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Governors State University Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - September 7, 2007

Board of Trustees

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Governors State University

Board of Trustees Meeting, September 7, 2007 Minutes

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on Friday, September 7, 2007, in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors at Governors State University.

Call to Order

Chair Samuels called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Roll Call

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

New Business

Approval of Minutes: Chair Samuels requested a motion for the approval of the minutes of the June 1, 2007 Board meeting. DeLaurentiis moved that the minutes be approved. Friefeld seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Review of Agenda, Consent Agenda: Chair Samuels stated that *Resolutions 08-01* through *08-14* were posted as required under the Open Meetings Act and have been considered by the Board's committees. Friefeld moved that *Resolutions 08-01, 08-02, 08-04, 08-05, 08-06, 08-08, 08-09, 08-10, 08-11, and 08-12* be placed on the consent agenda. Mayer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Woodard distributed copies of a revised page three of the academic program review summaries report and an explanation as to why the BS in Computer Science program is not accredited. Woodard confirmed that there is no accrediting body for the type of applied program in computer science that is offered at GSU. Programs without a national accrediting body do go through an external review process.

Reports

Chair's Report: Chair Samuels welcomed Trustee McGee and recognized his wife, Patricia. It is truly gratifying to have McGee back. This is always an exciting time—hopes and expectations run high at the start of a new academic year. This year, there is new leadership on the Board, new administration, and a more focused approach to the future thanks to the recent planning retreat. Chair Samuels thanked Gebe and Wortham for arranging the successful two-day Board retreat, something that the Chair believes should be done on an annual basis. The Chair thanked the Trustees for their ideas, suggestions, and continuing commitment to GSU. The time at the retreat was well spent and led to some very constructive changes that will improve the Board's efficiency, effectiveness, and service to students and to the state. Some of the changes are reflected in the organization and structure of the Board meeting. As today, the Board committees will meet on the same day as the full Board meetings. The Board will meet six times a year, which was agreed to be important given the mission, issues and questions GSU will face as a result of the deferred maintenance program and the new steps that are being taken academically as the University strengthens its relationships with community colleges and develops new doctoral programs. The retreat/planning workshop was also important since it was the first step of the development of a new

strategic plan. It is important to have a strategic plan that everyone in the community supports. GSU successfully navigated the budget crisis in the past, partly because the strategic plan served as a compass and guide. The University will need a new guide moving forward as decisions are made regarding the allocation of scarce resources. GSU faces difficult questions ranging from the application and funding of technology to the development of off-campus educational centers to the initiatives with respect to China. The Board will receive a preliminary progress report on the strategic planning process at the December Board meeting and a full plan will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval at the June 2008 meeting. GSU's preliminary goals for the coming year include increasing enrollment, diversifying sources of funding, and developing a more efficient strategic decision-making process. At the retreat, the critical issue of deferred maintenance was discussed. The Trustees now have insight into the infrastructure problems and have a better understanding of the administration's plan to finance those long-overdue building and infrastructure renewal projects. Chair Samuels is very excited about the prospects for the coming year.

Dr. Maimon and the Board have a mutual understanding of what is expected from each, how they can help each other, and how they can best work together to advance the mission of the University. The new GSU president has hit the ground running. The momentum of change that her leadership has begun in such a short time is truly energizing. With deliberate speed, but not haste, she is moving GSU in the right direction. This really is a new beginning for the University, as GSU builds on the accomplishments of the past few years. There is no limit as to what can be accomplished together.

President's Report: President Maimon thanked the University community for the remarkable support and cooperation that will allow GSU to move forward. She expressed gratitude to everyone at GSU and to Dr. Fagan and his team for creating the platform for the kind of accomplishments that allow the University to move forward and achieve. Much was accomplished before, so that GSU can now move forward in a new era.

The presidential installation is scheduled for Saturday, November 3. Dr. Nowlin is the chair of the installation committee and was unable to attend the Board meeting because he was representing GSU at the presidential installation at Northeastern. One purpose of the installation is the celebration of the past, present, and future of GSU; another is to see GSU in the context of higher education in the United States and in the world. It is a time for vision. However, "a vision without a strategy is a fantasy." GSU must think strategically in order to make the vision happen. The strategic planning process started at the retreat. President Maimon envisions GSU as the social justice university, the civic engagement university. A number of new initiatives have been successful at the University. This week, there was a voter registration drive coordinated by Associate Vice President/Dean Poole, and 77 new voters registered. During the last few months, the President and the Provost have visited with the community college partners' presidents and provosts and engaged in conversations with them about what GSU can do to better assist students in achieving baccalaureate degrees. It is a fundamental part of the University's mission. The national statistics are the rallying cry for the focus on degree completion. The vast majority of students of color begin in community colleges. Of those who begin at a community college and aspire to earn baccalaureate degrees, only 10% complete the baccalaureate degree within six years. If one extends the window of time indefinitely, the percentage of completion increases to only 15%. A lot of talent is lost because of that. GSU must be assertive about degree completion. One idea that will be presented at the installation is *The GSU Promise*. Studies indicate that one obstacle of completing a baccalaureate degree is fear of debt. That issue must be addressed. Students need help to complete the FAFSA and other financial aid forms. GSU also has to be aggressive philanthropically. The first goal of *The GSU Promise* is to raise the first

\$100,000 for scholarships by November 3. President Maimon thanked the Trustees for their enthusiastic commitment to *The GSU Promise*. The Trustees' goal is to have 100% participation.

The administration is looking at ways of making GSU a destination, of making sure everyone understands that GSU is a great university. One step towards that are the new banners in the drive. Convocation, the official opening of the academic year, will be held Tuesday, September 11. There will be greetings from the Senates and from President Maimon. All are invited to attend. President Maimon reported that it has been an absolutely wonderful two-plus months, and she thanked everyone for helping the new presidency get off to a start with good momentum.

Faculty Senate President's Report: Lyon reported that the summer trimester is generally not the busiest time for the Senate. Sometimes there is not a quorum at summer meetings because of the ten month faculty contract. The Senate is looking for a solution to the problem. Two reports were approved and issued this summer: 1) the report on the survey of faculty concerns; it was the intent that the survey not be a forum for griping; hopefully, it will be seen as a compendium of constructive comments, and 2) the report on faculty suggestions to reform the search process, which was written at the behest of Dr. Maimon, Gebe, Woodard, and Bradshaw. The reports were distributed to faculty and administration. Jan Schultz was brought out of retirement to help expedite the search process. She was an excellent choice. If the Trustees would like a copy of the reports, please inform Lyon, Rock Cawthon, or Veronica Hunt.

The University Curriculum Committee's new chair is Beth Parin. While Parin was recovering from an automobile accident, Rashidah Muhammad graciously continued the chair responsibilities. There is an October deadline for new courses and changes to next year's catalog. The Education Policies Committee and the Academic Program Review Committee continue to function well. There will be an election of officers at September meeting. There should be no problem finding qualified people to fill all of the leadership roles. Lyon has had the pleasure and privilege to fill the office of president for the past three years. One of his greatest pleasures during that time was to meet with the Board of Trustees. After working with the Board, he is honored to say that he feels everyone on the Board is his friend. Lyon does not intend to run for president again; he feels that it is time to let someone else have this fine experience.

Student Senate President's Report: Moran reported that the main focus of the Student Senate over the summer and into the fall is getting the student presentations ready for the presidential installation. The Senate is looking forward to presenting President Maimon and the University community with its concept of *Seeds of Greatness*. The project will include students' achievements from all colleges at GSU. The Senate is considering other activities that will involve the entire GSU community. The Programming Chair, Karen Mayo, is doing an exemplary job. The Programming Committee will add a "Notes at Night" to the "Notes at Noon" program, which will give access to day and evening students. The Senate's future plans include adding a community member to the Student Senate, in addition to swearing in several new student Senators from all the colleges and the Latino Center of Excellence.

Civil Service Senate President's Report: Miller welcomed Dr. Maimon and Gebe to GSU. Earlier in the summer, the Senate hosted an open forum with Dr. Maimon and Gebe. The entire Civil Service staff was invited to attend. The questions and responses were candid and varied from concerns about what changes the new administration would bring to comments that were welcoming and hopeful for a bright future.

The Senate has received applications for the fall scholarship. The committee will meet soon to select a recipient. On October 5, the 10th Annual Council of Councils will meet at Chicago State. The council invites different representatives from the universities for information sharing. Miller hopes that many GSU Senators will attend.

Last week the Senate held its annual cookout, which is one of its largest fundraisers of the year. The Senate made a profit of over \$730.00. Miller thanked a person who wishes to remain anonymous that generously gave a \$50.00 cash donation. In August, the Senate hosted the "Great American Cookout." The cookout was flooded out and became a cook-in. Luckily, facilities was adaptable and helped relocate the event. Everyone had a great time. On Halloween, there will be a Civil Service *Halloween Trivia Trail and Costume Contest*. The Senate invited Dr. Maimon and Gebe to judge costumes if their schedules allow. On behalf of the Senate, Miller thanked the many volunteers who make these and all of the events possible. She thanked Renee Rainey, chair of the events committee, for organizing the events and Diane Dates Casey, Rainey's supervisor, and other administrators/supervisors for releasing the Civil Service staff to plan and attend the events.

Receipt of Reports and Communications

The Board received the Excellence Award report, the farm report on the lease of GSU land for agriculture, the finance and procurement reports, and the 2007 annual report on depositories. Kissel reported that the farm contract is for \$46,000, and there is a 10% fee that is paid to the University of Illinois for farm management.

Public Comment Period

Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, at each regular or special meeting of the Board or its committees that is open to the public, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meeting to address the Board on relevant matters within its jurisdiction. Committees of the Board review University proposals for action and make adjustments and endorsements as appropriate for further consideration by the full Board. Public comments are generally most useful at meetings of Board committees, where proposals are first considered and the time of interaction is most feasible. No one requested to speak.

Agenda Items

Consent Agenda

Chair Samuels stated that the Board of Trustees established a consent agenda consisting of a number of resolutions, which follow.

Resolution 08-01: Approval of Contract with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the collective bargaining agreement between the University and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council Lodge No. 104 for July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009.

Resolution 08-02: Approval of Personal Day for Certain Non-Negotiated Employees: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves one personal day off for non-negotiated employees who are rated "generally exceeds expectations" or "superior" on their FY07 performance evaluation, to be taken in FY08.

Resolution 08-04: Submission of Program Reviews to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE): Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the submission of required four program reviews to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Resolution 08-05: FY08 Operating Budget: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the FY08 operating budget for Governors State University, as displayed in Attachment I, as well as the budget for undergraduate and graduate tuition waivers as displayed in Attachments VI and VII (attachments are included in the agenda packets).

Resolution 08-06: FY09 Line Item Appropriation Request: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the FY09 line-item appropriation request to be submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, as displayed in Attachment I, which is included in the agenda packet.

Resolution 08-08: Award of Construction Contract for the Exterior Concrete Cladding Renovation: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the award of a construction contract to Joseph Construction of Lynwood, IL to renovate and repair external concrete in the amount of \$2,116,635. With an added 10% contingency, the University's total authority to spend on this project will be \$2,328,299.

Resolution 08-09: Award of Construction Contract for Renovation of Swimming Pool and Shower Rooms: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the award of a construction contract to Joseph Construction of Lynwood, IL in the amount of \$1,564,231 to rehabilitate and renovate GSU's swimming pool and shower rooms as specified in the bidding documents. With the standard 10% contingency, this action authorizes the University to spend up to \$1,720,654 on this project.

Resolution 08-10: Award of Construction Contract for Installation of Lightning Protection for Wings A-F: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the award of a construction contract to HLP Systems, Inc. of Libertyville, IL in the amount of \$198,000 for the installation of lightning protection for Wings A-F as specified in the bidding documents. With the standard 10% contingency, this action authorizes the University to spend up the \$217,800 on this project.

Resolution 08-11: Award of Construction Contract for Fire Protection Upgrades: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the award of a construction contract to Central States Automatic Sprinklers, Inc. of Blue Island, IL in the amount of \$237,300 for the fire protection upgrade project as specified in the bidding documents. With the standard 10% contingency, this action authorizes the University to spend up to \$261,030 on this project.

Resolution 08-12: Award of Construction Contract for Renovation and Remodeling of the Hantack House: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the award of a construction contract to Construction Solutions of Illinois, Inc. of Alsip, IL in the amount of \$607,723 for the renovation and remodeling of the Hantack House as specified in the bidding documents. With the standard 10% contingency, this action authorizes the University to spend up to \$668,496 on this project.

Friefeld moved to approve the consent agenda. DeLaurentiis seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Roll Call Agenda

Resolution 08-13: Farm Lease Renewal: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the renewal of the cash lease agreement with Fuller-Krapf Farms, Manhattan, Illinois for the period from March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009 under the supervision of Mr. Jonathon Norvell of the University of Illinois, in accordance with the terms of the farm management agreement between the University of Illinois and Governors State University.

Green moved to approve Resolution 08-13. Friefeld seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution 08-03: Award of Tenure to Dr. Marian Marion: Upon the recommendation of the Faculty, Provost Woodard, and President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees awards tenure to Dr. Marian Marion in the Division of Education, College of Education, effective September 01, 2007.

DeLaurentiis moved to approve Resolution 08-03. Mayer seconded the motion. Based on state statute, the Student Trustee cannot vote on tenure recommendations. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote of those eligible to vote.

Resolution 08-07: Authorizing Issuance of University Facilities System Revenue Bonds: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the resolution, detailed in the Board agenda packet, entitled "Resolution Authorizing Issuance of University Facilities System Revenue Bonds."

Beaupre moved to approve Resolution 08-07. McGee seconded the motion. The resolution had been discussed by the Finance Committee and the full Board. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution 08-14: Board of Trustees Committees: The Board of Trustees adopts the following name changes for certain of its committees: the Personnel Committee shall be known as the Human Resources Committee and the Academic Program and Policy Committee shall be known as the Academic Affairs Committee. The Board of Trustees establishes a new committee to be named the Facilities Committee.

Friefeld moved to approve Resolution 08-14. Field Orr seconded the motion. Gebe explained that the name change for the Personnel Committee reflects current trends and best practices around the country. Human resource management is much broader than personnel management. The name Academic Program and Policy is somewhat limiting. Academic Affairs will cover the entire range of academic activities having to deal with the primary mission of the institution. Field Orr will be the Chair of the Facilities Committee, but the members have not been appointed. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Samuels announced that there will be a special meeting of the Board on November 16, 2007. Gebe presented a proposed, revised Board meeting schedule for discussion. He suggested the following schedule for 2008: March 14, June 13, August 24-26 (retreat), September 12, October 10, and December 12. In response to a suggestion to more evenly distribute the meetings throughout the year, the following

schedule was suggested: February 15, April 11, June 13, August 24-26, October 10, December 12. An email, listing the proposed dates, will be sent to the Trustees for their response. The proposed schedule can be discussed at the November 16 meeting, if further discussion is needed. The revised schedule will be presented for action at the December 2007 Board meeting.

Executive Session

Chair Samuels requested a motion to move into Executive Session. Friefeld moved that the Board convene in Executive Session, as permitted under the Open Meetings Act, to consider and discuss litigation matters. Green 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 2:30 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The general public was invited to return to the meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Samuels requested a motion to adjourn. Friefeld moved that the meeting be adjourned. Field Orr seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Rock Cawthon