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Governors State University Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - December 16, 2005

Board of Trustees

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Governors State University

Board of Trustees Meeting, December 16, 2005
Minutes

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on Friday, December 16, 2005, in the Hall of Honors at Governors State University.

Call to Order

Chair Friefeld called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and the following Trustees were present: Bruce Friefeld, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Jack Beaupre, Lorine Samuels, Kathleen Field Orr, Bill McGee, and Student Trustee Dwayne Williams.

Also present were: Stuart Fagan, Paul R. Keys, John Tuohy, Jim Britt, Alexis Kennedy, Colleen Rock Cawthon, Michael Wortham, Kathy Miller, Gary Lyon, and Jerold Hodgkin.

Executive Session

Chair Friefeld requested a motion to move into Executive Session. McGee moved that the Board convene in Executive Session, as permitted under the "Open Meetings Act," to consider and discuss litigation and personnel. Beaupre seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. The general public was asked to leave the room, and the Trustees went into Executive Session at 2:17 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 2:38 p.m. The general public was invited to return to the meeting.

New Business:

Approval of Minutes: Chair Friefeld requested a motion for the approval of the minutes of the September 23, 2005 Board meetings. Samuels moved that the minutes be approved. DeLaurentiis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair's Report

Chair Friefeld stated that at this last meeting of the year, GSU can look back at a successful year. He credited President Fagan for his leadership and persistence in carrying GSU's message to Springfield. He acknowledged Trustees DeLaurentiis, Beaupre, and Samuels, who represented GSU at forums sponsored by senators and representatives. None of the other public universities has a Board that is as committed, as involved, and as hard working as the Board of GSU. Chair Friefeld thanked all the Trustees for their involvement. He announced that Trustees DeLaurentiis, McGee, and Beaupre were reappointed to the Board of Trustees.

Over the last year, the University became more focused, thanks in part to the strategic priorities that were approved in June. Those initiatives will help guide GSU as it moves into 2006. The number one priority for 2006 will be to secure adequate funding. At a minimum, the goal is to have the additional funding of \$1.8 million the legislature approved in FY06 be added to GSU's base budget. Priority number two will be to prepare for negotiations with the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI). Chair Friefeld thanked Professor Katz, GSU UPI Chapter President, and the union for their support on some of the issues that came up during 2005. The administration and the union need to keep working together on common

issues in 2006. Priority number three will be to grow the income fund through increased enrollment. Chair Friefeld asked Chuck Connolly, Executive Director of Marketing & Communications, to keep the Board apprised of the initiatives his units undertake. The Board respects the job that Advancement has done in securing additional funding and encourages Advancement to continue its good work so that contributions to the Foundation will increase.

Chair Friefeld thanked the Trustees and the GSU community for their hard work, support, and commitment. He invited the University community to attend the holiday party immediately following the meeting. The entertainment was arranged by Marlin Exton, Physical Plant, who realized his dream of bringing together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate diversity through music.

President's Report

Dr. Fagan reported on some of GSU's accomplishments in 2005. In line with the priority to meet the highest standards of demonstrable academic quality, GSU secured accreditation for several programs. The rank system was successfully implemented. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the faculty members are participating; now GSU is on a level playing field with other universities when it comes to competing for qualified people to fill open positions. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), at its December meeting, approved the request to offer GSU's first doctoral program, the Doctorate in Physical Therapy. The program will begin accepting doctoral candidates for Spring/Summer 2007. The IBHE Board had no questions about the proposed program, and that is a credit to the work of Dean Samson, Department Chair Carter, and the program faculty and staff. The President thanked them for a job well done. In line with GSU's commitment to promote access, the number of courses offered on-line increased to 93 this academic year. Next trimester, additional courses will be offered on-line. GSU now offers 14 certificate programs, with two available on-line. Owing to GSU's unique mission of serving working adults and promoting the educational, economic and cultural development of the south suburban region, the University received an additional \$1.8 million in FY06 funding beyond the Governor's proposal. Also, GSU received additional support through grants. The President acknowledged the leadership of Provost Keys in creating and supporting the initiative to bring additional grant funding to GSU. In FY05, the Foundation Board raised \$185,000, which was more than four times the amount raised the year before. For FY06, their goal is \$300,000.

The President and Provost have continued to build relationships and friendships with state legislators. They have met one-on-one with a large number of state representatives and senators. Each one has been very supportive and encouraging as they explained GSU's mission and the contribution GSU makes to the region and state. Senator Meeks, who is also the pastor of Salem Baptist Church, invited GSU to make a presentation to his graduating class of new parishioners – 1,600 people. GSU received 60 solid prospects. Connolly and Hendrickson met with Reverend Meeks' staff to plan next steps.

The presidents of the public universities met on December 5 and the IBHE Board met on December 6. It seems there will be another budget battle for FY07. IBHE met with the Office of Management and Budget to discuss the FY07 budget, but nothing was resolved. GSU's primary goal for FY07 will be to keep the supplemental funding of \$1.8 million received in FY06. A significant budget issue remains unresolved—legislation passed last year required that every public university cover the costs of any additional earnings beyond six percent that an employee who is about to retire receives in the last few years before his or her retirement. The definition of "additional earnings beyond six percent" remains an open question. There's a bill in the house – HB4166 – that would exclude payments for overload, summer teaching, and promotions. HB4166 has 67 sponsors, but neither the Speaker nor the Governor has yet taken a position on the bill. GSU will also be directed to pick up some workmen's compensation costs, just as it was directed, a few years ago, to cover a significant amount of the state's health insurance

cost overruns. There is also a proposal, which was narrowly defeated in the last session, which would place limitations on fund raising activities, particularly as they apply to naming rights of classrooms, buildings, and so on. There is no funding for any capital projects on the table at this time. It appears that the Governor would like a capital budget passed, though any consideration of that is likely to be delayed until the fall session. The Speaker is on record that he will not support a capital budget without a new revenue stream.

One concern is that enrollment for the winter trimester is down 1.5 percent in schedule hours. Enrollment is up in Arts and Sciences (+2.84%), Business and Public Administration (+2.2%), Health Professions (+35.24%), and the BOG Program (+9.75%). The College of Education (COE) is down 23.79% in credit hours. There is a significant decline in two programs, the Master in Education and the Master in Educational Administration. Reversing that downward trend is a priority, and the Provost is addressing the issue with Dean Russell and Connolly. There are programs in place—internet, telephone calls, direct mail, print and radio advertising, e-mail blasts, and outreach programs—that can help close that gap. The competitive landscape is changing. Colleges like Olivet Nazarene, Benedictine, and Concordia are entering GSU's market, especially the education market, recruiting students COE used to take for granted. The internet colleges—Phoenix, Capella, and others—are also attracting students in a variety of disciplines. Fortunately, some have already begun to address the issue. The College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) is close to moving forward with an MBA week-end program. That is a good example of alternative delivery systems for some existing programs. The College of Health Professions (CHP) has been very aggressive in developing certificate programs, some of which will be delivered on-line. CHP is also about to move ahead with a bachelor in nursing for individuals who already have a bachelor degree in another discipline. In concept, it's similar to the approach COE takes with the alternative teacher certification program. It is another example of innovative thinking with an eye on the future. There are also new ideas percolating in the College of Arts and Sciences. Program Coordinator Chip Coldren developed an ambitious plan to grow Criminal Justice over the next five years, and the college is finalizing the proposal for a Master of Fine Arts in Independent Film and Digital Imaging. The deans and the Cabinet met in November. After that discussion, the President asked each of the deans to choose a few initiatives that they believe have the greatest potential based on a cost/benefit analysis. Another Cabinet/deans hearing is scheduled for January 13. After that hearing, the President will select three to five proposals which he will present to the Board's Academic Program and Policy Committee at its meeting in February and to the full Board at its meeting in March. The President will fund those new initiatives. At the January hearing, support units will also report on what they can do to support the proposals. Field Orr stated that the support systems, such as admissions, have a role in enrollment as well.

The President announced that the Board of Trustees will have its tenth anniversary in January 2006.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Chair Friefeld stated that the Executive Committee had not met since the September meeting; therefore, there was no report.

Academic Program and Policy (APP) Committee: DeLaurentiis, chair of the committee, presented the committee report to the Board. The committee met on November 15. There was no Executive Session.

During the discussion of the program accreditation status changes, the Trustees were informed of some of the challenges of the programs. The Doctor in Physical Therapy (DPT) was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Congratulations to Dean Samson, Department Chair Carter, the faculty, and the staff, who put the proposal together. It is a new direction for GSU, but well within its

mission. There was discussion of movement regarding a proposal for a Doctor in Education (EdD). The committee supports movement in that direction.

The committee was informed of the faculty members who were awarded sabbaticals for AY2006-2007. They are David Curtis, Margaret Neumann, Donald Culverson, Shelly Kumar, Darlene Wright, Julia Yang, and Nancy Shlaes. Congratulations to each. The Trustees look forward to hearing about their successful sabbaticals.

Criminal Justice (CJUS) Program Coordinator, Chip Coldren, presented a report on the progress the program has made since the external review in 2002.

The President informed the committee about the process to identify program priorities. He will present the proposals to the APP at the February meeting.

Finance and Budget Committee: Beaupre, chair of the committee, presented the committee report to the Board. The committee met on November 18. There was no Executive Session.

The committee discussed and considered several items of an advisory nature. The committee reviewed the budget report from the Center for Performing Arts (CPA). It is the first time in its history that income exceeded expenses. The Trustees reviewed the Internal Audit Annual Report and received an update on FY06 capital projects. The bookstore contract was awarded to Follett's. The proposed differential tuition for the College of Health Professions (CHP) was discussed at great length. The committee was unanimous in agreement in terms of the equity and propriety of the differential tuition.

Resolution 06-09: Finance Report: Upon the recommendation of the President, and the review and concurrence of the Finance and Budget Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the September 30, 2005 Finance Report. Beaupre moved to approve Resolution 06-09. Field Orr seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Personnel Committee: Kathleen Field Orr, chair of the committee, stated that the committee had not met since the September meeting; therefore, there was no report.

Institutional Advancement Report

Britt distributed information, including the 12/16/05 Fundraising Report. He stated that two temporary positions were converted to permanent positions. Sandra Taggart, who held the temporary research position, was the successful candidate for the permanent research position. Patricia Morley was the successful candidate for the director of community resource development. Patricia brings experience of fund raising in the South Suburbs, and she is a native of the area. Perhaps, her greatest qualification is that she fully understands GSU and is very passionate about what GSU provides adults who return to school. She received two degrees from GSU. Britt introduced her to the Board and welcomed her to GSU.

Since last July, three individuals, who fit the profile of the type of individual Britt wants to bring to the Board, were added to the Foundation Board. They are people of affluence and influence and are passionate about GSU and the role it plays in the region. They are Vivian Tarver of Clifford Law Offices; Randy Frieser, CEO and founder of Accelerate Rehabilitation Centers; and John Frega of Frega Associates, Ltd., an architectural, engineering and planning firm. There are firm expectations of Board

members—expectations for personal giving, for personal involvement, and for a willingness to become engaged in the full life of the University.

The year-to-date total of appeals and pledges is \$59,721. The goal for the year is \$300,000, and Britt fully expects to reach that goal. Next year, the goal will increase, which is needed to achieve the overall goal of \$1 million within five years. The second faculty/staff campaign will be February 2006. There will also be a phonathon, a Board campaign, and a community campaign. Advancement is taking an aggressive, but realistic, approach to fundraising.

In response to a question about endowments, Britt stated that he needs to look at current accounts and is now establishing floors for new endowed accounts. An investment policy, which was passed in October, allows a determination of how much interest is spent on scholarships, how much is reinvested in the principal, and how much will go into an expense account to support operations. He will meet with all the donors of the smaller accounts over the next six months.

Student Senate President's Report

Jerold Hodgkin reported that the Senate participated in Welcome Week, donated \$1,500 to Student Affairs and Services for equipment, and hosted Notes at Noon and karaoke. The Senate participated in the Hurricane Katrina relief and helped with the Harvest Night and Fright Night. There will be a monthly Karaoke Coffee Bar, starting January 12. The Senate arranged to donate \$500 toward the Black History Coffeehouse on February 14 and \$1,000 for the Art Exhibit Grand Opening on February 22. The Senate has a successful working relationship with the administration. Provost Keys and President Fagan respond quickly to issues that are presented to them. A few new problems, not yet presented to the administration, are the grievance procedure, which seems to be extremely slow, and questions about record keeping in the Registrar and Business Offices. Chair Friefeld recommended that Hodgkin write up the specific problems to present them to the administration.

Faculty Senate President's Report

Lyon reported that the new Senate officers are President, Gary Lyon; Vice President, Maribeth Kasik; Secretary, David Diers; and IBHE FAC representative, Becky Wojcik. All Senate vacancies are filled. There are still some vacancies on committees, primarily because there are not enough faculty members in UL/SAS/CELCS, and the faculty members in those units are consequently overwhelmed with requests to sit on committees.

The University Curriculum Committee (UCC) reelected Rashidah Muhammad as chair. The deadline for submission of course changes for the catalog was October 28, 2005. The current status of catalog submissions can be checked online at the UCC website. The Educational Policies Committee (EPC) elected a new chair, Catherine Tymkow. EPC is reviewing several policies, including curriculum and course approval and student conduct code. The Academic Program and Policy Committee (APRC) reelected Heikki Heino as chair. The lack of institutional research (IR) data remains a hindrance to the committee. The committee has still not received the profiles of academic majors data for 2004, from IR.

The Senate would like to thank President Fagan for his report at its November meeting. The Senate would also like to thank Provost Keys for his attendance and remarks at virtually all of the meetings. A question was raised at the September meeting as to the process by which policies are developed and approved at GSU. The Senate decided to ask the Provost to report on this rather than indulge in speculation. He agreed to present this early next year. The Senate has very real concerns regarding the new Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree implemented at the community college level. There are very real concerns about the proposed AAT degrees in Early Childhood Education and Secondary

Science Education. The faculty members are concerned that it will cause students to take more courses, not less, and that GSU and other universities will have to water down their curricula. Associate Provost Martin will report to the Senate on student self-placement early next year. The English faculty has concerns regarding a number of students who are unprepared for upper-level English classes and would like to see more students in English 301.

Civil Service Senate President's Report

Kathy Miller reported that the Civil Service Senate Affairs Committee survived another Civil Service Day. This is the largest event of the year sponsored by the Senate. It is a success because of the hard work and dedication of the Affairs Committee, under the joint leadership of Cindy Matthias and Renee Rainey. Miller also recognized Mark Kundla and Dr. William Nowlin for the generosity of their time and talent for the entertainment. The Senate appreciates the support of the Board and of administration. Without it, the event would not be possible. The Senate thanked Dr. Fagan, Dr. Keys, and Dr. Britt for supplying the centerpieces and beverages, and thanked the many administrators who served the buffet lunch to the staff. There were many other volunteers who worked together to honor the Civil Service staff. The Senate thanked Chair Friefeld for being a guest speaker, and Trustees Beaupre and DeLaurentiis and Student Trustee Williams for attending. Everyone enjoyed the acting abilities of the President, who starred in the spine tingling caper "Employee of the Year." Miller thanked Trustee Beaupre and Student Trustee Williams for being her dance partners during the twist!

The Senate made a profit of over \$1,000 from an Arts & Craft Fair in October. At the Civil Service Day Luncheon, there was a raffle with a profit of \$496. Those amounts, added to funds raised by other Senate events, total more than \$3,200 for scholarships. The Senate is still planning events, such as a "Story Hour w/Lynne Clayton." Lynne is a secretary in the Dean of Education's office and is a professional story teller. The Senate will charge a nominal admission fee and sell hot cocoa and tea to warm the body and lift winter doldrums. The 2nd annual GSU Fly-In will be held in the spring. Many fundraisers are not intended to make a large profit, but are intended to lift the spirit and keep morale high. When Miller became president, the Senate awarded only one scholarship per year in the amount of \$300 for an employee or \$500 for the dependant child or spouse of an employee. Currently, the Senate awards one per term. The recipient for the fall 2005 scholarship is Cherileen Niemiec, who is enrolled at Prairie State. The Senate hopes to be able to award two \$500.00 scholarships per term and to have that change in place in time for the winter award.

In October, the Senate held an informative orientation with guest speakers Tom Morelock and his staff from the State Universities Civil Service Systems Office. More than 50 people attended. The Senate was too successful in gathering items for Katrina relief—after the first installment went to Tinley, the rest was given to local resale stores and ministries. The Senate continues to work as one with the common goal of serving the students, and looks forward to what 2006 will bring.

Other Business

Resolution 06-10: Release of Executive Session Minutes: Upon the recommendation of the President, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the release of the Executive Session minutes of the following meetings: Board of Trustees, February 4, 2005; March 18, 2005; and June 17, 2005. Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and upon the recommendation of the President, the Governors State University Board of Trustees has determined that a need for confidentiality continues to exist for the minutes of the Executive Sessions for the following meetings: Personnel, May 14, 2004; August 17, 2004; September 13, 2004; and November 19, 2004; and Academic Program and Policy, November 12, 2004 and May 23, 2004.

Beaupre moved to approve Resolution 06-10. Field Orr seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Information Report

Chair Friefeld stated that over the past several months, he has had individual discussions with Trustees and the President about Trustee and governance issues, including the role of Board committees, committee structure, evaluation processes, and professional development. As the Board approaches its tenth year, it is time to review those and other issues. He appointed all the Trustees as members to a Trusteeship, Board governance, and nominations committee, with Trustee Samuels as the chair. The committee will be staffed by the President's Office. Wortham will schedule the first meeting. The committee will concern itself with recommendations of policies regarding Trustee development; discussion and review of the roles and responsibilities of Trustees; review and monitoring of policies to assist Trustees in avoiding conflict, or appearance of conflict, of interest; recommendation to the Board of a slate of Board officers; and review of the bylaws on a periodic basis and recommendations; as well as ongoing assessment of governance issues and recommendations. The initial work of the committee will involve a complete review of the bylaws and other governance issues. Kennedy stated that the current bylaws, regulations, and governing policies were adopted in 1996 and a review is in order. There is one standing committee in the bylaws—the Executive Committee. The other committees were developed or appointed at some point. In response to a question by DeLaurentiis, Chair Friefeld stated that this new committee should probably be a standing committee, but the bylaws provide for only one standing committee. Kennedy added that a review of the bylaws would give the Trustees the opportunity to determine if additional standing committees are needed and what those committees should be. The scope of the responsibilities of this committee would indicate that this would be an ongoing function that would be very important to the Board on a regular basis.

Public Comment Period

Chair Friefeld stated that HB2580 requires GSU to set aside time at each open Board meeting for employees and members of the public to make comments, subject to reasonable constraints. Comments are limited to three minutes for each person. Katz, professor and UPI Chapter President, requested to speak.

Katz stated that the union welcomes the opportunity to work on common issues mentioned earlier in the meeting, particularly on pension issues. The union would like to see additional funding for the University, too. The union has started getting ready for contract negotiations, which should begin early next year.

Adjournment

Chair Friefeld requested a motion to adjourn. DeLaurentiis moved that the meeting be adjourned. Samuels seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Rock Cawthon