December BOT Meeting Recap

Friday, December 11 marked GSU’s final Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting of 2009.

The approved consent agenda contained a number of new resolutions including emeritus status for Dr. Virginio Piucci; contracts for upgrades and maintenance of air handling units, the electrical system, and the fire/security system; contract renewals for painting and carpeting; adoption of revised BOT governing policies; and the acceptance of IBHE program reviews from calendar years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Board member Kristi DiLaurentiis recognized civil service employee of the year Julia Jamison and thanked her for her dedication to the university and for her exemplary work on the Let’s Get Fit program.

During her report, Board Chair Lorine Samuels commented on the success of the yearlong 40th Anniversary celebration and of the recent HLC site visit. She congratulated the entire university community for their dedication to making the HLC visit successful and specifically mentioned the work of Dean Eric Martin and Dr. Ann Vendrely.

Samuels noted that the university continues to move forward in a positive direction by recognizing several new projects – college advisory boards, the new semester calendar, and individual meetings between the Board and the Faculty, Civil Service, and Student senates.

Samuels acknowledged the need for the university to continue to look for new ways to become self-sustaining while staying true to GSU’s mission and spirit.

President Maimon recognized a successful 40th anniversary year during her report. She specifically thanked event planner Karen Caesar-Smith for her hard work. Dr. Maimon noted the significance of the successful HLC visit. She remarked that the HLC team reviewed all aspects of the university and that GSU received high marks for external outreach, infrastructure of the development team, finance, and facilities.

Dr. Maimon reported that the IBHE recently approved GSU’s fourth doctorate – the Ed.D. in Counseling. HLC must now provide final approval of the new degree program. She also discussed the status of capital project funding, noting that the administration is relentless on its push for E and F wing dollars. Dr. Maimon remains hopeful that funds will be received in early 2010.

The State of Illinois has released only a small portion of GSU’s fiscal reimbursements for the current fiscal year. Other Illinois universities are in similar positions. As a result, Dr. Maimon reported that the IBHE recently adopted an advocacy position demanding that university funds be paid immediately. Dr. Maimon closed by noting that the synergy of the 40th Anniversary and the HLC visit will continue to carry GSU in 2010.

Dr. Hekki Heino, newly-elected president of the Faculty Senate, noted that he is looking forward to the opportunity to meet with the Board early in the new year to discuss faculty related issues. In preparation for that meeting, the faculty will prioritize their concerns. He noted that he plans to focus on university-wide issues in his initial discussions with the Board.
Student Senate president Carmin Garnica recognized the difficulty in gaining the involvement of non-traditional students in activities and clubs. She noted that Student Life will continue their full support of Strategy 2015 goals through increased focus on student involvement on campus.

Trustee Lois Mayer presented on behalf of Civil Service Senate president Kathy Miller. She reported that Miller recently attended the Council of Councils where the State budget was the primary topic. GSU will host the Council event next year. She thanked the BOT for the one-on-one opportunity to discuss Civil Service topics in the new year. She closed with a recap of Civil Service Day and noted the upcoming Penny Wars fundraiser.