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Governors State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2008

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**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Friday, October 17, 2008 Meeting

Lois Mayer, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

The Governors State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee met on October 17, 2008 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors. Chair Lois Mayer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Other Trustees in attendance were Lorine Samuels, Jack Beaupre, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Bruce Friefeld and Elizabeth Green.

Others present: Dr. Elaine Maimon, President; Gebe Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Jane Rhoades Hudak, Provost; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Joan Vaughan, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Dean Eric Martin, CAS; Dean Linda Samson, CHHS; Dean Diane Dates Casey, University Library; Dean Ellen Foster Curtis, CBPA; John Stoll, Vice-Provost; Sandra Mayfield, Assistant Provost; Paul Blobaum, Faculty Senate President; Kathleen Miller, Civil Service Senate President; Adam Taylor, Student Senate President; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

ACTION ITEMS

Mayer entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the June 9, 2008 Academic Affairs Committee. Samuels made a motion. Green seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 09-06: Honorary Degree Nominee

Maimon presented, stating the Administration and the Honorary Degree Committee would like to add Mr. Michael Beschloss to the list of eligible candidates being considered for award of an Honorary Degree of Humane Letters. Maimon explained that Beschloss grew up in Flossmoor and saw GSU being built. He is now an American historian, specializing in the United States presidency. In addition to writing numerous books on the subject of the American presidency, he is also a regular contributor to shows such as *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Currently he is the NBC News Presidential Historian, and is working on a history of Abraham Lincoln's last days and his assassination.

Mayer entertained a motion to move Resolution 09-06 to the Consent Agenda. A motion was made by Friefeld. Beaupre seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

DeLaurentiis questioned why this candidate is being nominated separately, rather than with the usual list of candidates. Maimon answered that the Honorary Degree Committee felt Mr. Beschloss was such an exceptional candidate that they wanted to include him on the list now in order to be considered for the spring 2009 Commencement.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS RECEIVED

Hudak began by introducing new Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration, Dr. Ellen Foster Curtis. Dean Foster Curtis received a welcoming round of applause.

IBHE Schedule for Program Reviews The schedule is included in the Board Book. Hudak pointed out that the captions in red represent academic programs undergoing review. There was no discussion.

IBHE Approval Processes

Hudak related that at the Board's August Retreat Trustee Beaupre requested a breakdown of the IBHE approval process. A report in the Board Book outlines these processes. Beaupre thanked Hudak for providing the information.

Program Accreditation Status Update

Hudak presented an updated report on the accreditation status of all GSU academic programs, which had previously been requested be presented to the Board at each Academic Affairs Committee meeting. The report can be found in the Board Book. There was no discussion.

Status Report on Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation

Hudak reported that Co-Chairs Eric Martin and Ann Vendrely are doing a terrific job with the self study report. Dr. Appleton, the GSU HLC liaison, was recently on campus. GSU has never before requested a pre-visit consultation, however the \$600 fee was felt to be nominal compared to the valuable feedback and recommendations he made. DeLaurentiis questioned whether the HLC had replaced the NCA. Hudak replied "yes."

Report on Excellence Awards

Hudak thanked Chair Samuels and Trustees Friefeld and Green for attending the Excellence Awards ceremony. A synopsis of the award winners is provided in the Board Book.

Report on the Initiative to Change the Academic Calendar

Hudak reminded the assembly that Dean Linda Samson is chairing the Academic Calendar Task Force in an effort to explore academic calendar options. Hudak explained that intensive research was performed by the task force and three new calendar options were proposed. That portion of the project being complete, Hudak charged a new group with looking at the implications, or "land mines" that may be encountered by each of the three calendar options. Samson stepped forward and outlined the five aspects being evaluated, 1) all dates for three years starting in the fall of 2010; 2) faculty concerns, separating out agreement or bargaining unit items; 3) ITS implications to accommodate a new calendar. This area is being carefully scrutinized in an effort to resolve some issues before even implementing a calendar change; 4) issues pertaining to

Business Services, Financial Aid, the Cashier's Office, and registration; and 5) appropriate communication of the changes to the community. The plan is to have the five subgroups meet on a fairly regular basis and provide a final report to the Provost by the end of January, with an anticipated switchover date of Fall 2010.

DeLaurentiis asked if there will be a period in which the student body can provide input. Samson replied that Student Senate President Adam Taylor is on the task force and engaged in the process. In addition a number of forums for faculty and staff were held. DeLaurentiis wondered about a survey of students, citing that many students find it challenging to matriculate our schedule to other schools. She feels the task force should listen to what the student body is saying. Green agreed. Maimon offered that this would be a good time for a brief discussion on the proposed changes, stating it is important to look at students that don't come to GSU because of our trimester schedule. Chair Samuels agreed with holding a discussion now. Mayer stated she liked the target date of Fall 2010. Beaupre opined that switching to a semester schedule would be a positive change. Friefeld agreed with Beaupre, stating the impact would be positive for our students. He stated we probably didn't need a survey because we have been getting feedback from students asking for a change. He felt it was more important to communicate to the students that we are working on this.

Samson reiterated that the plan is not aimed at disenfranchising summer students, rather we want to allow students to attend GSU 12 months a year. Maimon cited the research done by the task force was interesting in that it debunked the theory that the summer trimester is robust, when it isn't at all. She stated she felt GSU could better serve the students by aligning its schedule with those of other institutions. Hudak thanked Samson for her efforts on behalf of the Calendar Task Force.

PREVIEW OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hudak reported that the Academic Calendar, the HLC Reaccreditation process, Program Reviews, and our efforts on Civic Engagement will be reported on at subsequent meetings of the Academic Affairs Committee Meetings.

Committee Chair Mayer thanked Hudak for her thorough reporting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayer asked the assembly for any requests for Public Comment. There were none. Receiving no requests for Public Comment Mayer entertained a motion to adjourn. DeLaurentiis made a motion. Samuels seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Johns