreciate the Board's leadership in supporting me in our design and implementation of long-range plans for the fiscal security of the University. The Board knows that a university cannot maintain its financial health by moving from crisis to crisis. This year has taught us that we cannot hold our breath, and jeopardize our students, while Springfield moves or doesn't move at its own pace. We have spent nearly a year waiting, freezing expenditures without giving in to paralysis. We cannot compromise the long-term health of the University by enforcing temporary furloughs and layoffs one day and then rescinding them the next when a glimmer of hope comes from the capitol. We are hearing various scenarios from our Springfield sources including perhaps a grand bargain for FY16 and FY17; additional stop-gap funding; or possibly no further funding until January 2017. We simply do not know; but we are working in close collaboration with our sister institutions to do everything in our power to advocate for reasonable state investments in higher education. But we will plan for an uncertain future, with the clear possibility of continued shortfalls in state support for higher education.

In early April, we met with the Planning and Budget Advisory Council (PBAC), and for the first time in my nine years as president I had to explain that we could not use our regular PBAC process this year because personnel measures would be involved. We discussed the necessity of a \$3M overall budget reduction, almost all of which must come from reductions in payroll. These cuts will not be across the board; however, the reductions will be all encompassing, including administrative offices. Administrative units were asked for an average reduction of about 9%, while academic units were asked for an average reduction of about 6%. Salary costs make up 80% of our overall operating budget. We will continue to look for efficiencies everywhere, but we must be particularly creative in looking for personnel efficiencies. We have no way to avoid shared sacrifice.

I am pleased to report that all units have completed their budget cutting exercises and have already submitted proposals that meet the targets set for them. Many of these consist of unfilled positions. We will begin evaluating and implementing these proposals shortly in order to have a balanced operating budget for FY17, which starts July 1. Thanks to sound decisions in the past we have informally maintained carry-forward funds. These informal reserves saved us from disaster this year, but they must be replenished and maintained. On your agenda today is a

resolution for a policy to establish and maintain an operating reserve fund. I applaud the Board's wisdom in establishing this principle as Board policy.

On May 14, we will celebrate Commencement and witness in tangible form the results of our efforts. We have a record number of graduates, 1800, and we are so proud of every one of them. I want to thank everyone gathered here for committing themselves to the good of the whole. That often means repressing self-serving concerns and embracing a commitment to the long-term health of the University. Preserving and defending Illinois public higher education is not for the faint of heart. Many thanks for your selfless dedication to our students, who are our future.

BUDGET AND FINANCE items

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

Budget to Actual Report as of April 30, 2016

Ejigu introduced Melinda Gieseke, Associate Vice President for Finance. Gieseke pointed out the report in the Board Book, which indicates FY15 ended with expenditures of \$55,191,783. Expenditures for FY16 are \$42,707,593 as of April 30, with projected expenditures at the close of the fiscal year on June 30 to be \$52,542,198. This represents a significant reduction due to cost-cutting interventions undertaken in light of the budget stalemate in Springfield. Ormsby asked how the University is dealing with the lack of revenue from the State, to which Gieseke replied reserve funds are being used.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16—28: Approval of a Policy to Establish and Maintain an Operating Reserve Fund

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-28. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu explained this item was presented to the Board at the last meeting, at which time there were questions and concerns expressed and it was tabled. Subsequently many discussions took place to address those concerns, specifically to include wording that states accessing the reserve fund will require approval by the Board of Trustees. If use of the funds is required for an unanticipated emergency, it will require the written approval of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee. Ormsby commented the resolution calls for a 5% reserve be built into yearly budgets going forward. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—29: Approval of the FY17 Preliminary Operating Budget

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-29. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu introduced Director of Budget and Financial Planning, Kimberly Lambert-Thomas. Thomas explained that each year at the May meeting the Administration presents a preliminary operating budget authorizing the expenditure of funds until October 31, 2016, when a final budget is brought before the Board. Last year, with the unprecedented budget stalemate in Springfield, adjustments had to be made in the FY16 budget. The goal for FY17 is to present a

balanced budget based on figures issued by the Governor in February and projections made by the financial team. Therefore, the FY17 preliminary operating budget is \$54.4M, approximately \$1.8M higher than FY16, however nearly \$1M less than FY15. There were no questions. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—30: Award of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) Sub-Awards

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-30. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu explained this action comes before the Board each May and is related to the contract GSU has with IDCFS which specifically names two sub-contractors, Juvenile Protection Association of Chicago, IL and Healthy Families Chicago, also of Chicago. These firms provide training services on the safety and emotional security of children and families on an as-needed basis. Funding is provided under the FY17 IDCFS contract. There were no questions. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—31: Award of a Disaster Recovery Services Contract

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-31. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu reported this contract is with an off-site company that stores all of the University's operating data, which is backed up each day. It represents good business practice and is required under audit guidelines. The contract is effective for five years. Tyson commented that it appears the University got a good deal, with minimal increases over a five-year period. The motion was approved by voice vote from Durkin, Beaupre, Ormsby, Tyson, Taboas, and Pitts. Mitchell abstained, and therefore the resolution will be taken off the Consent Agenda.

Resolution 16—32: Award of Architectural Services Contracts

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-32. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu asked for permission to present Resolution 16-32 and ***Resolution 16-33: Award of Engineering Services Contracts*** together, as has been the practice in the past. These firms provide services on an as-needed basis, in a not-to-exceed amount. The University needs to have pre-qualified architectural and engineering firms lined up in the event they are needed, particularly in an emergency situation. Ormsby commented that 26 architectural firms submitted bids in addition to 20 engineering firms, with only three in each category being recommended. The motion to approve Resolution 16-32 was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—33: Award of Engineering Services Contracts

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-33. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Discussion as above. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—34: Award of Contract to Construct a Storage Facility

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-34. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Ejigu recalled how GSU's barn, which was used for storage of maintenance equipment, was lost in a fire in August 2015. The University collected approximately \$563,000 under the insurance policy, which stipulates these funds must be used to construct a new storage

facility within two years of the loss. GSU staff has been in the process of designing a facility that will satisfy storage needs in a location close to Facilities' operations. Ejigu stated the Administration is requesting the approval to award a contract to the lowest and most responsive bidder in an amount not to exceed \$563,000. Tyson requested a written report on the award of the contract at the October meeting, which Ejigu agreed to do. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—39: Award of Contracts for Legal Services

Ormsby requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-39. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. Kennedy reported the University has contracts for outside legal services that will expire on June 30, the end of the three-year contracts. She explained these services are used on an as-needed basis for a wide variety of legal services. Today's resolution is requesting three-year contracts, with the option for three-year renewals, to three firms. Kennedy noted that there were 18 responses to the Request for Proposal, six of which were minority or female owned, which is the highest in GSU history. The three firms being recommended proposed pricing levels consistent with previous contracts. They are Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin and Tominberg, Ltd.; Franzcek Radelet; and Dunn Law Firm in matters related to employee relations and education, and Chapman & Cutler; Reyes Kurson; and Katten Muchin in matters related to public finance. Tyson thanked the Administration for encouraging minority/female participation in bid proposals and for being responsive to something that is important to her as a Board member. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS items

Academic Affairs Committee Vice Chair, Eileen Durkin, presented the following items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Program Accreditation Status Summary

Bordelon pointed out the summary in the Board Book and also provided a brief update on the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) mid-cycle review. A preliminary report was received from HLC with positive outcomes. The final report will be brought before the Board at a subsequent meeting. Two programs are due for reaccreditation in the 2016-2017 academic year, the Doctor of Nursing Practice in fall 2016 and the Health Administration Master's program in spring 2017. Further information will be shared with the Board as those visits approach. Durkin congratulated the department heads and faculty involved in these accreditation visits given the hard and time consuming work involved.

Report on Summer and Fall Enrollment

Bordelon reported the summer headcount was at 2,506, a 6.37% increase from 2015, and student credit hours (SCH) at 15,892 credits, which is a 10.86% increase. She explained that one of the initiatives of recent focus among the deans, chairs, and faculty has been ways to broaden course offerings. Institutional Research was asked to look at where increases were seen and it appears that current students are taking more courses during the summer, as are transfer students who

will take summer courses that will transfer back to their home institution in the fall. The census date is June 1, 2016. If these trends continue the University will experience an increase in summer enrollment, turning the trend of recent years.

Applications for fall freshmen is at 910, compared to 800 this time last year, an increase of 13%. A total of 420 of these applicants have been admitted as opposed to 302 last year, up 39%. Currently there are 108 freshmen committed, an increase of 25% over last year. This past Tuesday GSU held the first of several signing ceremonies planned for freshmen and their families. It was a packed, festive event and the excitement was phenomenal. Associate Vice President of Enrollment, Randi Schneider, shared positive feedback she received from high school guidance counselors, as well as their desire to participate in future events on campus. Durkin congratulated Bordelon and all those involved for these tremendous numbers.

Annual Listing to Submit to the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Bordelon referred to the report in the Board Book, which is required by the IBHE. There were no questions.

Report on Off-Campus Programs

Bordelon explained this report is brought before the Board annually at the May meeting, and is subsequently submitted to the IBHE and HLC. It is informational only. There were no questions.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16—35: Award of Professor Emeritus Status

Durkin requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-35. Ormsby made a motion. Mitchell seconded. Bordelon stated she is very pleased to bring before the Board two outstanding professors, Larry Levinson and Tony Labriola, for Professor Emeritus status. Dr. Larry Levinson, a Professor of Political and Justice Studies, served Governors State University for 28 years as a faculty member and program coordinator. He was instrumental in creating GSU's program in Political Studies, establishing the Model United Nations program, and directing the Honors Program and the Consortium for Civic Engagement. Mr. Labriola served GSU for 34 years teaching courses and producing television programs. He served as Coordinator of Instructional Development while also producing educational media, public affairs, and documentary programs. Mr. Labriola was awarded three Emmys for his work in children's media. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—36: Approval to Submit AY2015-2016 Program Review to the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Durkin requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-36. Pitts made a motion. Ormsby seconded. Bordelon explained programs are reviewed on a cyclical basis by faculty in the programs, the Faculty Senate's Academic Program Review Committee, and the Administration. These reviews are then brought before the Board annually in May, and submitted to IBHE. She noted two programs with low enrollment, the Early Childhood Education Master's program and the Education Master's program have been flagged for priority review. The Provost's Office will

continue to look at enrollment trends. Three other programs flagged for priority review are the Bachelor's in Entrepreneurship, the Master's in Reading, and the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy. All these programs are currently under close review. After a brief discussion the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 16—37: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates

Durkin requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-37. Ormsby made a motion. Mitchell seconded. Bordelon provided brief biographies of the two candidates, Jack Lanigan, Sr., Founder of Mi-Jack Products, Inc. and Bryan Stevenson, Founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative. More detailed information is available in the Board Book. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

HUMAN RESOURCES items

Human Resources Committee Chair, Lorraine Tyson, presented the following items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Presidential Assessment

Tyson announced that the Board of Trustees will begin its annual presidential assessment process, as described in the Board's Governing Policies. As a regular part of this process, Dr. Maimon will submit a report on her presidency for the past year to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 16—38: Award of Rank and Tenure

Tyson requested a motion to approve Resolution 16-38. Mitchell made a motion. Ormsby seconded. Bordelon stated she is very pleased to bring forward four faculty members for promotion of rank and tenure who have met very high criteria in teaching, research, and service. She acknowledged Dr. David Golland, Division of Humanities and Social Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Gökçe Sargut, Division of Management, Marketing, and Public Relations, College of Business, who were in attendance, as well as Dr. Khalil Marrar, Division of Humanities and Social Science, College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Bradley Smith, Division of Humanities and Social Science, College of Arts and Sciences. Tyson congratulated all four on this important benchmark in their careers, and those in attendance applauded them. Resolution 16-38 will come before the Board for roll call vote later in the meeting.

