

Governors State University
OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

GSUniverse

University Newsletters

4-7-2003

GSUniverse, 2003-04-07

Office of Public Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse>

Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Public Affairs, GSUniverse (2003, April 7). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuniverse/43>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSUniverse by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.



GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

April 7 – 11, 2003

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

"My own experience has been that the tools I need for my trade are paper, tobacco, food, and a little whisky."

William Faulkner

Even after Budget Address, Uncertainty Prevails

Governor Rod Blagojevich proposed a wide range of actions to meet the state's crisis in his budget address April 9. But the total impact on Governors State is still uncertain. The Governor called for an 8.2 percent reduction in appropriations for FY04, which would amount to a cut of \$2.2 million from GSU's FY03 appropriation. He also called for an eight percent reserve in the income fund – just under 1 million dollars for GSU – in anticipation of caps on tuition increase. It is unclear how that reserve will be implemented. He also referred to a five percent cap on annual tuition increases and no increases in university fees, though he provided no details. University presidents will meet with IBHE and representatives from the Bureau of the Budget Monday, April 14, hopefully for clarification.

Assessment Report

The NCA 2000 reaccreditation of Governors State cited several strengths, including GSU's commitment to diversity and the then new administration's "comprehensive vision and focused agenda." One area of concern, however, was "uneven assessment" of student learning. In response to the Commission's concern, Eric Martin, assistant provost, has prepared a draft report that outlines a comprehensive response from GSU—a response that focuses on accountability and stability within the provost's office; GSU's revised mission statement, strategic plan, and commitment to "demonstrable excellence"; the dedicated work of the university assessment committee; and the creation of the center for quality, of which Martin is director. The report will now go to the University Assessment Committee and Faculty Senate Executive Committee for review and feedback.

Online Orientation: Correction and Update

Correction: The *GSU Universe* for March 21 stated that GSU's online orientation with directed self-placement is required for all new *graduate* students. That was incorrect. The online orientation is for new *undergraduate* students only.

Update: As of April 10, 125 new undergraduate students had gone through online orientation with directed self-placement. "It's working well," said Greg Kain, ITS coordinator. "Any project like this has to come full-circle," Kain continued. "We've implemented it, and now we're evaluating and tweaking." Despite minor glitches, the orientation has proved mostly seamless for students, and Kain said the system is literally monitored night and day. "We want this to be quick and easy for students. So far it has been, and we're keeping it that way."

The orientation contains directed self-placement for writing and math, which allows students to assess their own abilities in those areas and choose math and writing courses accordingly. "Students," said Pam Zener, of Student Development, "have been very good at interpreting their course needs through directed self-placement." According to Zener, more students have chosen to take supplemental courses through the new system than under the previous system, where they were placed in those courses.

Dr. Muchnik Down Under: Or ScholarShip *Flies* On

CAS Professor of Media Communications, Dr. Mel Muchnik, has been selected to receive a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant for Communications and Journalism, with emphasis on new media and distance learning. The grant will take Muchnik, who also serves as chairperson of the Advisory Board for the National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN), to the University of South Australia in Adelaide this fall, which actually will be spring in the southern hemisphere. His stay will begin in September. Muchnik will teach graduate and undergraduate students, assist in initiating collaborative distance learning projects, and foster further international exchanges for both GSU faculty and students, as well as for other NUTN campuses. GSU has a General International Agreement with the University of South Australia.

Said Muchnik of the opportunity, "It's exciting. I am hopeful that this visit leads to more faculty exchanges between the universities. Thanks to two Australian prestigious student scholarships, we anticipate that two students from the University of South Australia will be studying at GSU this fall. I am also hopeful the process leads to a return visit by a faculty member from Australia to the CAS Communications Programs for GSU's fall 2004 trimester."

ScholarShip Sails On

University Professor Rebecca Wojcik and Drs. Joyce Kennedy and Eric Martin will present "From Crisis to Culture: Inspiring, Cultivating, and Guiding a Culture of Assessment" at the 2003 Annual Meeting of The Higher Learning Commission, Monday, April 15, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago. Wojcik et al. will describe the important role that a university assessment committee plays in developing a supportive assessment culture within an institution. Professor Wojcik has chaired the University Assessment Committee since August of 2001.

Drop a Buck, Drop a Disk

A 3 _ inch floppy disk vending machine was installed in the University Library last week, so diskless dilemmas are a thing of the past: no more cursing disks forgotten under textbook piles at home and no more head-scratching over how to e-mail online journal articles to an e-mail account – and no more going into debt over library printing costs. For a dollar, library patrons can have a disk on hand and ready to save their research for leisurely access. The machine is located next to the reference desk.

The disks are purchased for the vending machine through Follett's Bookstore on campus.

Stuenkel Railroad Crossing Closure

The Director of Public Works for University Park, Ben Adcock, has informed PPO that Metra will close the Stuenkel Road railroad crossing for four days, beginning April 28. According to Adcock, the crossing should reopen May 2. Metra will advertise the closing.

GSU Advertising Award

Governors State University's Public Affairs Department has won an advertising award with the *Admissions Marketing Report*. The Bronze Award was presented to GSU for an "Empower Yourself" ad that ran in local papers in 2002.

Said Chuck Connolly, executive director of marketing and communications, "This is flattering, of course, but more important, it's recognition that we're getting the word out about GSU. This university very literally gives people the chance to empower themselves, and that's the message we want to send."

The winning ad follows on next page.