No Decisions Yet in Springfield
President Stuart Fagan and other public university presidents met with both Republican and Democrat leaders in Springfield March 25. “No one today has an informed sense of what reserves or rescissions we may have to make for this fiscal year, let alone what the budget for FY04 will be,” Fagan said. “We should learn about FY03 at the IBHE meeting on April 1.” He added, “The way things look, we may not know our FY04 appropriation until the Governor’s Budget speech on April 9.”

Tuition Caps Look Likely
Dr. Fagan and the other presidents were told that some form of a cap on tuition will probably be passed by the Legislature this session. The bill most likely to be adopted has been sponsored by Representative Kevin Joyce. It would guarantee that tuition for an incoming student would remain the same for four years. No limits have been proposed for graduate tuition. Under the bill as presently written, the limitation would not go into effect this year. A bill replacing lump-sum appropriations with line-item appropriations is also likely to pass.

Open House Postponed
The university-wide Open House scheduled for April 26 has been postponed until FY04. No new date has been set. “This is not as drastic a decision as it may seem,” said Chuck Connolly, Executive Director – Marketing and Communications. “It’s an expensive program which we believe we can defer because of the measurable progress we’ve made in raising GSU’s profile.” Larry Polselli, Executive Director, Admissions and Student Recruitment, said, “The Open House is only one of the weapons in the arsenal. We’ll step up our telemarketing, e-mail, and direct mail campaigns. Admissions for the Spring/Summer Trimester are already ahead of last year. As of yesterday, the head count was up 9.6 percent, and the scheduled credit hours were up by 16.41 percent. And in July and August we’ll bring out the heavy artillery for the Fall Trimester. I think we’ll be fine.”

Budget Crunch Pushes GSU in Directions it Should Go
The catalog for 2003–04 is about to go to press. To save printing and distribution costs, the university plans to print a limited number of paper copies and a large number of copies on CD ROM. “It’s the 21st Century,” said Virginia Eysenbach, coordinator of university publications. “We need to be using the most current and cost-efficient technology available.”
GSU ScholarShip Sails On: I
Dr. Rashidah Jaami’ Muhammad, academic coordinator of English programs, presented “Spiritual Strivings: Using Selected Works of DuBois and Hughes to Guide Non-Traditional Students in the Construction of Autobiographical Narratives” on March 21, at the Fifty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in New York City. The focus of the presentation was a combination of the advancement of social theory as a means for students to reformulate experiential learning in academic writing and the impact of racial and political injustice on critical writing skills.

Reaching the Community: Newspapers, Calendars, and Public Affairs
GSU Public Affairs Office now has a new point person in place for the GSU Community to contact with calendar and news items: Mike Hopkins. Faculty, staff, or students who have scheduled events that they would like to publicize with community newspapers can e-mail a description of their event to Hopkins, along with the date, time, and location of the event. Calendar items, to meet various newspaper deadlines, should be sent to Hopkins at least three weeks in advance of the event; however, the earlier event descriptions are sent, the better. Hopkins’s e-mail address is m-hopkins@govst.edu. Please include “Calendar Item” on the subject line.

Hopkins would also appreciate hearing about newsworthy subjects, happenings, events, or accomplishments that can be included in GSUniverse or in news releases to local papers. “News Item” should be included in the subject line if the information is sent by e-mail. Hopkins can also be reached at extension 7090.

Input: Furniture Advisory Committee Completes Task
The Faculty Office Center Furniture Advisory Committee met for the final time Monday, March 24, to sum up their impressions about possible FOC furniture choices. The previous week, the committee viewed products and evaluated presentations from three furniture manufacturers. The committee was comprised of representatives from all colleges, including faculty, deans, administrative and support staff. “We want to make sure that everyone who will be using the FOC has input about the furniture,” said Tracy Sullivan, director, procurement and auxiliary services, “We received very good feedback, and we’ll use it as we continue with the process.”

Funds for FOC moveable equipment (furniture) were appropriated to the Capital Development Board (CDB) in a prior fiscal year and remain under CDB’s control. When the GSU Board of Trustees and CDB approve the moveable equipment lists GSU submits, CDB will disburse the funds through the State Comptroller’s Office. “The money is set aside by CDB,” said Sullivan, “specifically for the purchase of our FOC moveable equipment.”

And the Nominees Are...
Nominees are still being accepted for student commencement speakers through Wednesday April 2. “We’d like to get the faculty to reward their best students by nominating them for this honor,” said Director of Student Life Dr. Lorraine Sibbet, “It’s an important way to tell our students that we respect the hard work and scholarship they’ve done here at GSU.”

“I can’t think of a better way to tell our students that we believe they have the brightest of futures ahead of them,” said Provost Paul Keys. “I encourage faculty to take a few moments to submit nominations. It’s our responsibility to let students know that their best efforts have been recognized.”

Only faculty can nominate students for commencement speakers. For more information or for nominating forms, contact Sibbet at extension 4555.
GSU ScholarShip Sails On: II
Governors State’s English department was well-represented at the Four C’s. In addition to Dr. Muhammad’s presentation, Dr. Deborah Holdstein presented “Disconnects: What We Know and What We Publish.” She also chaired “Electric Text: Writing After the Web” and conducted a workshop for consultant-evaluators of university and college English departments and writing programs.

Annual Inventory Comes Early
Inventory verification forms have been sent out to every office and are due by April 15, which is earlier than usual. Tracy Sullivan explained, “We’re requesting that the external auditors test the inventory earlier this year, so we’ll be prepared to make the transition into the FOC.” Any equipment in use and valued at greater than $100 has to be accounted for. Additionally, equipment that is untagged needs to be identified and properly tagged for tracking by procurement. “We just came through our latest audit from the state’s Auditor General Office with no material findings,” said Vice President of Administration and Planning John Tuohy. “It goes without saying that we’d like to do that again. Getting this inventory right and on time is the best way to accomplish that.”

For assistance with inventories or further information, contact Barbara Lane at extension 5086.

Consumer Report Available
A new GSU consumer report is now available. Titled Profile GSU: A Consumer Report, the document is a compendium of statistical information about the university as well as a description of GSU, its mission, campus, and offerings. Copies can be obtained through Public Affairs, extension 7090 or e-mail m-hopkins@govst.edu.