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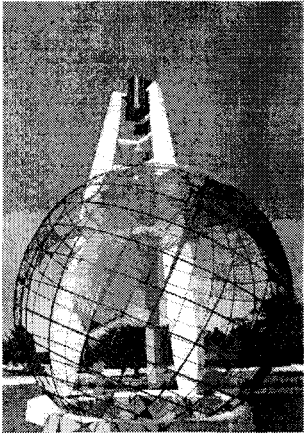
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Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

February 3 – February 7, 2003

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*"My center is giving way, my right is in retreat; situation excellent.
I shall attack.*

Ferdinand Foch (1851 – 1929), French General

Uncertainty Prevails

President Stuart Fagan returned from a regularly scheduled meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education this week. He reports that no decisions have been made on funding for higher education in FY04 and no clear indication of what Governor Blagojevich will propose.

Legislature Is Restive

President Fagan also reports that more than 1,000 bills have been introduced into the state legislature, some affecting higher education. As reported, one proposed piece of legislation would place a severe cap on tuition increases by public universities. Another bill would require that a public university's income fund (tuition, fees, etc.) be deposited into the state treasury. In other words, no public university would have access to funds from any source other than what the State appropriates.

Even though the Governor is postponing his budget address until April, the State House of Representatives Appropriations Committee will hold hearings immediately. The focus on higher education will be on affordability and the relationship of administrative versus faculty expenditures. In another development, Republicans in the legislature have proposed a measure that would permit the governor to cut state expenditures by five percent immediately, thus increasing speculation about a mid-year rescission.

FOC: Take 2

The second open meeting for the Faculty Office Center was held February 4, in the Hall of Honors. John Tuohy, vice president, administration and planning, indicated at the start of the meeting that the occupancy plan for the FOC has changed since it was presented at the first FOC open meeting. The changes, reviewed and agreed to by the college deans, reflect the need to accommodate the upgrade of the science labs and the renovation of E and F wing. The most significant change is a switch between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health Professions. As of the first FOC open meeting, CAS had been slated to occupy the east wing on the first and second floors, with the exception of the art and science faculties, which were excluded from the move. As things stand now, CAS will not move into the FOC. However, CHP, which had not been scheduled to move, will now move its Dean's Office, Social Work, Addiction Studies, and Health Administration programs into the east wing of the FOC's first and second floors. Plans for the College of Business and Public Administration remain unchanged. The College of Education plans remain fairly stable, with that college projected to occupy the west wing of the second and third floors; however, a request has been made by COE to make space for the division of psychology and counseling within the FOC. The division has thus far not been included in the move. No commitment can be made to accommodate the request until staffing levels and needs have been fully assessed.

Use of Vacated Space

In the long term, space vacated in the main building as the FOC is populated is intended to be converted into classrooms and other instructional support facilities. However, over the next two years much of that vacated space will be needed to house CAS and CHP faculty and programs that will be temporarily displaced during renovation of the E and F Wing. Final use determination and construction programming for vacated space will be accounted for in the Long-Range Campus Master Plan that is currently in progress.

Air and Ether: Library Connectivity

In addition to public terminals for patrons' use, the GSU library now has both wireless and Ethernet access for personal laptops. Wireless access gives patrons access to the internet and, because it provides a GSU IP number, access to library resources and databases. Two limitations apply for wireless access: patrons must be in the areas nearest the reference desk to maintain a signal, and their laptops must be equipped with a 802.11b WI-FI compliant wireless card. Ethernet access is available at three stations, which have two connections each. Patrons who have Ethernet cards can simply plug in and go, with an IP address and full access.

Adjuncts Sounded Out

Dr. Eric Martin, Assistant Provost and Director of the Center for Quality, and the GSU Committee for Teaching and Learning have been seeking feedback from adjunct instructors that will help identify adjunct needs and priorities. "Adjunct instructors are professionals," said Martin. "They put their best effort forward for GSU, and we need to do the same for them." Martin and the Committee held open discussions with adjunct faculty on the 4th and 5th of this week. Feedback gained from the meetings will be used to create informed, comprehensive, and consistent support resources for adjunct faculty.