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Dispositions: Coaching and Assessing their Development,” and “Performance Assessment: Real World Problems.”

Oh, the Places You’ll Go! Do’h!

Correction to last week’s article about Smart Start’s “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!” Cheryl Poulos’s e-mail address was listed incorrectly. To contact her by e-mail and volunteer to participate in “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”, use this address: c-poulos@govst.edu.

GSU nAverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

February 23 – 27, 2004

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"Nothing is so firmly believed as what is least known."

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne

Proposed Appropriations for Higher Education

At a university-wide budget meeting February 24, President Stuart Fagan discussed the implications of the governor's proposal to cut funding for higher education by two percent for Fiscal Year 2005. Fagan said that at this time he did not anticipate any layoffs or staff reductions apart from what might naturally arise should an administrative or academic unit reorganize, with two important caveats. "First, we have reserved \$961,000 in anticipation of a possible rescission in FY04. Should there be a rescission beyond that amount, we may have no choice but to consider reducing staff. I don't believe that will happen." Fagan continued, "Second, if the governor's proposal holds and our appropriation is reduced by about \$500,000, then I don't anticipate any layoffs – but that assumes we can reverse the decline in enrollment we experienced in the winter trimester." As to outsourcing, John Tuohy, vice president for Administration and Planning, said that some activities had already been outsourced and that other opportunities were being examined. Chuck Connolly, interim executive director, said that Enrollment Services was actively investigating outsourcing some data entry functions and production of transcripts. "We're looking to improve our efficiency and service to students," Connolly said. "Outsourcing doesn't always mean staff reductions." Connolly added that the Registrar's Office was exploring in-sourcing production of diplomas for a significant cost savings. "It's a two way street," he said.

GSU Pulls No Punches, Tells Legislators Budget Cuts Will Hurt State, Region the Most

President Fagan and Jeff Slovak, executive director of Budget and Planning and Institutional Research, testified before the House Appropriations Committee in Springfield on February 26. The message was simple and to the point. Governors State has lost more than \$8 million in funding over the past three years because of reductions in appropriations, rescissions, and the mandate to cover the shortfall in health care costs. For the most part, GSU has tried to protect academic programs, cutting administrative expenses 22 percent from FY02 levels, and on track to reduce administrative expenses 25 percent by FY05. Even so, academic programs have been impacted and student plans disrupted because some 200 classes were eliminated. "If there are further cuts, the region and the communities we serve will feel the greatest pain," Fagan told the legislators. He and Slovak were specific in identifying the requests from the community that GSU has denied for lack of state funding: creation of cohorts in Educational Administration, master's in Education, Early Childhood Education, and Special Education; creation of additional bilingual programs in education and health professions. Fagan and Slovak said a master's degree in math for secondary education was approved but never funded. They asked that appropriations for FY05 be held flat with FY04 and pledged that if the \$500,000 the governor proposed cutting were restored, the funds would be invested in programs the community has requested. "It's early in the game," Slovak said, "but at least the legislators listened."

Governor and IBHE Demand Accountability. No Problem. Been There. Done That.

Testimony by Bruce Friefeld, chair of the Board of Trustees, was entered into the record at the House Appropriations Committee hearing February 26. He spoke to the issues of governance, accountability and good stewardship, as they apply at GSU. Friefeld described the system of checks and balances in place – annual meetings with the student, faculty, and civil service senates; quarterly committee and full board meetings; approval of the IBHE budget and the operating budget using an all funds approach; review of the university’s budget each quarter by line item and by unit and function – an action item; approval of all expenditures above \$100,000 and a review of all expenditures between \$50,000 and \$99,000; follow-up on all auditors’ findings; review of academic programs to assure compliance with standards set by accrediting agencies, and approval of all labor contracts.

Community College Counselors Day

This year’s Community College Counselor’s Day was held Friday in the Hall of Honors. More than forty counselors from community colleges were on hand to hear presentations from GSU’s colleges. Noting the growing number of articulation agreements between GSU and surround community colleges, President Stuart Fagan said, “With agreements like these, we – GSU and the community colleges – are changing the face of higher education in America.” Fagan added that skyrocketing costs for education and issues of diversity and cultural competency make the combined missions of GSU and its partnering community colleges an emerging model for education in the 21st century. Provost Paul Keys stressed the potential created by the cooperative relationships between GSU and the colleges: “We can work together to develop an academic roadmap for students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators that maps the routes to access and success for a baccalaureate degree.” Lisa Hendrickson, transfer coordinator for articulation, organized the event, which has been held for the last four years. “We want to inform the community college counselors about GSU, what’s new, and what to tell their students about GSU,” she said. Hendrickson added, “We want the counselors to know just how important they are to us.”

President and Provost Salute New Student Leaders

Newly elected members of the Student Senate were installed at a ceremony February 25. Loraine Sibbet, executive director of Student Life, challenged the student leaders to be bold and visionary. President Fagan thanked the Student Senate for working to create an open and frank dialogue with the administration. “It’s a foundation we’ll build on,” he pledged. Provost Paul Keys also congratulated the new senators, thanked them for their service to their fellow students, and assured them that their commitment to the senate would serve them well in their careers and their lives. Dr. Fagan said that he would invite Student Senate President Linda Williams to join him and testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee. “I’d be honored to appear before the committee with Linda,” Fagan said. The hearing date has not been set.

First Mid-Year Commencement Set for 2005

President Fagan and Provost Keys said that GSU’s first mid-year commencement is scheduled for January 29, 2005, subject to approval of the Board of Trustees at its March 12, 2004, meeting.

From the Archives

Or

Newsletter Editors Fall Like Flies

Faze 1: February 12, 1973: “FAZE 1...editor becomes MARY LOU CAMPBELL who joins the Office of Communications as Publications Editor. The transition will take place during the next couple of issues. Mary Lou becomes the third editor of the faculty-staff newsletter now in its 69th issue. ELAINE STRAUSS is the current editor, MEL MUCHNIK was the first with JOHN CANNING handling a stint or two. All will continue to contribute to the newsletter which relies heavily on items forwarded by faculty and staff.”

Or

Alumni Reach Record Numbers

Faze 1: February 19, 1973: “ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, ANYONE?...When 58 students competed degree requirements at the end of the November/December Session, GSU graduates reached a total of 147. For those who play the numbers game, they represent 32% (the largest) of the total.”