Friday, October 8, marked the first Board of Trustees meeting of both the new academic year and the first GSU semester.

The meeting began with the approval of the consent agenda, which included several resolutions of great interest to the university community. Resolutions included the FY11 Operating Budget; employment contracts with clerical workers, maintenance laborers, and building service workers; contracts to increase vision and hearing services to students; and construction contracts to replace and improve existing air handling units and fire water main system.

The consent agenda also included a resolution granting one personal day off for non-negotiated employees who rated “generally exceeds expectation” or “superior” on their FY10 performance evaluation, to be taken in FY11.

In recognition of their scholarship and service, Professor Emeritus status was awarded to Professors Russell Carter (formerly of CHHS), Reino Hakala (formerly of CAS), and June Patton (formerly of CAS).

In the absence of Board Chair Lorine Samuels, Vice Chair Kristi DeLaurentiis chaired the Board meeting and presented remarks on her behalf. DeLaurentiis welcomed everyone to the new academic year and the first GSU semester. She noted that GSU continues to put the students’ best interests first. She offered a quick review of the previous years’ achievements, and congratulated Baysore Award winner Kathy Miller, the winners of the faculty excellence awards, and the new and tenured faculty. DeLaurentiis also observed that despite the failure of the State of Illinois to pay the $11 million it currently owes the university, the GSU community continues to exhibit positive momentum.

In her report, President Maimon echoed DeLaurentiis’ remarks, noting that despite great uncertainties at the State level, GSU continues to move ahead - citing the massive transformation of the IRiS Project, renovations to the Student Services area, and the impending reconstruction of E and F wings. Because of the State’s failure to pay GSU, Dr. Maimon reinforced the need for the university to monitor expenses and remain cautious during these financially uncertain times. She noted the university’s commitment to increase undergraduate enrollment through community college partnerships, the Dual Degree program, and the dramatically improved undergraduate retention rate. Dr. Maimon concluded with a quote from *Pogo* cartoonist Walt Kelly, “We are confronted by insurmountable opportunities.”

Brief reports were made by Dr. Heikki Heino, Faculty Senate President; Laura Owens, Civil Service President; and Student Trustee Brendan Hollandsworth, on
behalf of Student Senate President David Corcoran. Dr. Heino encouraged the university to pay attention to enrollment declines in GSU’s graduate programs. Owens mentioned the upcoming 12th Annual Council of Councils to take place at GSU on October 22. Hollandsworth explained the determination of Student Senate members to be active in creating programs and events designed to encourage student involvement on campus.