Negotiations Update
UPI and the administration resumed negotiations January 16. Both sides agreed to seek Federal mediation on a few outstanding thorny issues. The role of the mediator is to help the parties bring closure to open issues in a non-binding process. The teams are negotiating other open issues with the hope that they can be resolved before the mediation process begins.

Survey Says....
During November and December, Physical Plant Operations conducted an e-mail survey of students to get their opinions about GSU’s building and grounds. There were 111 responses. The results were provided to LCM Architects, the firm responsible for developing the Master Plan for GSU’s short and long-term building improvements. According to the survey, GSU students enjoy the scenic aspects of the campus, including the pond, Sculpture Park, preserves, and wildlife. Parking, location, and the comfort of a single, enclosed building also rated favorably. Less appreciated are the multiple locations for offices that provide student services. The colors of the building’s interior, lighting, and rusty ceiling panels are cited as creating a “gloomy” appearance. The layout of corridors is also perceived unfavorably.

And in a related story...
LCM Architects met with the Long Range Facilities Planning Committee on January 21st to offer their recommendations for long-term campus improvements and growth. As a first order of near-term business, LCM identified unique land areas that are not intended for future building development. They include the Sculpture Park, Organic Farm, Thorn Creek Preservation Area, Wetland Prairie Restoration Area, and Biosolids Area. A need for definitive boundaries for these areas was expressed by the architects. LCM’s Dick Lehner indicated disabled access to nature trails, including the Sculpture Park’s, should be addressed soon. LCM’s Joann Mascaro and Lehner identified opportunities to expand parking, improve lighting, and beautify the campus. Indoors, a “one-stop” Student Services Center that will combine all student services into one area is under consideration. Lehner and Mascaro added lighting, seating nodes, signage, furniture, and finish upgrades to the list of near-term improvements.

First FOC Open Meeting
John Tuohy, vice president, administration and planning, and Mike Hassett, director of physical plant operations, held the first of three scheduled open meetings regarding the Faculty Office Center on January 22. Referencing large architectural illustrations, Hassett gave those in attendance a floor-by-floor preview of the building as well as an overview of the proposed occupation. As matters now stand, the College of Business and Public Administration would occupy the west wing of the first floor, though no decision has yet been made on whether the MIS program will relocate. The College of Arts and Sciences would occupy the east wing on the first and second floors. Neither the art nor the science faculty will move. Once the FOC is occupied, the science labs will be renovated. The College of Education would occupy the west wing of the second and third
floors. At this time it is not expected that the division of psychology and counseling will move. The administration would occupy the center area of the third floor, and the balance of the third floor would be mixed use. Hassett cited adjacency locations to the main building as the primary rationale for the proposed assignments. Tuohy said specific decisions regarding program locations, space allocation, and office assignments will be left to the college deans.

Faculty expressed concern over the dimensions and layout of the new offices. The specific issue is over adequate space for books and papers. Tuohy acknowledged the problem, but explained that the university will have a pre-bid conference with furniture vendors, with the objective of having the vendors provide innovative solutions for the loss of wall space.

“The offices may be smaller,” Tuohy said, “but they may be better. It’s going to be a subjective analysis by each individual. Before we decide though, let’s let the vendors do their work.”

Progress on New GSU Website
The team developing the university’s new website is meeting with each of the colleges, BOG, and the Library to determine each unit’s needs. The team is also working out a number of the details, such as what color will be used to identify each college. As part of the overall marketing campaign, each college will have its own tagline. As an example, for the College of Health Professions, it’s Make Someone’s Life Better. For the College of Education, it’s Make a Difference.

“Remnants of Ritual” Art Exhibit
The exhibition “Remnants of Ritual: Traditional African Art from the Gelbard Collection” will open at GSU February 5th and show through February 27th. “Remnants of Ritual” is a 121-piece collection of African art from the pre-Colonial and early Colonial era. Mostly comprised of masks, statuettes, and gold work, the objects originate from west and central Africa. The opening will begin with a February 5th reception at 6 p.m. Dr. Roslyn Walker, former director of the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, will be the guest lecturer. Her lecture titled “Anonymous Has a Name: Olowe of Ise Yoruba, Sculptor to Kings” will be presented at 7:15 p.m., in the Sherman Music Recital Hall. The collection’s owner, David Gelbard, has chosen Governors State University as the site for the first of several planned exhibitions. Governors State’s art professor Dr. Arthur Bourgeois co-authored the collection’s catalog and was instrumental in securing the opening for the university. The catalog will be on sale at the exhibit for $20.

Call for Publications
The University Library will hold the annual Faculty Authors Reception April 9, 2003, from 3:00 to 4:30 on the Library Balcony. Faculty and staff should send copies of their published scholarship to Helen Benos by March 14.