

MEMO

Date: December 3, 2019

To: Governors State University Community

From: Lisa Harrell, Chairperson, GSU Board of Trustees (the "Board")



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Dear Friends,

Substantive headway has been made in the search for our next University President since my last update to you on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. In alignment with our commitment to a transparent and inclusive process, the Board will continue to provide periodic updates to our GSU community. This has been a very busy month and the next step of the President Search Committee is nearing completion.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Recap

- The Board unanimously chose WittKieffer as the search firm to support our Presidential search.
- The Search Committee composition was approved as a committee of 15 University stakeholders representing a diverse cross section of our GSU community: 2 Trustees; 4 faculty members; 2 civil service employees; one of each of the following: student representative, academic dean, vice president, administrative professional other than a vice president, Alumni Association Board representative, Foundation Board representative, and member of the community at large.

Updates Since October 22<sup>nd</sup> Communication

- WittKieffer conducted multiple stakeholder listening sessions to gather information about the expectations and needs of our community to inform the profile of the ideal Presidential candidate. These sessions were well attended; thank you for participating in this important piece of the search process.
- The 15 members of the Search Committee were named. Each member was chosen and recommended to the Board by the leadership of their associated governance organizations and/or in consultation with campus leadership. An inaugural meeting was held in early November. For more information about the Search Committee, please visit the GSU website to review the Search Committee "[Charge](#)" document approved by the Board.

- At the November 15, 2019 Board meeting, the Board approved the Search Committee “[Charge](#)” document that outlines the needs and expectations of our next President and the duties and responsibilities of the Search Committee.

### Next Steps

- The “[Presidential Leadership Profile](#)”, outlining the expectations of our next President, has been officially posted to GSU’s website. This document provides the guidance that prospective candidates will need in order to determine their interest in and qualifications for the position. It also serves as the framework that the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees will use to evaluate applicants. This document is a product of the collective voices of our community.
- Tentative scheduling with Search Committee members has begun in anticipation of the interviews with semi-finalists; and campus visits for those selected as finalists. These are anticipated to take place in late February to late March, at which point we intend to have identified the best qualified candidate to lead GSU into our next 50 years.

We are on schedule to meet our goal of completing the search in early April in order to secure a University President who will assume the position officially on or about July 1, 2020. This is a daunting task, but with the degree of professionalism already demonstrated by members of the Search Committee and the input from our GSU community, we are confident that our next leader will continue to build on the many strengths of our institution and guide us even further in distinguishing GSU as a leader of innovation in the higher education field.

Thank you for your voice and support as the Board fulfills this most critical and sacred responsibly of selecting our next University President.