Friday, June 12 marked GSU’s third full Board of Trustees meeting of the year.

The meeting began with approval of a consent agenda containing a number of new resolutions including contracts for the maintenance of the Jenzebar ERP system, training services under the DCFS contract, disability services, advertising and media services, state legislative consulting services, and marketing services for the Center for Performing Arts. Other resolutions involved contracts for construction of nursing labs, energy management services, architectural services, and engineering services.

The Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision was approved as a new academic program for AY 2011-2012 and several professors were awarded tenure including Javier Chavira, Xiaoyong Chen, Beth Parin, and Rosemary Johnsen.

A special resolution recognized the dedication of Student Trustee Elizabeth Green, who has served in her position for two years. Green will be replaced by incoming Student Trustee Bryce Johnsen.

During her report, Board Chair Lorine Samuels commented on the success of the June commencement and honorary degree activities. She remarked on the still uncertain budget situation in Springfield but commended the GSU community for ongoing attention to cautious budgeting on campus. She also noted that the hiring of a State lobbyist would assist in advancing GSU’s budget in Illinois and Washington.

Samuels also noted the successful completion of President Maimon’s second year at GSU. Dr. Maimon’s evaluation consisted of a self-assessment prepared by Dr. Maimon, the
review of the past year’s challenges and accomplishments, and the setting of new presidential goals for Academic Year 2010-2011.

In her report, President Maimon noted that despite the significant decline in the State of Illinois’ Moody’s rating, the university’s bond rating remained constant at A-. The consistent rating reaffirms the university’s positive position – economically and academically. She also reflected on the university’s growth in many ways over the past two years.

Dr. Maimon recalled the standing ovation student commencement speaker Edgar Casillas received a week prior, noting that his success was the kind that we strive for all GSU students to achieve.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Joan Vaughan, made a presentation regarding the status of FY 2009 fundraising. Vaughan was proud to report that the Institutional Advancement team exceeded its $430,000 goal this year despite the current state of the economy where a 13 percent drop in giving has been standard.

Brief reports we made by the Faculty and Student Senate Presidents. Paul Blobaum, President of the Faculty Senate, noted that the current administration’s hard work has allowed faculty to focus on academics rather than operational issues. Student Senate President Carmin Garnica announced that the senate would be awarding four $1,000 awards to GSU students to assist with childcare costs.

Student Trustee Elizabeth Green submitted comments on behalf of Civil Service Senate President Kathy Miller. She noted that the senate has proposed a Sick Bank program per successful programs at other state universities. The senate is also reconsidering its requirement for Civil Service Senate Scholarships.