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GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

August 11 – 15, 2003

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"The best that can be expected of an organization that values nothing from the past is that it will do nothing of value for the future."

Tom Cleaver, GSU Professor, CEAS (August 1972)

GSU Gets Bouquets, Not Brickbats, at IBHE Meeting

The Illinois Board of Higher Education met last Tuesday. Board Chairman Jim Kaplan opened the meeting by saying that he wanted to congratulate Governors State for securing accreditation for its Master of Social Work program on an accelerated basis. "He complimented us on our commitment to quality," said President Stu Fagan, who attended the meeting. "He said it reflected positively on GSU's faculty, students, and administration. What he said was totally unexpected and very much appreciated, as I told him later."

IBHE Meeting Focused on Administrative Issues, Not Funding

Fagan reported that most of the discussion at the IBHE meeting centered on such issues as implementation of a new art competition and the lack of diversity in faculty at public institutions (*see story below*). "Funding for higher education was a subtext to all the IBHE discussions," Fagan said, "but it was not openly addressed. Everyone knew that the most important issues we face are the level of funding public universities can expect in FY05, the attitude of the governor toward higher education, and the plans of the Office of Management and Budget – and how IBHE will respond to them. Those issues weren't on the agenda, although Chairman Kaplan made it clear he is serious about reducing administrative expenses of the public universities by 25 percent from FY02 levels."

What's Ahead? Speculation at IBHE

A random, informal, non-scientific sampling of participants at the IBHE meeting found that most agreed the following would likely occur: (1) There will be a mid-year rescission at least equal to the amount the public universities were required to reserve from their income fund – \$961,000 in the case of GSU. Some believe the rescission may be even greater. (2) Now that the Truth in Tuition Bill guaranteeing students the same tuition rate for four years beginning in the Fall of 04 has been signed into law, there will be an attempt to limit annual tuition increases to five percent. (3) The Office of Management and Budget will seek to take control of the public universities' income funds. (4) State funding for public higher education may again be cut for FY05.

Time to Move Ahead, Not Hunker Down

The President's Cabinet met on Wednesday and, among other things, discussed initiatives to advance the strategic plan that could be funded by grants or the strategic academic fee. The administration will present its ideas to the Student and Faculty Senates in September. "Several of the university presidents I talked with at the IBHE meeting said they're spending as much as 70 percent of their time on budget issues," President Fagan said. "As far as I'm concerned, the budget is a done deal. If we have a mid-year rescission, we'll deal with it. Right now, I want us to focus on ways to move the university forward."

IBHE Report Faults Universities on Faculty Diversity

A report IBHE adopted at its meeting this week found diversity among faculty at public universities is unacceptably low. According to Board statistics, 5.1 percent of faculty at state colleges and universities are

African American, and 2.3 percent are Hispanic. For Governors State, 15 percent of the faculty are African American – triple the state and national average. Two percent of faculty are Hispanic, and 10 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, compared to six percent nationwide. Overall, 28 percent of GSU faculty are minority, double the national average of 14 percent. “We’ve made a sincere commitment to diversity, and it shows in the make-up of our faculty,” Fagan said. “We must be sure to sustain that commitment and step up our efforts to recruit Hispanic faculty and students.” In addition, a survey by *Black Issues in Higher Education* ranked GSU in the top 25 out of 100 majority universities in conferring graduate degrees on African Americans.

CHP Scholarships Available

CHP has announced the availability of scholarships for full-time graduate students in CHP’s Communication Disorders, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy departments. The scholarships – funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’s Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program – are available for the Fall and Winter Trimesters. Applications for the scholarships are being accepted through August 24. The scholarships provide \$3,000 to each recipient for tuition, books, and miscellaneous expenses. They will be awarded to students who are, by definition, disadvantaged and who have a GPA of at least 3.0. Application forms are available in the offices of CDIS, MOT, and PT.

Cook’s Tours It Isn’t, But...

The Property Control Office will begin weekly tours of abandoned surplus property after the move into the FOC is completed and everyone has had a chance to settle in – probably in early October. Why? “On a first come, first served basis, people can look through what sort of furniture has been left behind, and they’ll have a chance to pick out whatever they think they can use,” said Tracy Sullivan, director of Procurement and Auxiliary Services. For more information, contact Sullivan at Ext. 2179.

Library Donations in the Hundreds

Hundreds of books and several journals have come in to the University Library since June – all donated to the library by faculty and staff moving into the FOC. The donations are in response to a library memo requesting the donations. “Faculty and staff have been very generous with their books and journals,” said Diane Dates Casey, interim library director. According to Casey, the request was made because of the recent bankruptcy of Divine Row, the journal subscription agency previously used by the library. The agency’s action left the library without many of the journals it paid for. “We’re very glad for the response, and we’re happy to continue receiving donations,” Casey said. Journals and subscription donations are particularly useful. Gift books are either entered into the library’s collection or, if the title already exists in the collection, sold in the library, providing students and other patrons with an inexpensive source for books. Proceeds from any sales are used for the library’s operational expenses. To make a donation, contact Amy Smith in the Acquisitions Department at Ext. 5128.

ScholarShip Sails On: Education

Adjunct Professor Clyde Winters’s article “Popular Culture, Critical Pedagogy and the African American Print Media” has been published in *The Future of Education: Issues and Trends*, edited by James J. Van Patten. The book is available through DK Publishers Distributors at <http://www.dkpd.com/index.htm>. Winters also published “Emotion, Neurobiological Learning, and Classroom” in the *Research Journal of Philosophy and Social Science*, 2003, numbers 1-2.

Quality in Human Resources

Associate Director of Human Resources Janice Schultz has been recertified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the Human Resources Certification Institute, the certification arm of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). SHRM is an international association and the largest for research, continuing education, and benchmarking in human resource management.

31 Years Ago in GSU History

From the August 14, 1972, *Faze_1*, GSU's first newsletter: "APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT...was the recommendation from the University Assembly that minimum graduation credit be reduced from 124 to 120 for a bachelor's degree."

Safety Alert

When the fire alarm rings, **please** leave the building **immediately**. Follow the instructions of the Department of Public Safety. Do not return to the building – even if the alarm stops ringing – until DPS indicates that it is safe.
