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Meeting 2004-11-18

Civil Service Senate

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Governors State University
Civil Service Senate

Minutes
November 18, 2004
10:30 a.m.
Hall of Honors

Civil Service Senate President Kathy Miller opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Present: Debra Boyd, Donna Finn, Martha Hellman, Rhonda Jackson, Blondia Jasper, Sean Jones, William Kelly, Cindy Matthias, Kathy Miller, Eric Nicholson, Renee Rainey, Pat Rogala, Jana Sheely, Karen Sinwelski, Scott Smith, Karen Stuenkel, Annie Ware, Janice Washington, Stephanie Wenzel, and Cynthia Woodard.

Excused: Susan Bell, Marva Hampton

Absent: Mary Hellings, Audrey McIntyre

Minutes of October 21 Meeting: Moved and seconded to accept, members agreed

New Business: Two new senate members, Marva Hampton and Audrey McIntyre, were recruited by Kathy Miller. A motion was made and seconded to appoint them to senate positions; voice vote 'aye.' Welcome, Marva and Audrey. The Civil Service Senate now has a full roster of twenty-four members.

Special Guests: **Stu Fagan**, President, GSU,
John Tuohy, VP/Administration,
Gail Bradshaw, Director/HR,
Chuck Connolly, Executive Director/Marketing & Communications,
Jeff Slovak, Associate Director of Planning

President Fagan first referred us to the text of his convocation speech and to the article in "The Phoenix" which contains his speech to the IBHE, in both of which he discussed the probable negative effect of budget cuts on Illinois higher education.

GSU is currently developing its FY 2006 budget, due July 1, 2005, approximately thirteen months away. When completed, Stu, Jeff, Paul Keys, and Bruce Frefeld will present the budget to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) and thus to the Governor. The OMB will suggest changes, the budget will be reviewed by the legislature, then go to the governor for signing (or not signing).

For the coming year's budget, IBHE suggests a 2% increase in our budget; OMB suggests a 2% decrease plus a 4-6% recession later in the year. A coalition of the presidents of public universities has been formed to lobby politicians about funding for higher education. With IBHE and OMB recommending opposing changes, the best we can hope for is that the budget numbers stay flat with no recession. We also received more than \$100,000 thanks to Debbie Halvorson and Emil Jones of the Illinois State Senate.

University representation is severely limited at IBHE meetings although the meetings are technically open to the public.

FY 2006 revenues are projected to increase 3-5%, about \$750 million. However, expenditures are expected to increase for K-12 funding, Medicaid, and healthcare, with \$600 million to be required by the pension systems. This obviously leaves a big hole in the budget, which no-one seems to know how to fill. The governor favors spending on K-12, health care, and the criminal justice sector; higher education is not high on his list of priorities. The IBHE wants to retain sufficient funding to maintain accessibility and affordability to students, increase faculty/staff salaries, and take care of much deferred maintenance needed on campuses.

MAP grants: trying to find ways to increase the amount that goes to lower income students; ISAC proposed limiting MPA grant amounts to the highest tuition/fees charged by the University of Illinois; this was defeated by private institutions.

GSU has an Operating Budget for day-to-day expenses and a Capital Budget for major projects such as the renovations to E & F Wings. This renovation is on hold because there is not enough money at this time; the Capital Development Board will prioritize projects. Senator Halvorson is working on it; Stu has directed Tuohy to proceed as if the money were available.

Stu thanked the GSU community for its excellent participation in the ethics training; GSU is at 96%; other institutions are around 65%.

President Fagan briefly touched on a number of other topics:

- ④ Work will soon begin on updating/revising the GSU strategic plan; Kathy Miller will represent the Civil Service Senate.
- ④ The university will focus on quality, enrollment growth, and increasing the fundraising efforts of the Development Office.
- ④ FLSA changes which caused a loss of vacation time; Tuohy will present recommendations to the Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees. GSU must comply with the FLSA laws but will try to work out a compromise that will satisfy all affected employees.
- ④ SURS – there is concern about its future; the governor's commission on pensions has developed some recommendations that are definitely not good for new employees. We should stay informed about the situation and respond as needed. President Miller later provided a link to Illinois Employee Groups on Yahoo.

VP Tuohy was asked to discuss the issue of accumulated vacation time (prior to FLSA). He feels we will probably not get all of it back but he is working to educate the Board; reclassification is currently not an option. The November 19 BOT meeting is open to the public; anyone can attend.

Gail Bradshaw responded to a question of using comp time to cover the required days off over the holiday. She says there is no rule that comp time cannot be used in this manner but it is a 'unit' decision. Gail reminded us that overtime must be assigned and approved ahead of time by the supervisor; using overtime and comp time should also be approved by the supervisor.

President Miller thanked President Fagan and our other guests; President Fagan indicated his willingness to speak with us at any time.

New Business:

Civil Service Day: big response so event will be held in the Hall of Governors. Another flyer for reservations will be sent after December 1. Tom Morelock and others have been sent letters inviting them to attend. VP Britt will fund the pop and water; Provost Keys will supply wine; Stu will buy the flowers for table centerpieces; VP Tuohy will fund part of the meal, possible all.

First Friday: moved and seconded that Civil Service Senate co-sponsor an event; motion passed. Cost is about \$200. We will try for March 18, on the Library Balcony.

Display Case: key being obtained from Susan Rakstang.

Committee Reports:

1 – EAC Report, Cathy Swatek: our constitution and bylaws require that we all our meetings be considered as 'open to the public;' the work-study committee is looking at the question of providing benefits to extra help; SURS pension funds are under scrutiny of way too many commissions who are making recommendations about our pensions.

2 – Governance Committee, Eric Nicholson: no report

3 – Civil Service Affairs Committee, Shelina Hurd: Craft Fair earnings \$805, Bake Sale \$247. Civil Service Day entertainment rehearsals will be held November 29 and 30 in Sherman Music Hall; assignments include Eric/DVD, Mark/direct and videotape, Bruce Crooks/photos; acquisition of door prizes going well.

4 – Scholarship Committee, Louis Schultz: three applications received; one approved – a GSU employee. Moved, seconded, and approved to award \$500. Moved, seconded, and approved to award one scholarship each trimester.

5 – Grievance Committee, Miller must be removed as chair of committee because she is now CSS President and thus is ex-officio on all committees; moved, seconded, and approved that Karen Stuenkel will serve as interim chair. No current grievances.

6 – Finance Committee, Karen Stuenkel: no report

Old Business:

None

Remarks:

Welcome to our new senators!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.