Semester System

On Monday afternoon, Dr. David Curtis, Professor on Special Assignment, issued a university-wide memo detailing his recommendations to the President regarding the adoption of a new semester-based calendar.

Former Provost Jane Hudak spearheaded the initial study last spring. Since then, members of both the Calendar Options and Implementation Task Forces, led by CCHS Dean and Interim Vice provost for Research and Graduate Studies, have explored the issues, weighed options, conducted surveys, and collected associated data.

The Calendar Implementation Task Force provided the Office of the Provost with a set of recommendations, including:

- If all the technical details can be worked out, the University will adopt a semester calendar for the Fall of 2010.
- The exact dates of beginning and ending of the semesters and summer sessions are yet to be determined, but each semester will remain as now, 15 weeks.
- The summer session will provide several options for instruction including 4-week sessions, 6-week sessions, 8-week sessions, and 12-week sessions. In fact you will have many options for scheduling your summer session classes; your choices will be limited only by your imagination and good academic practices.
- The Academic Deans, chairs, and most faculty who are familiar with the calendar proposal, believe that the new calendar should have no negative impact on academic quality.

Dr. Curtis noted, “Change to a semester calendar system would enhance our vitality and make GSU more responsive to the educational needs of our region.”

Swine Flu response Update

The university’s Emergency Response Team is continuing to work with the administration and the Will County Department of Public Health to evaluate facts, respond appropriately, and communicate actions, as needed, to the university community.

Bottles of Purell hand sanitizer were delivered to each university office/department that handles mail. Departments requiring additional sanitizer may order more immediately using the Central Stores reorder form. The university has also received a stock of respiratory masks, should the need arise.
Please review Monday’s university-wide communication containing facts about swine flu and personal steps you can take to reduce your chances of contraction. Additional facts are available at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

**Provost Search Begins**

President Maimon announced the creation of a Provost Search Committee on Wednesday.

The committee, which will begin meeting on May 6, will spend the next several months identifying and interviewing candidates for the permanent Provost’s position. The group will receive their charge from Dr. Jamie Ferrare of Academic Search, Inc., who will provide guidance and consultation throughout the process.

Committee members include:
- David Curtis, Professor, CBPA, Chair
- Paul Blobaum, President of Faculty Senate
- Jessica Bonner, Associate Professor, CHHS
- Deborah Bordelon, Dean, COE
- Karen Caesar-Smith, Director of Special Events
- James Coldren, Associate Professor and Coordinator for Criminal Justice, CAS
- Mary Carrington, Associate Professor, CAS
- Lorenzo Flores, Assistant Professor, COE
- Susan Gaffney, Associate Professor, CBPA
- Sandy Gandy, Assistant Professor, COE
- Carmin Garcia, President of Student Senate, or her designee
- Gregory Johnson, Assistant Professor, University Library
- Karen Kissel, Associate VP for Financial Services and Comptroller
- Tony Labriola, Coordinator of Instructional Development, Division of Digital Learning and Media Design
- Gary Lyon, Associate Professor, CAS
- Donna Rutledge, Administrative Aide, Student Development, Civil Service Senate
- Ann Vendrely, Associate Professor, CHHS
- Joan Johns, Administrative Support
- Pulchratia Kinney-Smith, HR Representative

**ScholarShip Sails to MPA Convention**

Jean Johnson, Al Tuskenis, Glenna Howell, and Kim Jaroszewski will be presenting at the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) Annual Convention, on Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2, at the Palmer House in Chicago. Their presentations are entitled *Development and Assessment of a New Thinking and Writing Course in Psychology*, and *Assessing Outcomes in an APA Goals-Benchmarked Undergraduate Psychology Program*.

**Kingston Trio at the CPA**
The Kingston Trio will perform their trademark three-part harmony and clean, crisp sound on Sunday May 3, at 5 p.m., at the Center for Performing Arts.

GSU two-for-one tickets are available for this show from 10 a.m., on Friday, May 1, through 4 p.m., Sunday, May 3. Tickets may be purchased in person or via phone at 708.235.2222.

Welcome Back, Students

Welcome Days sponsored by Student Life will be held on May 4 and 5, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. ID validation will be available as will information about campus resources such as the University Library, the Department of Public Safety, the Writing Center, Career Services, the Recreation and Fitness Center, and the Academic Resource Center.

Benefits Fair

The Department of Human Resources is sponsoring a benefits fair for GSU employees on May 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Hall of Governors. Information will be available on health insurance, dental insurance, college savings plans, the credit union, vision insurance, life insurance, and retirement savings plans.

Stop Smoking Now

A seven-week Freedom From Smoking classes will be offered on Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., from May 13 through June 24, in F1603. The class will be taught by the Will County Health Department and is open to students, faculty, staff, and community members.

For more information or to register, call 708.235.7468.