Following a comprehensive assessment, conducted over the last several months, GSU President Elaine P. Maimon received a strong endorsement from the university’s Board of Trustees on Friday. The endorsement was part of a review process that involved independent consultant Robert Atwell, who conducted 83 interviews regarding Dr. Maimon’s performance.

Trustees unanimously approved a resolution expressing “continuing support and sincere appreciation and gratitude” for Dr. Maimon’s leadership. Maimon has been serving as GSU’s fifth president since July, 2007. During her tenure, the resolution states, Dr. Maimon has rightly and continuously focused on, and materially succeeded in five major areas of strategic interest to GSU’s future. The Board specifically acknowledged her leadership focus on growth, quality, and productivity.

The resolution concluded by encouraging Dr. Maimon to continue working “with the Board, the faculty, staff and students, and all other stakeholders and supporters of the university to ensure even greater accomplishment in her leadership of Governors State University.” The Board of Trustees passed the resolution at its last meeting of the year held on Friday, December 10.

In other business, the Board approved a resolution endorsing a call to action on degree completion from the American Association of Community Colleges. The AACC is asking member institutions to promote the development and implementation of policies, practices, and institutional cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high quality degrees and certifications by 2020. Chair Samuels and President Maimon signed the call to action document, becoming the only four year university in Illinois to do so.

Linda Uzureau, GSU’s Assistant to the President for Community College Partnerships, made a presentation about the Dual Degree Program to the Board. GSU, in partnership with six regional community colleges, is offering a Dual Degree Program designed to boost the number of college graduates, on both the university and community college level. The program goes far beyond more traditional articulation agreements between universities and community colleges, she said.

Vice Provost of Academic Affairs John Stoll, Executive Leader of the IRiS Project Management Team, gave an update on implementation of the university’s new ERP system. According to the latest timeline, segments of university operations, such as Advancement/Alumni, are scheduled to go live with Datatel’s Colleague system in January. Purchasing and Accounts Payable have been pushed back and will now make their debut in July; however, payroll will be run on both the old and new system beginning in February. Students will be able to access the new system for registration in April, Stoll said.

Sherilyn Poole, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, presented a report on efforts by the university’s Emergency Response Team to improve safety conditions on campus. The ERT is in charge of evacuation and tornado drills, has established weather spotters, and placed AED defibrillators around GSU. In addition, the university’s Campus Threat Assessment Team has taken steps to anticipate aggressive or threatening behavior before violent incidents can take place. In the last three years, Poole said, criminal incidents at GSU have steadily declined.
The Board of Trustees also:

- Approved a contract for roofing repairs with Chicago Heights Construction Company.
- Awarded a contract renewal with Simantel Group Ltd, of Peoria, for marketing consultation services.
- Authorized an amendment in the contract with Datatel, Inc., of Fairfax, Va., for additional scope of work and related expenditures.
- Approved an affiliation agreement with Advocate Health Centers, Inc. for the use of various Advocate sites for practical learning and clinical sites for GSU nursing students.