FULL BOARD

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2016

Mitchell requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2016 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Ormsby 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: Thank you for this opportunity to speak. Governors State University faculty members were, of course, happy to hear that the Governor and the leaders of the legislature decided to provide some funding for Illinois public universities. Our appreciation for this funding is tempered, however, by the fact that it is a stop-gap measure. We are distressed by the lack of a true budget and the lack of concern for the future of our university, its employees, and most importantly its students. While waiting for Springfield to do their jobs, we here have completed a very difficult year under stressful conditions.

On a happier note, I congratulate my four colleagues who have earned promotion and tenure to associate professor: Dr. David Golland, History, and Vice President of the Faculty Senate; Dr. Kahlil Marrar, Political and Justice Studies, and Senator; Dr. Gökçe Sargut, Management, and a Senator; and Dr. Bradley Smith, English. I would like to add that the system makes it increasingly difficult to attain tenure. As stated before, this is due in part to the fact that unit A faculty members are not being replaced and therefore new tenure-track faculty members are being required to undertake administrative duties prematurely. I would have liked to have ended my report with a “thank you” by name to each retiring faculty member, but the Human Resources Department could not provide a list of retirees due to confidentiality. So I will congratulate only one of our faculty representatives to the Academic Affairs Subcommittee, Dr. Melanie Ellexson. Thank you.

Sheryl Jones-Harper, Civil Service Senate President

Ms. Jones-Harper made the following remarks: Members of the Civil Service Senate have been focused on funding and the state budget, taking part in many rallies. Like everyone else, we are waiting for final recommendations regarding budget cuts and how personnel will be affected. In the meantime, the Civil Service Senate meets regularly to work on finding innovative ways to maintain operations. Many times this is challenging, working with limited resources and staff, and increasing workloads without the appropriate compensation for doing so. We are, however, trying to keep our spirits up by continuing to award scholarships and Employee of the Month designation with non-appropriated funds. It should be noted that Civil Service non-negotiated employees are cut based on seniority and we are attempting to get that list so we can support our colleagues. The Civil Service Senate will continue to stand in solidarity with the other senates.

Mychael Vanarsdale, Student Senate President

Mr. Vanarsdale made the following remarks: Since our last meeting the Student Senate has been making a real presence. The Senate organized a rally in April in front of the main entrance of GSU that was very well attended. Many Senate members also participated in the alternative spring break trip to Puerto Rico for a civic engagement experience. On April 20 members of the Senate made their fifth trip to Springfield this academic year, and on April 21 Yolanda Pitts and I sat on a panel at Loyola University where we discussed our experiences in shared governance. Today, the Student Senate election results will be announced; therefore, this is my last day as

President. It has really been a pleasure to serve as Student Senate President. I greatly admire the Administration and am thankful for this opportunity.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Mitchell thanked and praised Vanarsdale for his outstanding service to the GSU community.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Recording Secretary Johns Maloney read the list of resolutions on the Consent Agenda:

Resolution 16—28: Approval of a Policy to Establish and Maintain an Operating Reserve Fund

Resolution 16—29: Approval of the FY17 Preliminary Operating Budget

Resolution 16—30: Award of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Sub-Awards

Resolution 16—32: Award of Architectural Services Contracts

Resolution 16—33: Award of Engineering Services Contracts

Resolution 16—34: Award of Contract to Construct a Storage Facility

Resolution 16—35: Approval of Professor Emeritus Status

Resolution 16—36: Approval to Submit AY15-16 Academic Program Reviews to the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Resolution 16—37: Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates

Resolution 16—39: Award of Contracts for Legal Services

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

Mitchell requested a motion to approve **Resolution 16—31: Award of a Disaster Recovery Services Contract**. Tyson made a motion. Ormsby seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Durkin, Beaupre, Ormsby, Tyson, Taboas, and Pitts voted aye. Mitchell abstained. The motion passed.

Mitchell requested a motion to approve **Resolution 16—38: Award of Rank and Tenure**. Tyson made a motion. Ormsby seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Mitchell, Durkin, Beaupre, Ormsby, Tyson, and Taboas voted aye. The Student Trustee is prohibited from voting on matters of tenure.

Mitchell requested a motion to approve **Resolution 16—40: Release of Executive Session Minutes**. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sondra Estep, President of University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Chapter 4100

Dr. Estep made the following remarks: I am the proud president of UPI Chapter 4100 which represents approximately 270 faculty and academic support professionals at GSU. I would like our members who are present to stand up. Let me begin by applauding the hard work of our Board of Trustees during these very trying and chaotic times. I know it is not easy to make decisions regarding the future of GSU.

I would like to discuss one important part of the interwoven fabric of GSU—our talented UPI members, their future, and how it relates to our mission. Our members ask for fair compensation, favorable working conditions, and respect. While our administrators have received numerous benefits and compensation increases, we have not. In many cases we have taken a step back. If we are going to keep our amazing faculty and staff here at GSU, it is time to demonstrate the same respect for our hardworking members. We are facing huge, doubling increases in insurance, the miserable Tier 2 state pension that will crush many of our members in their golden years, and a potential loss of salary that will hobble our members. Sadly, these issues will drastically impact our students and mission despite our noble efforts. We need to be the University that keeps and attracts talented faculty and staff, not a place of mass exodus and loss of the very talent that touches the lives of students almost every moment during their time at GSU.

To paraphrase Bill Branson, it may seem strange to put employees first, but if you have satisfied employees who are proud of where they work, that will translate into customers (in our case, students) who are highly satisfied, and the organization will soar. We are here in solidarity to ask the Board to show its support, appreciation, and respect for our members and for what they do every single day to make GSU the outstanding institution that it is. Please do not ask us to take a step backwards. Let's work together to be sure that we have a smooth and uninterrupted start of the next school year.

Charles Dieringer, community member

Mr. Dieringer made the following remarks: I am an activist for the Thorn Creek watershed, and I formed a science club to address this. I'm here to state we are still destroying our watershed and flooding our communities, and GSU has a part in that. These are hazards to the downstream communities. None of these lakes have emergency overflow strategies. I think consultants should be involved. I know there are financial concerns, but if these dams fail the downstream communities will suffer. There is a lack of training in water technology. We're all aware of the lead problem that affects probably 80% of households. Those courses aren't being taught here, and I think we need to come to terms with what's happening in this country.

Alyse Zieman, community member

Ms. Zieman made the following remarks: I would like to congratulate the newly tenured professors. I know you're struggling with the budget, but the lack of funding for social services is of real concern for people like me and others in the community. As a homeowner in the area, I

would like to see more green services and green jobs in the area. My boyfriend and I are looking into green technology. I want to thank you for everything you are doing. If you need any help protesting, I am a protester. Also, my boyfriend and I can help with the geese with our border collie.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Durkin praised Student Senate President Mychael Vanarsdale for the remarkable job he has done in the past year. She also recognized Student Trustee Yolanda Pitts and student intern, Bridget Drury, for their service to the GSU community, asking, “what company wouldn’t make our students their top choice? You represent the best and brightest of GSU.” Durkin concluded by congratulating them all.

Trustee Pitts commented that she and Mychael Vanarsdale started out in the Student Senate together, and it has been a joy working beside him. He is graduating and he is going to be sorely missed. She wished him great success in his future endeavors.

Trustee Ormsby applauded everyone who is working so hard together to try to weather this storm, noting it is a very difficult time and he really feels for what everyone has been going through as he experienced similar times in his own company. It is painful, especially when a lot of it is not under one’s control. He thanked everyone who has gone to Springfield and for working together.

Trustee Mitchell echoed Ormsby’s comments, adding there are many obstacles the University has faced and collectively the University has to keep pushing. It is the job and commitment of everyone involved to do as much possible for the students. He thanked everyone. On May 14 GSU will see 1800 students graduate and he applauded everyone for providing these students with a college education.

Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn. Tyson made a motion. Durkin seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote, and the meeting of the Governors State University Board of Trustees adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney