

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes of the March 2, 2018 Meeting**

**Patrick Ormsby, Chair**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Governors State University Board of Trustees meeting for Friday, March 2, 2018 was called to order by Chair Patrick Ormsby at 9:11 am. Roll call was taken and Trustees Bruce Friefeld, Anibal Taboas, Carney Barr, Cornelius Griggs, and Linda Coleman were present. Trustees Lorraine Tyson and Masah SamForay arrived at 9:16 am. Chair Ormsby introduced Faculty Senate representatives in attendance: Barbara Winicki, Giesela Grumbach, Sayoni Bose, Susan Ji, Alice Keane, Lara Stache, and Jelena Radovic-Fanta.

Also in attendance: Elaine P. Maimon, President; Elizabeth Cada, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; W. Paul Bylaska, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance; Sarah Luke, General Counsel; David Golland, Faculty Senate President; Justin Smith, Student Senate President; Will Davis, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and CEO of the GSU Foundation; Aurélio Valente, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Maureen Kelly, Director of Governmental and Community Relations; Keisha Cowen, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications; Penny Perdue, Chief of Administrative Operations and Liaison to the Board; Lydia Morrow-Ruetten, Dean, University Library; Jun Zhao, Dean, College of Business; Shannon Dermer, Interim Dean, College of Education; Catherine Balthazar, Interim Dean, College of Health and Human Services; Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost; Ann Vendrely, Associate Provost; Villalyn Baluga, Associate Vice President for Finance; Sandra Zurawski, Director of Budget and Financial Planning; James McGee, Director of Public Safety; Charles Pustz, Associate Vice President for ITS; Jim Zumerchik, Interim Associate Vice President for Facilities Development Management; Tracy Sullivan, Assistant Vice President of Procurement; Randi Schneider, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management; Betsy Joseph, Director, Auxiliary Services and University Housing; Zion Banks, Communications Specialist; Charles Nolley, Assistant Vice President for Digital Learning and Media Design; Anthony Bates, Athletic Director; Kevin Smith, Director, Veterans' Resource Center; Professors Sasha Cervantes, Alli Cipra, David Rhea, Rupert Evans, Lori Montalbano, Division Chair, CAS; Staff Members Amy Barsha, Paul McGuinness, Yakeea Beaver, Heather Penn, Karen Caesar, Angela Denk, Lisa Helm, Cheri Garey, Gina Ragland, Judy Healy, Jessica Butler, and Joseph Kearns; Students Lester Van Moody, Anthony Olszewski, Angel Fuentes, and Ricardo Muñoz; and Kristoffer Evangelista, Chief Internal Auditor.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ormsby entertained a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:13 am. Coleman made a motion to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act Sections 2(c)1, 2(c)2, and 2(c)11 to discuss personnel, collective bargaining, and litigation. Friefeld seconded. Roll call was taken and Ormsby, Friefeld, Taboas, Griggs, Barr, and Coleman were present. Trustees Tyson and SamForay arrived at 9:16 am. President Maimon, Interim Provost Cada, and Interim Vice President Bylaska remained in Executive Session. The Executive Session adjourned at 9:30 am by a motion from Tyson and a second from Coleman, with roll call indicating Ormsby, Friefeld, Taboas, Tyson, Griggs, Barr, SamForay, and Coleman were present.

Open Session resumed at 9:41 am. Ormsby reported the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel, collective bargaining, and litigation. No final action was taken.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Patrick Ormsby*

Good morning. We have a robust agenda today. We will begin with the Academic Affairs Committing meeting, where we will hear a report from Kevin Smith about the Veterans' Affairs activities on campus. We have a number of veterans on this Board, including myself, and I am looking forward to hearing about all the ways we support these students.

