

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes of the Full Board Meeting  
February 28, 2014**

**Jack Beaupre, Chair**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 28, 2014 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors at Governors State University. The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Beaupre at 1:15 p.m. Trustees Brian D. Mitchell, Eileen Durkin, Anibal Taboas, Bruce N. Friefeld, Patrick Ormsby, Lorraine Tyson, and Student Trustee Kayla Randolph-Clark were present.

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; Will Davis, Vice President for Development; Rashidah J. Muhammad, President, Faculty Senate; Laura Owens, President, Civil Service Senate; Lisa Wallace, President, Student Senate; Elizabeth Ruiz, President, GSU University Professionals of Illinois; Angela Latham, Associate Provost; Karen D'Arcy, Interim Dean, College of Education; Ellen Foster Curtis, Dean, College of Business and Public Administration; Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students; Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Dean of the Library; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President for Administration and Finance; Dennis Lloyd, Columbia Capital Management; Sylvia Kowalk and Michael Lundeen, Legat Architects; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Report of the Board Committees**

1. **Academic Affairs Committee.** Committee Chair Taboas welcomed Faculty Senate Representatives Shaalein Lopez and David Golland. He reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. During the meeting the Committee discussed the GSU Program Accreditation Status Summary for February 2014. Provost Bordelon provided a Report on Off-Campus Programs as well as an Overview and Progress Update on Academic Affairs. There were no resolutions brought before the Committee for inclusion on the Consent Agenda. The Committee heard public comments from three community members.
2. **Human Resources Committee.** Committee Chair Tyson welcomed Faculty Senate Representative Vickie Person and Faculty Senate President Rashidah Muhammad. She reported that the Human Resources Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum.

The Committee met in Executive Session, with no action being taken. There were no resolutions brought before the Committee for inclusion on the Consent Agenda. There were no requests for Public Comment.

3. **Budget and Finance Committee.** Committee Chair Ormsby welcomed Faculty Senate Representatives Susan Ji and Walter Henne. He reported that the Budget and Finance Committee met earlier today and there was a quorum. The Committee discussed reports on purchases and the FY14 Operating Budget – Budgeted vs. Actual Expenses as of December 31, 2013. The following resolutions were approved for inclusion on the Consent Agenda: *Resolution 14-19: Approval to Extend Legal Services Contracts; Resolution 14-22: Award of Contract for Financial Advisor Services; and Resolution 14-23: Award of Contract for Student Housing Furniture.* The following resolutions were approved to be brought before the Board for vote at the Full Board meeting: *Resolution 14-20: Approval of Tuition Rates for AY2014-2015; Resolution 14-21: Approval of Student Fee Rates for AY2014-2015; Resolution 14-24: Authorization to Enter into Construction Contracts for the Academic Computing Services (ACS) Lab/Library Renovation Project; and Resolution 14-25: Approval of Board Regulation on Concealed Carry.* The Committee heard public comments from three community members.
4. **Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations.** Committee Chair Friefeld reported that the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations met earlier today and there was a quorum. The Committee discussed compliance issues in higher education and at GSU. Future agenda items suggested included a systematic review of the Board Regulations. There were no action items. There were no requests for Public Comment.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 6, 2013 Full Board Meeting. Tyson made a motion. Mitchell seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Randolph-Clark made a motion. Tyson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Approval of Items Not on the Consent Agenda**

Beaupre entertained a motion to approve Resolution *14-20: Approval of Tuition Rates for AY2014-2015.* Tyson made a motion. Friefeld seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Beaupre,

Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Ormsby, Taboas, Tyson and Randolph-Clark voted aye. There were no nays. Taboas commented that this vote is significant, and is the right thing to do. Beaupre entertained a motion to approve *Resolution 14-21: Approval of Student Fee Rates for AY2014-2015*. Tyson made a motion. Taboas seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Beaupre, Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Ormsby, Taboas, Tyson and Randolph-Clark voted aye. There were no nays. Beaupre entertained a motion to approve *Resolution 14-24: Authorization to Enter into Construction Contracts for the Academic Computing Services (ACS) Lab/Library Renovation Project*. Durkin made a motion. Friefeld seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Beaupre, Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Ormsby, Taboas, Tyson and Randolph-Clark voted aye. There were no nays. Beaupre entertained a motion to approve *14-25: Approval of Board Regulation on Concealed Carry*. Taboas made a motion. Tyson seconded. A roll call vote was taken and Beaupre, Mitchell, Durkin, Friefeld, Ormsby, Tyson and Randolph-Clark voted aye. Taboas abstained. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **Jack Beaupre, Chair**

Chair Beaupre made the following remarks: Today marks my last report to the Board as Chair. I'm very impressed with the residence hall which will aid us in hosting international students and students throughout the Midwest. It signals the progress of this University, and demonstrates the frugality that the Administration has maintained in the last few years. With the ongoing improvements, such as the Library, Engbretson Hall, and the physical facilities, GSU certainly is being enhanced to the point that we will attract more students. This then puts us in a position to tackle the financial crisis in higher education. Accessibility to students is important as well, with the average cost of tuition at a public 4-year institution being approximately \$17K, GSU is working to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Because of the great leadership of this Administration, GSU has become a model 21<sup>st</sup> century university. I would like to point out that in having made the strategic decisions to freeze tuition and fees we certainly have enhanced our role as the model. Finally, the American Council on Education (ACE) will honor President Maimon with a very prestigious award on March 8 during the Women's Leadership Dinner. The award honors an individual whose leadership demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing women in higher education, through leadership and career development, campus climate and mentoring. ACE was founded in 1918 and is the major coordinating body for all institutions of higher education. This is truly an incident of national recognition for both GSU and for Dr. Maimon, our President.

### **Elaine P. Maimon, President**

President Maimon made the following remarks. Thank you Chair Beaupre. One of the great things about winning this award is that I get to make two speeches at the conference, which will allow me to put a spotlight on all the great things we are doing at GSU. What I will be talking

about in my speech will be what Representative Ken Duncan, of the Higher Education Commission of the House of Representatives, commented on that we are doing, “a paradigm shift.” To have that kind of recognition is very gratifying. In terms of accolades, I want to tell you something about our Student Trustee, Kayla Randolph-Clark, who recently heard from Emory Law School that she will receive \$84K in scholarships. Kayla is also a Dual Degree Program (DDP) student and a DDP mentor, and proof positive that what we are doing with the DDP is working. I want to publicly thank our facilities and public safety departments, and the Emergency Response Team (ERT) for dealing so effectively in this land of perpetual winter. The safety of those on our campus has been their number one concern, and we appreciate their efforts and wise, data based decisions.

The national recognition we are receiving also includes our Civic Engagement activities as we are part of the McCormick Foundation Grant to move civic engagement from the periphery to the center. We have to continue to get citizenship into the classroom. We are very proud of that. We also have been invited to be part of the Gates sponsored Gem Project to look at overall 21<sup>st</sup> century reform of higher education. I’m very proud to be part of a very small task force of heavy hitters, and will look at recommendations that will be part of reform in all of higher education. I also want to talk about the outstanding engagement of our faculty and staff for the upcoming transformation—the addition of our first freshman class. On April 4 we are bringing in *the* expert on e-portfolios –the electronic compilation of significant documents in learning and performance. GSU is pioneering in the area of looking at the assessment of learning for students and performance for faculty, which is high on the national agenda. We have a number of open houses for freshmen and their families to look forward to, and we have launched Operation Mascot to name the official mascot of Governors State University. In conclusion I want to thank the Board for approving the Administration’s recommendation for a zero increase in tuition and fees.

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

Faculty Senate Muhammad made the following remarks: Good Afternoon. As always I want to start by thanking the Board of Trustees for this opportunity to share with you the workings and concerns of the GSU Faculty. We do not want to take for granted this opportunity to participate in shared governance. I am pleased to report that among the faculty there is an excited state of mind as we marvel at the GSU Renaissance. The E and F wing renovation is nearing completion, the library is scheduled to be renovated this summer, and our new residence hall is looking good. It is looking so good, that I did not realize I was driving down the middle of the street until the construction vehicle following me started blowing its horn. As I was bringing one of our composition candidates to campus and trying to show her Paul Bunyan on the left and Prairie Place (our new residence halls) on the right, I was in the middle of the road. I may not be the only one driving down the middle of the street; everywhere you look faculty are touring campus with potential faculty. This week I believe we had candidates interviewing for positions in all the colleges. I know I saw candidates for positions in the College of Health and Human Services and

the College of Arts and Sciences. For example for an Assistant Professor of Composition position we brought three candidates to campus, but to get to the three we reviewed 109 applications. The word is out; GSU is the place to work.

And “work” is the label for a very busy faculty, including the Senate Committees. The UCC (University Curriculum Committee) is reviewing new/revised courses for the first-year curriculum and new majors and the curriculum change forms have been uploaded to the portal making the submission/approval process smoother. APRC is currently conducting annual program reviews. All GSU programs come up for review every 3 years (new programs) or 5 years. These reports go to IBHE. The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) is working on multiple University policies. For example, EPC just presented the Senate with an updated BA degree requirements policy.

In the quest to move these processes along faster, the Senate is concerned that all approval processes will not remain intact thus all stakeholders may not have a voice in the decision making process. Related to this issue, the Senate is pleased that the Provost has invited the Senate to send a representative to address the Academic Affairs Council. These cross-talks will help the Senate and Administration stay on the same page and move processes along.

Other issues/concerns: (1) Emergency GSU closings have upset teaching presentations and assignment deadlines; faculty made some adjustments compiling lessons and using Blackboard. But our computer system has also had fair weather issues for many students. It has been down and many students have been unable to logon. (2) Speaking of weather, the freezing temperatures have forced smokers to move closer to the building doors. This is very problematic for those with asthma or allergies to cigarette smoke or those health conscious individuals who do not want to inhale second hand smoke on their way in or out the door.

Some areas mentioned in the last Senate report to the Board of Trustees remain concerns and the Senate hopes that they will be addressed as we move closer to FA2014.

- (3) Faculty Scheduling: To accommodate both day/night classes, and the number of hours /days required to be on campus the workloads will have to be adjusted so that faculty members are not teaching early morning and late night or all day. 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.
- (4) Student Activity Scheduling: The Faculty Senate is very student-centered and agrees with purpose for an open campus meeting time (for student club meetings, etc.). However, the Senate is opposed to scheduling this time of 3:15 to 4:30 PM every Tuesday and Thursday. A Friday time slot would be more appropriate. Not being able to offer classes during the 3:15 to 4:30 time-frame or classes that may run into this time frame is problematic and will seriously undermine our ability to offer our programs.

Courses that are scheduled to run with the lab following would have to be rescheduled. Courses may have to be offered in shorter blocks of time on multiple days or less often during the academic year, which may mean that a 1 ½ to 2-year program completion may turn into a 2 ½ to 3-or-more-year program completion cycle. While we are preparing for the first-year students we have to continue to consider the needs of our transfer and graduate students.

- (5) Academic Calendar: The consensus of the Faculty Senate is that there must be set dates for student withdrawals and instructor grade submissions for courses taught in the 15-week term; exceptions can be made for short term courses.
- (6) Handicapped Parking: I am told that GSU is in compliance concerning the number of handicapped parking spaces. But it hardly seems to be in compliance when handicapped individuals have to park across the street several yards from the entrance or when handicapped students, faculty and staff have to park across the street when those individuals driving fuel efficient cars can park right outside the E and F wing entrance. The handicapped parking situation needs to be re-examined in light of the needs of the GSU population.

Allow me to quote myself, because it merits repeating: Our concerns are few; our challenges are many, but as long as we are working together: the faculty, staff, administration, and students we will be successful! We are poised to be the model university for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you, Peace.

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

Civil Service Senate President Owens made the following remarks: The Civil Service Senate continues to meet regularly in order to promote scholarship, build moral, and to help protect the rights and benefits of the GSU Civil Service Staff. The University Administration enables us to provide this support by way of special events, shared governance and collaborative efforts.

Some examples of special events include our recent February Valentine's Day carnation sales, and our upcoming planned Pie Day to be held on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the funds raised from these events are being used to provide our Civil Service Employees with Center for Performing Arts tickets during the season. Both the carnation sales and the CPA ticket offer were very successful. Shared Governance is also appreciated and includes this BOT meeting as well as membership on the PBAC budget committee and inclusion on many of the administrative search committees. Collaborative efforts include that of the freshman initiative workshops, Student Leadership Initiatives, and the Strategy 2020 Planning Committee which has been discussing ways in which University strategies can be adopted and used by Civil Service staff.

Finally, in protecting rights and benefits, we appreciate the opportunity to work with our new HR Director in looking into providing workshops that can help our Civil Service employees advance

in their University careers and to continue looking into those GSU civil service position salary lines that are much lower than all of the other Illinois Universities.

**Lisa Wallace, President, Student Senate**

Student Senate President Wallace made the following remarks: On behalf of Governors State University Student Government Association Student Senate, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you for your commitment to supporting the Governors State University Student Government as we continue to support the mission and the strategic plan of the University.

- Student Senate is committed and dedicated to assisting the Board of Trustee and the administration with achieving the mission and strategic plan for the university.
- Student Senate is moving forward in creating innovative activities, workshops, and community engagement that will continue to support the mission of our University and the vision of our administration.
- Student Senate is redesigning the budget process for clubs and organizations to mirror the PBAC Committee format. We believe that in order for clubs and organizations to be effective we need to realign certain procedures that will support the transition.
- Student Senate is constantly working towards achieving the goals that were presented on December 6, 2013. goals:
  - o Enhance programs, activities and events that will bring cohesiveness among non-traditional students and traditional students.
  - o Improving Campus Communication through different medias.
  - o Increase Student Attendance at Campus wide Events, guest lectures and panel discussions.
  - o Encourage and promote school unity and pride.
  - o Enhance, increase and create additional workshops, panels and lectures to enhance learning outcomes.
  - o Increase student and faculty engagement.
  - o Review Student handbook and provide feedback to address updates that may be required for the incoming freshman class.
  - o Create new and innovative initiatives to increase and promote multicultural diversity and civic engagement within the GSU Family.
  - o In terms of shared governance, GSU Student Government is working to create a forum and retreat on campus for all Student Government Associations for Illinois Universities and Colleges. Student Government Association Executive Board members from the 189 higher education institutions will create partnerships and form collaborations that will enhance the higher education experience for students. The first forum will take place in the fall of 2014 which will be held at Governor State University.

- Student Senate is concerned with the retention rate of the current students. What steps have the administration taken to retain the current students and incoming students? There is much talk of the different initiatives for the incoming freshman cohort.
- Student Senate would like to invite you to one of our upcoming meetings which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 and 4th Wednesday of each month at 3:30, so that we can discuss the concerns of the students as well as possible solutions to those concerns.

On behalf of Student Senate and our constituents we are grateful that the Board of Trustee members and the administration have voted to keep the current tuition rates and student fees rates. Once again your continued support and guidance has helped make our mission and goals a reality which are; advocating for students, promoting awareness, providing student and civic engagement and most of all by allowing us the opportunity to create a conducive learning environment and college experience for the students. As we continue to work towards the mission, please know that the relationship with the Board of Trustee Members and the administration are vital to the success of the students. I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the time and commitment given by the Board of Trustee members and the administration. You have the profound gratitude of the University students for all you have done to ensure a bright future for Governors State University Students. Thank you again.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Charles Dieringer, community member**

Mr. Dieringer made the following remarks: I was recently appointed to the advisory board of the Chicago Heights Library. Many residents in the area don't have access to a library, and I didn't know GSU was available to the public, and I think you should work with the public libraries and communities. I also have an interest in canoeing and am in a canoe club. We came here to establish a training program here at GSU, and the Corps of Engineers are coming to look at the dam to help our canoeing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

***Resolution 14—26: Board Appointments.*** Beaupre entertained a motion to approve Resolution 14-26. Ormsby made a motion. Tyson seconded. The following Board Committee Appointments were approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

Anibal Taboas - Chair  
Eileen Durkin - Vice Chair  
Brian Mitchell  
Kayla Randolph-Clark

**Budget and Finance Committee**

Patrick Ormsby - Chair  
Lorraine Tyson - Vice Chair  
Jack Beaupre  
Kayla Randolph-Clark

**Human Resources Committee**

Lorraine Tyson - Chair  
Brian Mitchell - Vice Chair  
Bruce Friefeld  
Eileen Durkin

**Committee on Governance, Nominations and Trusteeship**

Bruce Friefeld - Chair  
Jack Beaupre - Vice Chair  
Patrick Ormsby  
Anibal Taboas

**Board Elections**

Prior to the slate being proposed, Friefeld thanked Chair Beaupre for his service, noting he was in the legislature when GSU was born. Friefeld has seen Beaupre testify before both Senate and House Committees telling GSU stories eloquently; he has always understood GSU's mission; and has been one of its great advocates. Maimon expressed her deep appreciation of Beaupre's leadership throughout the years, in particular because he saw GSU's potential way back in its infancy. She added that Beaupre was one of the first people she met through the Presidential Search Committee, and he greatly inspired her to want to come to GSU.

The nominees are as follows: Board Chair, Brian D. Mitchell; Vice Chair, Eileen Durkin; and Secretary, Bruce N. Friefeld. Ballots were distributed, collected and counted by Kennedy. Friefeld announced that the slate was approved by unanimous vote.

Newly elected Board Chair Brian D. Mitchell requested a motion to adjourn. Durkin made a motion. Randolph-Clark seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting of the Full Board of Trustees adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney