Follow this and additional works at: http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse

Recommended Citation

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSUniverse by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.
Steps to Protect Enrollment
Enrollment for the Fall trimester had been running ahead of last year for most of the recruiting cycle, then dropped sharply in the days before classes began on August 28. Reduced spending for advertising and marketing at the end of FY03 had some impact. So too did the elimination of some class offerings. And GSU’s computers were felled for a day or so by the recent attack of the computer viruses, which made it impossible to register on-line or complete the mandatory orientation. But there are other factors as well. There is a backlog in processing applications for financial aid and many students have not yet completed the mandatory online orientation. In addition, more than 300 students in cohorts and practicums have yet to register. Historically, students in cohorts are late comers. The expectation is that they will register in the next week or so. In response to the decline:

The registration period has been extended to September 10. Advertisements announcing the extended registration period will run in the Southtown and Star, as well as the Kankakee and Joliet papers this Sunday. (See story below for more details.)

Students awaiting action on their financial aid requests will be cleared to register. Students will be called and told that they can proceed with registration. They will also be told that if their request for financial aid is denied, they will be dropped unless they can make other arrangements and that they will not be charged for classes already attended.

The holds on students who have not completed their on-line orientations will be lifted immediately. A telephone blitzkrieg was launched August 29 to inform students that they can register and complete the orientation at a later date.

“It Will Work Out.” “How Do You Know?” “It Always Does.”
A great truth from Shakespeare in Love. When the dust settles, when the storm clouds clear, when the crowd settles down, when the new students come in because of the extended registration deadline, when the cohorts arrive like Hannibal’s army across the Alps, when students on hold are freed to register, when the students awaiting word on their financial aid are cleared to register, Fall enrollment is expected to be up slightly from AY03.

Registration Deadline Extended to September 10
As reported above, the deadline for registration has been extended one week, to September 10. There are still openings. One Dean said that about two-thirds of his courses could accept additional students. The late registering students will miss one or two classes, depending on the class schedule. Some programs, particularly in Health Professions, Education, and Psychology will not admit the late students because of sound pedagogical reasons. But other programs can accommodate the late comers. Students will be asked to make up what they
have missed. “Unusual times call for unusual measures,” said President Stuart Fagan. “Given the financial pressures we’re under, we have no choice but to push the envelope without sacrificing the quality of our programs. I appreciate the cooperation of the faculty and their understanding of the financial issues we face.”

Full-Time Graduate Student Redefined
In a move designed to make financial aid more accessible to GSU graduate students as well as put GSU in line with most other state universities, President Fagan signed into effect a new interim policy that redefines full-time status for graduate students. Previously, full-time status was granted only to students taking 12 or more credit hours per trimester. The new policy grants full-time status to graduate students taking nine or more credit hours. The initiative for the policy change originated in the Graduate Council. “Thanks to Russ Carter and Dean Samson for bringing this important need to the Council’s attention,” said Deborah Holdstein, faculty advisor for graduate studies and research. “The initiative received unanimous approval in the Graduate Council,” Holdstein said. She added, “The proposal also went to constituencies across the board, including the Faculty Senate, Deans’ Council, the APP Committee of the Board of Trustees, and to the President of the Student Senate.” Fagan signed the interim policy into effect August 28. It remains an interim policy pending the Educational Policy Committee’s incorporating the change within an existing policy regarding graduate studies.

Scholarship Sails On: Communications
Professor of Communications Mel Muchnik has accepted an invitation to co-chair “NUTN 2004: Quality in Distance Learning” June 14 and 15, 2004, in Kennebunkport, Maine. Muchnik is part of a committee of nine scholars who will plan the conference.

NUTN Perks for GSU Faculty and Staff

Nothing’s Asunder with Our Friends Down Under
Blossoming out of the general international agreement signed between GSU and the University of South Australia (UniSA), Adelaide, in 2000, two communications students from UniSA have come to GSU for the Fall Trimester. David Collins, a graduate student in multimedia communications came to GSU this week, and Dale Clarke, an undergraduate studying journalism, will arrive next week. “These students are winners of the prestigious University Mobility Asia Pacific scholarship,” said Professor Mel Muchnik. “We’re proud and happy to have them at GSU and hope they’ll enjoy their stay.” Muchnik, who embarks upon his own Fulbright visit to UniSA next week, said that the agreement between the universities has allowed several GSU students to participate in online discussions with UniSA students and faculty on topics of social issues and technology. Though most of the collaborative projects have been between UniSA and GSU’s communications program, Muchnik said there have been preliminary discussions to expand the collaborations and exchanges into GSU’s Colleges of Health Professions and Education.

MapQuest Madness
Some things just can’t be found: the Fountain of Youth (somewhere in Florida), El Dorado (down south), Imhotep’s tomb (under sand), Atlantis (under water), and the Holy Grail (back east a ways). Odds are the people looking are using MapQuest, an instant internet cartography service that locates GSU — apparently — somewhere in Hades, perhaps near Persephone’s summer house or under the shade of Achilles. In any case, complaints have arisen from students and faculty that MapQuest can’t accurately locate GSU. A random sampling of both MapQuest and another service, MSN’s MapPoint, turned up inaccuracies of varying degrees. Public Affairs has sent an e-mail to MapQuest regarding the problems, but the old standby print map looks like
the best solution for locating GSU outside of Hades proper and back into University Park, where it belongs. Online maps and direction can be more accurately found on GSU’s website at www.govst.edu/users/gwelcome/how.html.

Counting Down: Hands Across Southland Unity Day at GSU
GSU and the Village of University Park will host the Unity Coalition of the South Suburbs’s Hands Across Southland on campus on September 14, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. For more information go to www.govst.edu/users/gwelcome/handsacross.htm or call 708.534.4125.