Interim Provost Beth Cada, who is the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, will report to the Board on the continuing strategic planning that is a hallmark of GSU. As we review goals and accomplishments in the context of *Vision 2020*, we move forward in developing *Strategy 2025*. Vice President Will Davis will report on Institutional Advancement's accomplishments, and then we will move into a discussion about the possibility of GSU issuing revenue bonds and/or certificates of participation in order to fund critical repairs and deferred maintenance projects. As a state university we rely on the State of Illinois for capital funding; however, the state has put us in a very difficult position. Exploring debt financing through revenue bonds and/or certificates of participation, and an increase in student fees, are serious topics we face today. As a Board we must do all we can to support our students, including providing the infrastructure that is necessary for their success. I look forward to today's discussions, difficult as they may prove to be.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

*Anibal Taboas, Chair*

Chair Taboas called on Beth Cada, Interim Provost, to present the reports.

### **Information Items**

#### **Program Accreditation Status Report**

Cada highlighted items of significance. Next week will be very busy with two-day visits from both the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) and the Commission on Accreditation of Health Management Education (CAMHE) who will be

doing a progress report on the Master of Health Administration program. Both departments have worked very hard to prepare for these visits and look forward to successful outcomes.

### **Report on Veterans' Affairs at GSU**

Cada stated she was very proud to introduce Kevin Smith, Director of the Veterans' Resource Center and Testing Administration, who is here with student veterans Angel Fuentes and Ricardo Muñoz. Smith reported he came to GSU in February 2015, and since then the Veterans' Affairs Office has accomplished a great deal including being awarded Best of the Best 2017 from *US Veterans' Magazine*, Best for Vets Colleges 2017 by *Military Times*, and a Military Friendly School Silver Medal Winner for 2017.

Smith went on to explain that with regard to VA Benefits, the Chapter 33/Post 9.11 Benefit is the largest growing sector. He explained the GI Bill changed in 2017 and is now called the Forever GI Bill. It provides lifetime benefits for those who separate after January 1, 2013 and their family members, as opposed to the previous 15 year benefit. Smith reported the University is seeing a large uptick in family members taking advantage of this benefit. In fall 2017, 104 veterans were enrolled at GSU, and in spring 2018, 109 were enrolled. Increases have also been seen in Chapter 31/Vocational Rehabilitation enrollment, with 22 enrolled in fall 2017 and 23 in spring 2018. More are expected in fall 2018. Smith reported the University has not received Illinois Veterans Grant funds for the past six years, which is very frustrating.

The Veterans Resource Center (VRC) has transitioned to a one-stop shop for all VA and state benefits, including federal and state reporting/audits. The only component missing is admissions processing, which the VRC hopes to add in the future. The VRC collaborated with the School of Extended Learning (SXL) to form the Testing Center in spring 2017. VA work study students serve dual roles as VRC employees and testing proctors, and since the VA work study is paid 100% by the VA there is no cost to GSU. The Testing Center brought in excess of \$20K in 2017, and is projected to double that in 2018. Smith added that Pearson is a big customer and demand is increasing. He pointed out that test candidates include GSU students, non-GSU students, and community members. Some of the campus events sponsored by the VRC include the Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, the Veteran's Entrepreneurial Boot Camp, Honoring Veteran Students at Commencement, and the Gold Star Ceremony.

Smith introduced Ricardo Muñoz, who has been with the VRC for about 18 months and is currently studying criminal justice. Smith described him as "one of the best mentors I could ask for." Muñoz stated he is enrolled at GSU as part of the Chapter 33/Post 9.11 Benefit and is living proof that his sacrifice for his country has paid off. He has been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA. Muñoz thanked Smith for providing him with opportunities he didn't have prior to coming to GSU, adding that he is proud and honored to have been able to contribute as a work study student to all the great things the VRC has done. He plans to continue to be active in the VRC for the duration of his time at GSU.

Smith read some thank you notes from veteran students that were unable to attend the meeting. One, a GSU alum, is currently enrolled in the PhD program in Organic Chemistry at Notre Dame University. This veteran's dream is to become a college chemistry professor and credits GSU in helping him get there. Smith then introduced Angel Fuentes, the President of the Student Veterans Organization (SVO). Fuentes thanked the Board. He stated he became disabled in 2009 after breaking his back and losing the lower portion of his right leg. Because of the IVG he was able to return to school and earned his BA in Psychology in 2014, and soon his MA in Social Work in May. He plans to work with veterans. Fuentes explained that since he became involved in the SVO the group has created a business plan for the organization with specific goals they will work to accomplish. Some of these goals include creating awareness, seeking new members, creating a plan for sustainability, grooming members, documenting its activities for future generations, and exploring opportunities and grants to build a student veteran lounge to include space for family members and supporters. Fuentes reported the SVO has made a great connection with the Social Work Club, has participated in *Adopt a Soldier*, did a 22-mile rough march for the 22 veterans that commit suicide each day, and worked with an organization that houses homeless veterans as well as with local VFW's and American Legions. Fuentes concluded by encouraging others to get involved in the SVO.

