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Governors State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - April 18, 2008

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**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Friday, April 18, 2008 Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Mayer called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors, Governors State University. Committee member Bruce Friefeld was present. Committee member Jack Beaupre arrived after the meeting was called to order. The following Trustees were also present: Lorine Samuels, Kristi DeLaurentiis, and Kathleen Field Orr. Student Trustee Elizabeth Green was absent. Faculty representative to the committee, Dianne Galante, was present. Faculty representative to the committee, Yvette Brown, was absent.

Others present: Elaine Maimon, President; Gebe Ejigu, Executive Vice President/Chief of Staff; Jane Rhoades Hudak, Provost; Joe Addison, Acting Associate Provost; Sandra Mayfield, Assistant Provost; Colleen Rock, Director Management Support and Analysis; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Kathy Miller, President of the Civil Service Senate; Penny Perdue, Executive Assistant to the President; and Joan Johns, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President/Chief of Staff.

Action Items

Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2008 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Chair Mayer asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 15, 2008 Academic Affairs Committee. Friefeld made a motion. Mayer seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Information Items and Reports Received

Chair Mayer recognized faculty representative to the Committee, Dianne Galante, and thanked her for her participation.

Honorary Degree Recipient

President Maimon reported that Warner Saunders has enthusiastically accepted our invitation to receive an honorary degree at our June 7, 2008 Commencement. On the evening of June 6 we will continue our new tradition of having an honorary degree dinner in honor of the recipient, where they will have the opportunity to invite friends and associates. The invitation will come from the Board of Trustees. Mr. Saunders was asked if he would like to give a commencement address, and he gladly agreed to. We look forward to his address.

Trustee Orr brought up the methodology of handing out the diplomas, which she feels is inefficient. She suggested handing out two at a time. Maimon replied that Orr had brought this to her attention after the Winter Commencement Ceremony, and it was brought to the attention of the

Commencement Committee. As a result, the awarding of the degrees will be choreographed as Orr recommended, and it is our belief that the ceremony will run more efficiently and with a high level of energy.

Report on Off-Campus Programs

Provost Hudak gave a presentation about Off-Site programs, in response to the February 15, 2008 Academic Affairs Committee Meeting, where Board Chair Samuels requested a report on GSU's Off-Campus Programs. GSU recently received a 362 page report from Hezel Associates, which had been commissioned under the previous administration. The ten-page executive summary is included in the Board Book. To summarize Hezel's main findings, GSU is inexpensive and more money needs to be put into marketing and branding. The off-campus sites are not breaking even at this point, however in all fairness, they are in their nascent stage of development. Hudak expressed that she does not believe we should develop any additional new sites. She pointed to page 3 of the report which states, "GSU has several collaboration agreements with community colleges. It should continue to strengthen and expand these agreements, as they are the best source of qualified leads for potential undergraduate students." Hudak agreed with that point. Hezel Associates will give their final presentation to Cabinet next month.

Hudak stated it was important that we complete the strategic planning process first, with extensive input from the Board of Trustees, and then we will be in a better position to determine how these sites fit into the overall plan. We will also then be able to do an effective cost-benefit analysis. Dean Stoll was available to answer further questions regarding the off-campus sites. DeLaurentiis, referring to page 6 of the study, asked who the higher education competitors were in the Naperville area. Stoll answered the public universities are Northern Illinois University and Northeastern Illinois University; private institutions are Benedictine, Lewis, St. Francis, DePaul, and Roosevelt. Referring to page 7, DeLaurentiis asked for clarification of the current contractual stipulation at the Triton College University Center. Stoll explained that while Dr. Fagan was still president, GSU was invited to join the Triton College University Center, specifically for the following programs: MBA, MPA, Criminal Justice BA, Social Work BA, and Business Administration BA. Other universities were asked to bring specific programs to the University Center as well, thus we did not have a choice as to what programs we wanted to provide. Stoll pointed out that in its first year, the Kankakee Center covered 80% of costs. Naperville covered 70% of its costs. He stated we are making good progress at both those centers.

Orr asked if we had any cohort groups going to high schools and other institutions. Stoll responded that yes, we have 55 cohorts, and he will provide a report to the Board today (a list of cohort sites was distributed). Maimon emphasized that as we look at the strategic planning process and make decisions we must consider the on-campus/off-campus mix as part of our strategic investment. Samuels asked if we are considering placing classes at community colleges. Maimon stated that is part of our goal of recruitment; developing pathways for students for a seamless transition to GSU. We are currently working with area community colleges to strengthen our ties and provide the necessary support for a seamless transition. She recently met with Dr. Watson, from the City Colleges of Chicago, and Provost Hudak will be meeting with him to develop bridge courses at City of Chicago community colleges.

Preview of Future Agenda Items

Hudak reported that future agenda items will include the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation updates. Hudak distributed a summary of HLC Self-Study activities to date for the Board's perusal. Drs. Eric Martin and Ann Vendrely are serving as the Co-Chairs of the HLC Self-Study. The HLC Self-Study Committee is currently engaged in writing an intensive report, due in September 2009. The site visit is scheduled for November 16-18, 2009. The HLC criteria focuses on (1) mission and integrity, (2) preparing for the future, (3) student learning and effective teaching, (4) acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge, and (5) engagement and service. This past weekend 23 faculty members and one student attended the annual meeting of the HLC. Hudak stated that she feels we are moving along at a fast clip.

The HLC coordinator in the Provost's office, Dr. Sandra Mayfield, recently reported that the Communication Disorders graduate program has received reaccreditation. The Nursing doctorate program recently had an HLC focus visit and it went extremely well. Hudak thanked Dean Linda Samson and her staff. Two other external reviews were done since the last meeting, in biology and chemistry. These two units do not have a national accrediting body so national consultants are invited to come and review the programs. Hudak was delighted to report that we received positive reviews. Further status updates will be given at future meetings. At the previous Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Friefeld requested accreditation status, and a handout was provided today. DeLaurentiis pointed out that this was not the report Friefeld had requested. He wanted to know specifically what programs had accrediting agencies and which did not, and what the schedule was. Hudak will provide that information at the next board meeting. Samuels asked what the Board of Trustee's role was in the HLC accreditation process. Hudak explained that they have a very important role. For example, the work the Board is involved with regarding the Strategic Planning Process will be reported to the HLC. In addition the decisions made and resolutions passed by the Board contribute to our reporting to the HLC. DeLaurentiis asked if the HLC had replaced the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA). Maimon replied that the HLC is a Commission member of the NCA. The HLC accredits, and thereby grants membership in the Commission and in the North Central Association, to degree-granting educational institutions in the North Central region. DeLaurentiis asked of the five criteria identified, are #3 and #4 the areas of outcome assessment? Hudak replied, "Yes." The 2000 Self Study was made available by Hudak.

Hudak explained that she has organized a Task Force on Academic Calendar Options. This task force was assembled in response to student needs. The current trimester calendar is not compatible with community college calendars nor the public school system. It was noted that Trustee Orr had suggested that this issue be looked into and was glad to see some action taken on this issue. The task force is studying different options.

Mayer recognized President Maimon for being invited to be the commencement speaker at Joliet Junior College and Prairie State College. She was also asked to be the commencement speaker at Kankakee Community College, but had to decline because of a scheduling conflict.

Public Comment Period

Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meetings to address the Board or its committees on relevant matters within its jurisdiction. Chair Mayer asked if there was any Public Comment. No request for Public Comment was made.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was required.

Adjournment

Chair Mayer requested a motion to adjourn. Friefeld moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Johns