Following the appointment of the Lower Division Steering Committee, GSU is moving steadfastly toward the final steps that need to be taken to ensure a superlative first year experience when freshmen arrive in Fall, 2014.

The committee, established in November by President Elaine P. Maimon, held its first meeting in December and plans to conduct biweekly sessions through the implementation of the lower division curriculum and the arrival of first year students.

CAS Dean Reinhold Hill is chairing the Lower Division Steering Committee; members include Aurelio Valente, Dean of Students; Kristy Goodwin, Director of Recruitment and Outreach; Karen Kissel, Vice President of Administration and Finance; Randi Schneider, Director of Academic Engagement; Phyllis Streeter, Institutional Research Specialist; Ann Vendrely, Professor of Physical Therapy; and Rhonda Brown, Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications.

Dean Hill said the new committee will work in concert with other groups and offices at GSU, including committees, working groups, administrative areas, faculty, and staff.

“We plan to identify the strengths, needs, and opportunities related to the debut of the lower division,” he said. “We will compile a list of possible actions and plan to prioritize them so we can begin to identify available resources and work groups in these areas. Then we can prepare a timeline to ensure institutional readiness leading to GSU’s lower division implementation.”

Dean Reinhold Hill At their first meeting, committee members started putting together a list of areas for consideration, investigation and planning. They include academic support, student profile, marketing, housing, recruitment, student life, bridge program, orientation, welcoming activities, athletics and intramurals, culture change, communicational internal and external stakeholders, fiscal constraints, registration and enrollment policies, Colleague, communication with faculty about deans, leveraging partnerships and relationships with local business community, physical and mental health, and assessment of first year students.
GSU Delegation Headed to Presidential Inauguration

Thirty-eight GSU students will be part of history when they attend President Barack Obama’s second inauguration Monday in Washington, D.C.

During their unforgettable trip, students will learn first-hand about civic engagement, attend the inauguration ceremony and parade, and visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and other historic sites in the nation’s capital.

“This is very exciting,” said Student Senate President Lisa Wallace, who is looking forward to visiting the MLK Memorial and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Wallace is also serving as a volunteer at two evening events, President Obama’s Inaugural Ball and the Military Ball.

Wallace said she looked over the seating chart for the Inaugural Ball and found that her assigned table is very close to where President Obama will be sitting. “It will be a real honor to serve the President of the United States,” she said.

GSU students will be accompanied by four faculty and staff members, including Sheree Sanderson, assistant dean of students; Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, assistant professor of history and social science; and Dr. Phyllis West, university lecturer in social work. Students can take part in a special independent student course, History 4700, involving readings, research, and a project under faculty supervision. Students will make a presentation at GSU about their experiences in Washington during Black History Month in February.

Students will depart by bus from GSU at 6 a.m. Sunday, arriving in the Washington D.C. area 12 hours later. They will stay in Hagerstown, Maryland, where the city’s mayor, David Gysberts, is scheduled to speak with GSU’s entourage about civic engagement.

On Monday, students are expected to arrive in Washington at about 8:30 a.m. President Obama will be sworn in at noon and the inauguration parade follows the swearing-in ceremony. Students will visit the MLK Memorial and other sites after the parade. The delegation will return to GSU on Tuesday.

GSU’s first-ever student trip to a presidential inauguration is sponsored by the Office of Student Life.
Welcome Week Activities, January 20-28

A full slate of activities is scheduled for spring semester Welcome Week, between January 20 and 28.

Activities include:
• January 20-22 – Student trip to Presidential Inauguration and MLK Memorial
• January 21 – MLK Day of Service – sign up to serve mlkday.gov/
• January 22-23 – Uniform ID Validation, noon to 6 p.m., Hall of Governors
• January 22 – Student Resource Fair and Secretary of State mobile services, noon to 6 p.m., Hall of Governors
• January 23 - Campus Crawl, 3 to 6 p.m. Get to know your university by visiting GSU departments and collecting seals on your Campus Crawl Card. Cards will be distributed in the Hall of Governors. Completed cards can be redeemed for prizes and refreshments in the Student Commons (A2140).
• January 24 – Hypnotist Jim Wand, 6 to 8 p.m., Sherman Recital Hall
• January 25 – Students Welcome Back Skate, 6 to 8 p.m., Rich City Roller Rink, 4645 Sauk Trail, Richton Park.
• January 26 – Braid Tales, 8 p.m., Center for Performing Arts
• January 28 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 10 to 11:30 a.m., Center for Performing Arts.

Welcome Week activities are sponsored by Student Life. For further information, contact Sheree Sanderson.

Braid Tales Pre-performance Lecture – January 24

Hip Hop music, poetry, and dance – and how they can be used as an educational tool – will be discussed during a special pre-performance lecture event at 5 p.m., on Thursday, January 24, in Engbretson Hall.

Braid Tales - the ZigZags and Twists of Urban Classroom Pedagogy will explore the relationship between youth development work, Hip Hop performance, and educational efforts at Kuumba Lynx, a Chicago-based arts and education organization.

Kuumba Lynx’s touring production, Braid Tales, will be presented at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, at the Center for Performing Arts.

Panel members at the January 24 lecture include moderator Dr. Rashidah Muhammad, Professor of English and Secondary Education; Jacinda Bullie, co-founder of Kuumba Lynx; Jaquanda Villegas, co-executive director of Kuumba Lynx; Keith Redmond, a member of Kuumba Lynx Adult Ensemble; and Dr. Patrick Santoro, Assistant Professor, Division of Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts.

The lecture is free and open to the public.
**Braid Tales at CPA - January 26**

*Braid Tales* is part of GSU Center’s 2012-2013 *One More Night* series, which brings the finest in Chicago-area theatre, dance, and music to local audiences. *One More Night* is made possible by a generous grant from The Chicago Community Trust. This lively, interactive show is at GSU Center for one show only, at 8 p.m., on Saturday, January 26.

Tickets for *Braid Tales* are $30, $10 for college students, and $5 for high school students. To purchase tickets, or for further information, contact the GSU Center box office at 708.235.2222. Student discounts are only available by phone or in person and require a valid school ID.

**Urban Teacher Preparation in the Spotlight**

Karen Peterson, professor emeritus and coordinator of special projects in the College of Education, will discuss high quality urban teacher preparation at Friday’s meeting of the Associated Colleges of Illinois in Chicago.

Peterson, who is also co-director of GSU’s Teacher Quality Partnership grant, is one of three panelists who will address comprehensive perspectives on teacher preparation – recruitment, preparation and follow-up and support. The other panelists are from University of Chicago and the Academy for Urban School Leadership.

Faculty and administrators from at least 14 ACI colleges and communities are expected to attend Friday’s meeting.

**Food Pantry Open for Business**

With the start of the spring semester, GSU’s food pantry is open from 3 to 6 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. The food pantry is a resource to assist GSU students during difficult times. Students need only to present their validated ID card to receive service.

The food pantry needs students to assist with this important on-campus resource. If you are interested in volunteering at the food pantry, contact Chris Cook.

Donations of food for the pantry may be dropped off in Student Life (A2100) or in the food bins around the university.
Get Involved in Student Governance

GSU’s Student Senate is currently looking for a few good students. If you are interested in representing your fellow students and making a difference, get involved in student governance. Applications are currently being accepted for college representatives, Board of Trustee Representative, and Illinois Board of Higher Education Representative for the March elections.

For Student Senate packets, go to the Student Clubs Resource Fair, the Student Life Office (A2104), select Student Life bulletin boards, or visit www.govst.edu/studentsenate.

Qualifications and responsibilities are listed in the Student Senate packet. For more information, contact Sheree Sanderson.

African American Read-In – February 4

The annual National African American Read-In is again part of Black History Month at GSU. This year’s event takes place Monday, February 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Sherman Recital Hall.

Volunteer readers celebrate literacy by reading an excerpt from a book, poem, or essay by an African American author. The program is endorsed by the International Literacy Association, and is sponsored at GSU by the College of Arts and Sciences, the English Department, the Black Caucus of the NCTE, and the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), and Student Life.

The Read-In is free and open to the public. Volunteer readers are encouraged to pick their favorite piece of African American literature and join the celebration. For more information or to register as a volunteer reader, contact Dr. Rashidah Muhammad at 708.534.6974. All are invited to participate.

Deadline for DFI Applications Approaching

Applications are being accepted for the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois program, a statewide initiative designed to increase the number of minority full-time tenure track faculty and staff at Illinois’ two- and four-year, public and private colleges and universities. Applicants must be admitted to a master's or doctoral program at a participating institution at the time of application. If admitted to the program, they must enroll as a full-time student as defined by the institution.
Both new and renewal applicants must contact Sheree Sanderson, assistant dean of students, regarding their intent to apply or receive additional information. New applicants must obtain a special access code to complete their online eligibility check. Priority consideration will be given to applications in STEM areas, particularly mathematics and science.

Deadline for DFI applications for the 2013-2014 academic year is February 18, at 4 p.m.

Students interested in applying can attend an information session on January 28, at 3:30 p.m., in A2134.

More information about DFI is available at http://www.ibhe.state.il.us/DFI/default.htm. For additional information contact Sheree Sanderson.

**Fall Semester MIP Applications now Being Accepted**

The Minority Internship Program (MIP) is designed specifically for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at GSU, Chicago State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Eastern Illinois University, and Western Illinois University. The program is open to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans (or Pacific Islanders), Native Americans, and Alaskan Natives.

The program provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the practical aspects of public policy making in a variety of off-campus settings. While the emphasis is on local and state government agencies, students may complete their internships in a number of other agencies that may be more relevant to their majors and career aspirations.

Applications for the MIP program are currently being accepted for the fall semester. The application deadline is February 5. Applicant selection is very competitive. Download an application.

For additional information contact Sheree Sanderson at 708.534.4552.
Tips for Stronger Essays – February 6

Learn to write winning scholarship and graduation admission essays at a workshop presenting strategies on how to convince your audience that you are among the best and brightest. The workshop takes place at 3 p.m., February 6, in D1496.

English Department faculty and the Writing Center staff will offer assistance about how to begin your essay, choose your approach, shape your writing, provide meaningful examples, and produce an error free piece. Previous scholarship winners and scholarship reviewers will provide valuable insight into the selection process.

Just bring yourself, your questions, and any instructions you may have been given about your essay. You’re sure to get specific, hands-on help with your application and a new understanding of the essay-writing process.

Youth Swim Program Starts Soon

It’s time to get the kids off the couch, away from the Xbox, and into the pool. Winter is the perfect time for children to learn how to swim, master an important skill, have fun in the water, and use up some energy.

The GSU Recreation and Fitness Center Youth Swim Program is open to children 5 to 17 years old. Participants receive 12 weeks of swim instruction. Classes begin on Saturday, February 2, from 11 to 11:40 a.m. Parental presence poolside during swim times and a waiver signed by a parent or guardian are required.

The fee is $20 for the children of GSU students, $25 for the children of Recreation and Fitness Center members, and $50 for non-members. The deadline to sign up is Saturday, January 26. This program encourages family involvement. Limited space is available.

Contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 708.534.4556.