Smith reported the SVO is initiating a campus beautification project and has challenged other clubs on campus to join them. SVO will be responsible for the area outside the GMT Building, where they look forward to showing their organizational pride. Veterans and family members of veterans were asked to stand. Barr asked where the Veterans Resource Center is located. Smith replied they are located in the GMT Building, and offered to give anyone interested a tour. Cada thanked Smith, the VRC, and all the students involved for their admirable work.

### **Action Items**

#### ***Resolution 18—24: Approval of Request for New Unit of Instruction for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts***

Cada gave a brief explanation of the program. Barr asked if there was a differential tuition rate for the program. Cada responded there was not, and that students would be charged the standard master's tuition rate. Taboas requested a motion to approve Resolution 18-24 for placement on the Consent Agenda. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### ***Resolution 18—25: Approval of Request for New Unit of Instruction for the Master of Science in Human Resources Management***

Cada gave a brief explanation of the program. Barr asked if the tuition rate for this program is the same as the MBA program. Cada responded that yes, this program qualifies for the higher master's business program tuition rate. Barr then asked if any thought was given to incorporating this program into the Master's in Public Administration program. Cada stated that was a good point and the Provost's Office will continue that integration. Coleman asked if this focused degree received the AACSB accreditation. Cada responded that it is under the umbrella of the AACSB. Taboas praised this as a valuable program, adding he would appreciate an in depth

presentation on master's programs in the future. He requested a motion to approve Resolution 18-25 for placement on the Consent Agenda. SamForay made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Taboas commented he is most pleased with the quality and breadth of the academic component of the University. He has some concerns about the University's ability to provide the necessary infrastructure; however, he is very pleased about the purely academic affairs component.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

*Masah SamForay, Chair*

### **Information Items**

#### **Report on Civil Service Merit Board**

SamForay called on Trustee Barr, Board Representative to the Civil Service Merit Board. Barr made the following remarks: The Merit Board last met on February 1, 2018, and it was a very productive meeting. The most important matter discussed was the OEIG external investigation and its implications. I am tremendously impressed by Board Chair Lyneir Cole, representing Western Illinois University. He has met individually with the Human Resources directors at each of the universities and helped reach an agreement on about 90% of the issues under review, some of which had been going on for 6-8 years. The Merit Board sometimes has difficulty getting a quorum and it was agreed that if they need to meet on a Saturday they will in order to get the work done. Final recommendations will be adopted at the May meeting and in September those resolutions will go into effect. There now appears to be a much more cooperative working relationship between the Human Resources directors and the Civil Service Merit Board.

### **Action Items**

#### ***Resolution 18—29: Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 104***

SamForay requested a motion to approve Resolution 18-29 for inclusion on the Consent Agenda. Taboas made a motion. Tyson seconded. Bylaska reported that on December 14, 2017, as a result of mediation, GSU and the FOP 104 reached a tentative agreement resolving all outstanding issues. The new agreement covers the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019, and addresses wage increases, a signing bonus, the drug and alcohol policy, shift premiums, shift trades, and personal days. Ormsby asked how many employees are covered by the agreement, to which Chief McGee answered "seven." Barr noted in the past a police officer had to be a sworn officer somewhere else before coming to GSU and did not have to take the civil service exam. Bylaska stated such a policy could be helpful in hiring.

## **FULL BOARD**

### **President's Report**

*Dr. Elaine P. Maimon*

President Maimon made the following remarks: I want to comment on the Veterans' Resource Center (VRC) presentation. We talk about the new majority of students, and sometimes people

think it means first generation traditional age students. It doesn't. It also includes, in terms of our tradition here at GSU, returning adults, veterans, and students that have been underserved by higher education. We have seen for-profit institutions target veterans. You can make your own judgements about what they are offering, but what you see here is coursework, high quality academics, and a sense of community. From Kevin's report you can see that this campus is just the right place for our veterans, but also that they bring so much to us. They really help to define a very special campus which we should keep in mind in terms of our overall mission. We hope to be a model for that. Please observe that many of the accomplishments of the VRC occurred during the budget impasse, which highlights the things we can accomplish here even during the direst of times.

I would like to welcome Sarah Luke, our new General Counsel and Vice President. I would also like to thank Beth Cada for stepping in as Interim Provost. I have never seen a smoother transition in the Provost's Office. Her past experience has made her very well prepared to step into the role of Provost. I also want to thank Catherine Balthazar, who moved seamlessly into the position of Interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS).

I have a brief update on Springfield, which we are monitoring very closely. Our emphasis is on student success and how the State can benefit from successful students and graduates. The IBHE is recommending an 8% cut from the baseline FY15 appropriation, while the Governor is proposing a 10% cut from FY15. Governor Rauner is also recommending \$100M in capital funding across the State to address deferred maintenance. Although his budget address does not have the weight of law, there is some evidence that the problem of deferred maintenance is finally being recognized. Unfortunately, Senator DeLuca's bill to get GSU deferred maintenance funding is going nowhere. The State needs to recognize they have to take care of their own property. Financing repairs is a major item on today's Board agenda.

I also wish to highlight today's report from Beth Cada, Chair of Strategic Planning. In the spirit of resurgence, GSU is reflecting on *Vision 2020* and initiating plans for *Strategy 2025*. Strategic planning requires ongoing Board involvement, and I look forward to your participation as the process proceeds. It is one of the most important responsibilities of the Board in terms of policy.

In response to students who were looking for new ways to communicate their views to the senior administration, we have launched a series of structured listening sessions, called "We Hear You." We are already responding to suggestions and ideas from the first session. Linda Coleman and Justin Smith were instrumental in helping organize this. More sessions are planned as we are learning a lot.

GSU continues to reinforce its commitment to the strength-based model of instruction. The idea is to identify and build on students' natural talents. Last Friday over 150 faculty, staff, and student leaders participated in a campus-wide symposium led by Gallup Vice President Tom Matson. You may recall that in your own education much of the instruction was based on correcting your mistakes. We want to focus on students' talents. It was one of our best

symposiums and went a long way toward enhancing the sense of well-being of GSU's students and employees.

I would like to recognize and congratulate Trustee Lorraine Tyson for her profile in *Leading Lawyers* magazine, which showcases her moving and inspiring story. It is no surprise how committed she is to GSU's mission. I also want to congratulate Trustee Cornelius Griggs for his recognition by the State of Illinois as a 2018 Black History Month Difference Maker, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Will Davis, for his selection as a Chicago Defender Man of Excellence. I should add that Trustee Griggs received this honor in 2014.

And finally we celebrate our Men's Basketball team. In only our second year in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletics Conference (CCAC), our Jaguars clinched the title early and then went on to make it two-for-two in the CCAC Tournament Title. Guard Jalen Miller was named CCAC player of the year, Shane Maple was honored as All-CCAC Second Team, and Robbie Brooks received All-CCAC Honorable Mention. Jaguar Men's Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Tony Bates was named CCAC Coach of the Year. The CCAC Commissioner said in an email, "Tony has done an excellent job in getting your program to this level so quickly." The fans have also been wonderful and represented our GSU community well. Congratulations to Vice President of Student Affairs, Aurélio Valente, for overseeing GSU's athletic program from inception to implementation to victory. Kudos also to the students who broadcast the games under the supervision of our Digital Learning and Media Staff, led by Charles Nolley. We have received comments on these broadcasts from as far away as Kentucky, where family members of one of our opposing teams watched the game and praised the quality of our sports casting. And many thanks to the Trustees for your support in launching our intercollegiate athletic program. Our Jaguars now go on to South Dakota to compete for the NAIA championship. Go Jaguars!

A 15-minute break was taken.

## **Information Items**

### **Report on Institutional Advancement**

Will Davis presented on the State of the Foundation with a Power Point. He reported the Foundation exceeded the Board of Trustees' three-year goal of \$1.8M by raising \$2,087,109. Another Board mandate the Foundation has been able to exceed is the control of expenses, while raising revenue rapidly. For every dollar spent, the Foundation returns \$1.24 on average. Davis went on to detail many notable results, for example the average gift in FY2017 was \$406 compared to \$124 in FY2012; the Advancement staff matched a two-year \$100K gift within one-year; and over \$100K in scholarships are awarded annually. In addition, the Foundation has developed alternative revenue streams with Biomass Energy Systems Inc., Chicago Neighborhood Initiative, and Evanston Technology. The Foundation is also widely engaged with the greater community, including partnerships with Peace with a Purpose, On the Table (Chicago Community Trust), South Suburban Diversity Dinners, the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, the Executive Club of Chicago, the City Club of Chicago, the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce, and other Chambers. Davis stated the new three-year

fundraising goal is \$2.5M. The Foundation also plans to increase the percentage of grants awarded, nourish a community of pride, and increase engagement through academic programs. There are also plans to increase its social media engagement, showcase institutional contributors, and plan for the University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A new initiative is acknowledging "Legacy Leaders" which is a snapshot of top donors. Currently Drs. Curtis and Gina Crawford and Drs. Elaine and Mort Maimon are the leading donors in GSU history. Davis concluded by stating the Office of Advancement is available to support the entire University, from academics, to student athletes, the arts, and student success.

### **Report on *Vision 2020 and Strategy 2025***

Interim Provost Cada provided a brief overview of the efforts underway to develop the University's next strategic plan, *Strategy 2025*. The synopsis, available in the Board Book, provides a list of committee members and their charge. The focus of *Strategy 2025* will be on academic quality, academic planning, increasing enrollment, revenue diversification, grant funding, philanthropy, foundation support, and other innovative approaches. Special emphasis will be placed on using work experience to enrich, not detract from, learning; the use of high impact practices; implementing Prior Learning Experience (PLA) across programs; and expanding Competency Based Education (CBE). The timeline establishes that the final *Strategy 2025* plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May 2019. Tyson asked if there will be a sub-committee on Student Life, which Cada confirmed there would be. Ormsby thanked Cada for including the Trustees in the process.

### **Discussion Item**

#### **Bonds, Tuition, and Mandatory Student Fees**

Maimon stated today's discussion will be in the context of last week's Budget and Finance Committee meeting, and she turned the floor over to Bylaska, who reported the discussion was initiated to address the University's critical deferred maintenance needs. The initial figure for debt servicing was a base of \$13.8M, but as the project list was revised and GSU's tuition and fees structure was looked at, the Budget and Finance Committee cautioned that perhaps \$13.8M would not be adequate to address a good portion of the deferred maintenance projects, and a figure closer to \$20M was entertained. GSU's financial and bond counselors, Columbia Capital and Chapman and Cutler, were able to provide a structured list of options to address the base of \$13.8M as well as additional projects. They also advised the University has the option of Certificates of Participation (COPs) in addition to Revenue Bonds (RBs). Bylaska reported that unfortunately the recent federal tax legislation eliminated a tax benefit, and the state picture could have a negative impact on the University's ability to sell bonds such as extending the timeline for soliciting bonds. The goal has been to bond by the end of FY18; however, if a signed FY19 budget is not completed by July 1 this initiative would have to be pushed back to FY19, or beyond. Ormsby noted that upon review of the necessary deferred maintenance projects, the University is at risk in regards to life and safety issues and can no longer be put off. He expressed appreciation for the many scenarios put together by the Administration, and asked Trustee Tyson to provide some background on alternatives considered at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting.



Tyson explained that based on feedback the Board received from Columbia Capital, the better option would be to go through an underwriting process, with the next step being the issuance of an RFP for underwriting services. The Administration needs the green light from the Board to start that process. Tyson noted her field of expertise is public finance, and that she agrees with Columbia Capital's recommendation. She added another item to be decided on is how to service the debt. Last week the Administration proposed an increase in the Student Facilities Fee of \$8 per credit hour; however, upon further analysis and discussion it was recommended that the fee be increased further and that more money be borrowed. Tyson reiterated that as a former student she understands the pain of increases, but as stewards of the University she recommends increasing the Student Facilities Fee to \$15 per credit hour. This will put the University in the best position. However, if the University is unable to enter the capital market for the issuance of Certificates of Participation and/or Revenue Bonds then these revenues will be utilized for small repairs and to build on reserves. Ormsby questioned why the debt service had to come from fees. Tyson explained that it could come from tuition revenue; however, the University currently has debt financing and a dedicated revenue stream to new debt would have to be identified. In addition, the Administration would rather raise fees than tuition. Bylaska reminded the Board that tuition is not as efficient in the first year in terms of fund-raising because it only increases for new students and it would take four years before those funds built up. Tyson commented that the Administration's goal of keeping total annual tuition and fees under \$12,000 is admirable, but not realistic. Ormsby reiterated the Board's preference to keep tuition for AY18-19 flat.

Coleman stated she wanted to determine what dollar amount increase would accomplish the needs of the institution. After receiving the pro forma and analyzing the information, she agrees with an increase in the Student Facilities Fee of \$15 per credit hour. She emphasized the necessity for GSU's facilities to be safe, and for the doors to be kept open. Coleman acknowledged the position the state has put the public universities in makes it necessary to face difficult choices. Taboas stated he was not convinced that taking care of the capital projects will be negated by what the State may provide. Using Puerto Rico as a reference, which was hit by two hurricanes leaving many still without electricity or clean water, he emphasized it is significantly harder to recover if something happens and then something happens again. He pointed out the importance of avoiding that scenario. Taboas concluded by stating he is in support of the \$15 increase.

A break was taken from 11:50 am - 12:10 pm for lunch.

### **Action Items**

#### **Approval of Minutes - December 8, 2017**

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2017 meeting. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Board Secretary Johns Maloney read the Consent Agenda:

**Resolution 18—21:** Authorization for a Software Renewal Contract

***Resolution 18—22: Approval of Prairie Place Housing Rates for AY2018-2019***

***Resolution 18—24: Approval of Request for New Unit of Instruction for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts***

***Resolution 18—25: Approval of Request for New Unit of Instruction for the Master of Science in Human Resources Management***

***Resolution 18—29: Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 104***

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Taboas made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

***Resolution 18—20: Approval of Purchase of Shuttle Buses***

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve Resolution 18-20. Friefeld made a motion. Tyson seconded. Bylaska reported the proposal is to purchase two shuttle buses to replace the current buses, which are 2008 and 2009 models, and have reached the end of their useful life. The new buses will be equipped with an ADA chair lift and ADA seating. The units are gasoline powered. He reported Trustee Barr provided some guidance at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting to look into diesel buses and diesel vehicles in general. According to our options through the State procurement process this is the best option. Griggs asked if there was any resale value of the current shuttles. Bylaska stated there is, and that value will go toward the purchase of the new buses. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

***Resolution 18—26: Approval of Tuition Rates for AY2018-2019***

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve Resolution 18-26. SamForay made a motion. Tyson seconded. Bylaska reported the Administration is recommending tuition rates remain level for the upcoming academic year. Taboas stated he believed the vote on tuition should come after the vote on fees because his vote may change based on the outcome. Friefeld, as a point of order, stated the vote on this matter could be reconsidered if need be. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

***Resolution 18—27: Approval of Mandatory Student Fee Rates for AY2018-2019***

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve Resolution 18-27, with the proposed \$15 per credit hour increase in the Student Facilities Fee. Tyson made a motion. Ormsby seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Ormsby thanked everyone for their hard work on this very difficult topic.

**New Business**

**Board Elections**

Friefeld stated that as Chair of the Governance Committee he asked all Trustees to submit their nominations for Board Officers and for service on the Board's standing committees. All the Trustees have received a chart which includes the nominations received to date.

For Board Officers the nominations are:

- Chair           Pat Ormsby
- Vice Chair     Lorraine Tyson
- Secretary      Bruce Friefeld

Friefeld asked for any additional nominations, and there were none. He noted during the election process a Trustee may write in a candidate on their ballot. For Board Committees the chart sent to the Trustees includes proposed appointments and are the subject of *Resolution 18-28: Appointment of Board Committees*. Luke handed out the ballots, collected them, and tallied them. She reported that Pat Ormsby will serve as Chair, Lorraine Tyson will serve as Vice Chair, and Bruce Friefeld will serve as Secretary.

***Resolution 18—28: Appointment of Board Committee Members***

Ormsby entertained a motion to approve Resolution 18-28. Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded, and reported the Committee membership would remain the same as last year. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Senate Reports**

***Dr. David Golland, Faculty Senate President***

Dr. Golland made the following remarks: Thank you, Chair Ormsby, Honorable Trustees, Drs. Maimon, Cada, and Bylaska, and Mr. Smith. It is my pleasure to again report on the recent activities of the Faculty Senate. As you recall, in November we created the Faculty Senate Student Scholarship Fund. I am pleased to announce that President Maimon has agreed to match the first \$10,000 with her own money. As of now we have raised \$4,000. The Senate will be awarding the first two scholarships this term.

At our last two meetings we approved four resolutions and two policy amendments, which I am attaching to the electronic version of this report for the Minutes. Faculty Senate Resolution 2017-18 #4 extended the term of the Task Force on Scheduling through the end of this semester. This Task Force, which includes the Registrar, Chief of Police, an associate provost, several faculty members, administrators, and students is considering polling data from students and faculty, scholarship on best practices for teaching and learning, interviews with people responsible for scheduling, and the expertise of its own members as it prepares recommendations for improving the University's weekly scheduling grid.

Resolution #5 would regularize terms and elections for, and clarify the charge of, the Academic Master Plan Committee. This is a joint resolution with the Office of the Provost and will not go into effect without Dr. Cada's signature. Resolution #6 adds a third student to the General Education Council, to represent transfer students. Students can vote on any non-curricular item before the Council. Resolution #7 urges the state government to fully fund higher education.

To account for the pending graduation of our first class of homegrown students, the Senate changed the policy dealing with Latin Honors, lowering the minimum GPA for *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*, and increasing the minimum number of credits required to qualify. We also amended the policy dealing with Network Security to cover international travel with GSU laptops and to define academic freedom in computing.

As always, you are welcome to attend any meeting of the Faculty Senate. We meet at 1:00 pm on the third Thursday of every month during the fall and spring semesters, although this month, because of Spring Break, we will meet on the 29<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the faculty, I thank you for your continued commitment to our University. I'm happy to take any questions. Coleman asked Golland to elaborate on the policy change for Latin Honors. Golland pointed out that Coleman was a member of the Task Force. Previously the number of credits required at GSU was 24; that has been increased to 45 graded credit hours in GSU coursework. The specific Latin designations have been lowered a bit to align with traditional four-year courses of study, i.e. *cum laude* is designated for an undergraduate student whose grade point average falls between 3.65-3.84; *magna cum laude* for 3.84-3.94; and *summa cum laude* for a GPA greater than 3.94. This policy applies to December 2017 graduates and going forward.

***Mr. Justin Smith, Student Senate President***

Mr. Smith made the following remarks: Thank you. I would like to piggyback on Dr. Golland's report on the Latin Honors, Policy 21. The amendments he reported on were passed after three long years of work. The Student Senate was very active on the Task Force. In addition, the Student Senate has been actively going after timeliness of grades, a recurrent problem. Students are not getting sufficient feedback on their coursework, some not even until the end of the semester. A freshman I just spoke to found out she is failing because she just received her grades. We invited Dr. Golland to our last meeting in order to discuss this matter. Students are demanding timely grades. *Policy 26, Grading and Status Policy*, needs to be revised to include a mandate of timeliness of grades. We want to make sure professors are getting back to students so they know where they stand and can make the most out of their coursework. We mentioned this to the Administration previously and we will continue those discussions. A committee to address *Policy 26* met for the first time two weeks ago. Sub-committees are being created because the Policy is lengthy.

The Student Senate recently voted to change its logo. The Student Senate would also like to see fraternities and sororities on campus. Robert Clay held a gathering of fraternities and sororities this past Wednesday to educate people about Greek life. Students are saying they want it. I have also discussed it with President Maimon. We know about the benefits and we want them here at GSU. The Student Senate is also investigating ways to minimize the cost of printing and I'll be meeting with Dr. Bylaska today to discuss this. Finally, tonight and tomorrow we are hosting the IBHE Student Advisory Committee of state schools. This will take place at 6:00-8:00 pm tonight, and from 9:00 am-12:00 pm tomorrow. All are invited to participate or witness. Thank you for your time.

SamForay acknowledged that the Board has discussed Greek life before, and offered her services as a resource or support on this issue. She added she would be happy to be involved, having benefited greatly from her association with a sorority. With regard to the timeliness of grades, SamForay emphasized the need to respond to this. Students should not be distraught and in tears because they don't know their status in a course. She pointed out that freshmen and sophomores need more guidance, they are teenagers, and they need assistance navigating college. She stressed the need to reach a resolution very soon, and offered to participate in the discussion and process. Tyson stated she had not been part of a Greek organization, but she knows many men and women who have credited the experience for being a valuable part of their education. She would like to see some progress on this initiative, especially with regard to strategic enrollment plans. SamForay echoed Tyson's comments.

Golland reported on his attendance at the recent Student Senate meeting, stating they had a very good discussion. He stated it was productive in that students better understood the faculty side and he in turn now better understands the student side. Golland stated he didn't think it was a widespread problem, but if it is affecting even one student then it is a problem. The Faculty Senate is now looking at ways to encourage faculty members to respond to students in a timely manner and will serve as a persuasion body in this regard. Taboas requested the Administration include the topic of timeliness of grades at the next Board meeting. Maimon agreed, stating feedback to students is absolutely crucial and that no feedback or delayed feedback should not be acceptable within GSU's culture. Coleman agreed, and pointed out that there have been numerous reports of untimely grading, not just one, and she has maintained a list. Coleman reported she has heard from many of these students who are devastated, intimidated, and fearful. In order for students to self-adjust they need feedback. It's very disturbing that this is a topic at this forum and it should be addressed now. With regard to Greek life, Coleman stated she is an advocate. Friefeld stated he looks at Greek life as an important strategy to bring students on campus. Griggs agreed, adding that it is just as important as bringing athletics to GSU. Ormsby asked that this topic be included on the agenda of the May meeting.

Maimon reiterated the need for full inclusivity of students across various backgrounds and the avoidance of separatism in the student body, while acknowledging the strong positive factors associated with Greek life expressed by many. Ormsby agreed that a formalized plan for discussion needs to be presented, adding that if from a marketing standpoint it attracts more students that would be a plus, as long as all interested parties are considered. Golland emphasized the Faculty Senate takes the issue of timeliness of grades very seriously, and that he would appreciate the data that Trustee Coleman has collected.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests for public comment.

## **TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

Barr noted in reviewing the Governor's budget proposal, under higher education he has allotted \$30M towards Veterans' grants, which has been an unfunded mandate for many years. He suggested soliciting some groups like the American Legion for their support because the state is cheating veterans. Barr pledged to talk to his friends at the VFW and let them know this is happening to the universities.

Griggs applauded the efforts of the Veterans' Resource Center as a veteran of 11 years. He was able to utilize Chapter 33 for college, which helped pay for a couple of his degrees. Griggs recalled that there was not a VRC on the campuses he attended, which is unfortunate because it would have been of great benefit. Griggs pledged to personally get involved with the VRC to see how he could help.

Ormsby also applauded the presentation by Kevin Smith on the VRC. He thanked everyone who worked hard on the research and modeling of different options for the Budget and Finance Committee to find ways to fund desperately needed repairs, and paying very considerate attention to these serious matters.

Ormsby entertained a motion to adjourn. Tyson made a motion. Taboas seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and the meeting of the Governors State University Board of Trustees adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney