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2-20-2009

### **Governors State University Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - February 20,2009**

Board of Trustees

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# GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Board of Trustees Meeting, February 20, 2009

### MINUTES

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on Friday, February 20, 2009 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors.

#### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Samuels called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Roll call was taken, and the following Trustees were present: Lorine Samuels, Jack Beaupre, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Bruce Friefeld, Lois Mayer and Elizabeth Green.

Also in attendance: 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; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President of Administration and Finance; Karen Kissel, Associate Vice President for Financial Services and Comptroller; Paul Blobaum, Faculty Senate President; Kathleen Miller, Civil Service Senate President; Adam Taylor, Student Senate President; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Samuels entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the August 24-26, 2008 Board Retreat. Green made a motion. Mayer seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote. Samuels entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2008 Executive Committee. Beaupre made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote. Samuels entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2008 Full Board Meeting. Mayer made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Samuels called for a motion to go into Executive Session. Mayer made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Board of Trustees went into executive session at 11:07 a.m. Open session resumed at 11:19 a.m.

#### ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Samuels stated that the committees have met, deliberated and have recommended that the following resolutions be placed on the Consent Agenda: *09-14, 09-15, 09-16, 09-18, 09-19, 09-20, 09-21* and *09-22*. Samuels asked if any Board member would like to request the removal of a resolution from the Consent Agenda, to be considered on the Agenda of the Full Board Meeting. DeLaurentiis requested that ***Resolution 09-18: Student Fee Increases***, be removed from the Consent Agenda. Beaupre asked for a point of order on ***Resolution 09-17: Authorization for Financing of Capital Improvement Projects***. Ejigu explained that on the advice of Bond Counsel, this resolution requires a roll call vote. There being

no further objections, Resolutions 09-14, 09-15, 09-16, 09-19, 09-20, 09-21, and 09-22 will be adopted as written. Green made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda Mayer seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

***Resolution 09-14: Award of Energy Audit Contract:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Board of Trustees Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approve the award of a purchase order and contract to Energy Systems Group (ESG) of Itasca, IL in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, to assess and recommend energy saving projects. After the audit report is reviewed by the University Administration, if GSU chooses not to proceed with the project, the contract amount of \$50,000 will be payable to ESG.

***Resolution 09-15: Contract Award for Road and Walkway Design:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Board of Trustees Facilities Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approve the award of a purchase order and contract to JJR LLC of Chicago, IL in the amount of \$102,500 to design, develop drawings/specifications, assist in the bidding process, and monitor construction of selected roadway, walkway and lighting projects adjacent to the GSU parking lots as part of the Deferred Maintenance Initiative. With the standard 10% contingency, this action authorizes the University to spend up to \$112,750 on the project.

***Resolution 09--16: Approval of Master Site Plan:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon and the Facilities Committee, the Governors State University Board of Trustees approves the attached Master Site Plan to serve as a guide in the physical development of the campus.

***Resolution 09-19: Termination of Relationship with ING Life Insurance Company:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Human Resources Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approve the termination of ING Life Insurance Company as an issuer of 403(b) annuity contracts for participants of Governors State University's Tax Deferred Annuity Plan.

***Resolution 09-20: Elimination of Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies Program:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approve the elimination of the Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at the end of the Winter 2009 Trimester.

***Resolution 09-21: Request for New Units of Instruction (RNUI):*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon, the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approve the Request for New Units of Instruction for:

- Bachelor of Science in Community Health
- Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

***Resolution 09-22: Honorary Degree Nominees:*** Upon the recommendation of President Maimon and the Honorary Degree Committee, the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee recommends that

the Governors State University Board of Trustees approve the addition of the following candidates to the eligible list for Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters:

- Jerry Colangelo
- Lawrence J. Furnstahl
- Dr. Roberta L. Noonan

## **APPROVAL OF OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

### **Resolution 09-17: AUTHORIZATION FOR FINANCING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, under the terms of the Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-1 *et seq.*, the Board of Trustees (the “*Board*”) of Governors State University (the “*University*”) is authorized to acquire real and personal property for use by the University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has found and determined that it is advisable and necessary to enter into an Installment Purchase Contract for the acquisition of structural and operational improvements to various campus buildings and grounds (the “*Improvements*”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to enter into an Indenture of Trust with Amalgamated Bank of Chicago, as trustee (the “*Trustee*”) pursuant to which the Trustee will issue Certificates of Participation (Capital Improvement Project) Series 2009 (the “*Certificates*”) in the payments to be made by the Board under the Installment Purchase Contract, in order to obtain funds for the purpose of financing the Improvements;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Governors State University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. It is hereby determined to be desirable that the Board authorize the execution and delivery of an Installment Purchase Contract and an Indenture of Trust, and the issuance of the Certificates in connection therewith, in order to provide funds to finance the Improvements.

2. Amalgamated Bank of Chicago is hereby authorized to serve as Trustee.

3. The Board approves the sale of the Certificates to one or more of the following firms, to be determined by the Treasurer at the time of sale: Wachovia Bank, National Association, BMO Capital Markets Inc. and Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. (the “*Underwriters*”) upon the terms set forth in the Certificate Purchase Agreement, and subject to the following conditions: (a) the Certificates shall not exceed an aggregate principal amount of \$10,000,000 (net of original issue discount or premium, if any); (b) the Certificates will have a final maturity or final maturities of not later than 10 years from the date of issuance of the Certificates; (c) the price at which the Certificates will be sold will not be less than 96% of the par amount thereof;

and (d) the True Interest Cost (TIC) on the Certificates shall not exceed 4.75% per annum (or in the event the Certificates are issued on a taxable basis in order to take advantage of credits that might be available from the United States Treasury under pending legislation, 7.75% per annum). The final terms of the Certificates shall be approved by the Treasurer, at his discretion and within such parameters. The Board approves the form of the Certificate Purchase Agreement, a copy of which is on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The appropriate officer of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Certificate Purchase Agreement in the name and on behalf of the Board in substantially the form presented at this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his/her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board’s approval of all changes from the forms thereof presented to this meeting.

4. The Board approves the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement, and authorizes the preparation and distribution of an Official Statement in connection with the

sale of the Certificates. The Board approves the Preliminary Official Statement, a copy of which is on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The appropriate officer of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute the final Official Statement in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the form of the Preliminary Official Statement presented to this meeting, with the addition of final terms of the Bonds, and with such changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his/her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the Preliminary Official Statement presented to this meeting.

5. The Board approves the forms of the Installment Purchase Contract, Indenture of Trust, Acquisition Agreement and Continuing Disclosure Agreement. Copies of such documents are on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The appropriate officers of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute such documents in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the forms presented to this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the officer or officers of the Board executing the same, his/her or their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the forms thereof presented to this meeting.

6. The Board approves the purchase of financial guaranty insurance for the Certificates by the Underwriters, if deemed economically beneficial by the Treasurer of the Board following consultation with the financial advisor and the Underwriters. The Board agrees to comply with such terms and provisions of the financial guaranty insurance as are approved by the Treasurer of the Board.

7. The Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Board and the members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the intent and purposes of this resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

Samuels entertained a motion to approve Resolution 09-17. Beaupre made a motion. Mayer seconded. Roll call was taken, with 6 ayes, 0 nays.

***Resolution 09-18: Student Fee Increases*** was removed from the Consent Agenda by DeLaurentiis. Samuels opened the floor for discussion. DeLaurentiis stated that she had requested supplemental information at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. Ejigu explained that this information has been provided, including a report on the Annual Entering Resident Undergraduate Tuition and Mandatory Fees FY85-FY09, which demonstrates that GSU rates have remained the lowest in the state. The second report is a table provided by the IBHE, and compares and contrasts Undergraduate and Graduate Instructional Costs for typical full time students at public Illinois universities. Ejigu called on Slovak to elaborate on the data. Slovak pointed to the first document, which demonstrated the amount of tuition plus mandatory fees that any new resident undergraduate student would pay at a public Illinois university. The second document is provided by IBHE every year, and compiled with information submitted to them by each university. The table includes instructional costs per FTE, full-time resident tuition with no fees, and tuition as a percent of the cost of instruction. The data reveals that GSU remains the most affordable state university, and that GSU students are covering the cost of just over 60% of the cost of instruction. Ejigu pointed out the most relevant figure to students is the total cost for tuition and fees to attend a public Illinois university.

Mayer questioned the number of mandatory fees being requested for increase. Ejigu replied there is only one mandatory fee of six requested for increase, the Technology Fee. The other four fees requested for increase are non-mandatory fees. Maimon explained that PBAC recommended to the President that many more mandatory fees be increased, however she only approved the increase in the Technology Fee given the current economic crises. She did so because of the need to update GSU's computer enterprise system. Of course there are other important technology needs on campus and the Administration is studying those needs closely in order to ascertain exactly where those funds should be expended. Green asked if an enterprise system update is an operational cost that can come out of funds generated from a tuition increase. Ejigu stated that it is an operational cost. An evaluation of the current enterprise system must be undertaken by an outside consultant to determine the needs of the University, at which time the Administration will analyze those recommendations and come back to the Board with a proposal as to how best to utilize those funds. No final decision has been made as to how we are going to utilize those funds. To answer the question directly, if the University has the ability to accumulate a significant amount, perhaps up to \$9M, tuition revenue can be used. However the issue at hand is that the University doesn't have the ability to generate such funds from existing tuition. There being no further discussion Samuels entertained a motion to approve Resolution 09-18. Friefeld made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. Roll call was taken, with 6 ayes, 0 nays.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS RECEIVED**

### **Lorine Samuels, Board Chair**

Chair Samuels opened by asking everyone to recall good friend and former Trustee, Bill McGee, who passed a little over a year ago. She recalled how Trustee McGee believed in the mission of GSU, and stated she knows he would be very proud of last month's commencement. The graduates travel a long road on the way to their degrees, so when commencement finally arrives they know all their hard work has been worth it, as do their loved ones. Seeing the smiling faces of the graduates as they walk across the platform makes the work of a trustee very worthwhile. Samuels recognized the efforts of GSU faculty and staff in making commencement such a memorable event. GSU awarded an honorary doctorate to master educator Dr. Blondean Davis, superintendent of Matteson School District 162. A scholarship was established in Dr. Davis' name, bringing even more opportunities to GSU students in years to come. A new year always brings new opportunities and challenges. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GSU's founding. In celebration of our anniversary, many activities are planned throughout the year and she encouraged everyone to participate.

As the national economic downturn continues unabated, Springfield has called on public universities to rescind 2.5% of their allocations. Governor Pat Quinn has asked his departments to cut costs by 1%. It is our hope that state universities will not be asked to do the same. With the PBAC budget process in effect the University is already following a fiscally prudent course. The Administrative team, led by Dr. Maimon and Dr. Ejigu, is allowing GSU to weather this storm and provide excellent education to the students. Even with economic upheaval all around, signs of progress are seen everywhere at GSU. Dr. Deb Bordelon has begun her duties as Dean of the College of Education. Deferred Maintenance projects are showing extraordinary progress all over campus including environmentally friendly permeable pavers replacing asphalt in lots B and C; concrete repair and cladding; and the swimming pool and locker room renovation. On January 20, the day of President Barack Obama's inauguration, President Maimon invited

students, faculty and staff to observe his swearing-in as president. It was a remarkable display of hopeful people from diverse backgrounds sharing a common experience. In this 40<sup>th</sup> year the University needs to stay true to GSU's mission and pioneering spirit, and move to become the model university for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Trustee Friefeld will speak briefly on the Board's election of officers, which will take place at the April meeting. Friefeld handed out ballots, and asked that the Trustees return them to Alexis Kennedy by March 15. This is being done as such because the nomination process is procedural. It allows everyone to make a choice, the best choice they can make, and is not deliberated at the committee level. The Board will then vote on the nominations at the April meeting.

### **Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, President**

Maimon opened by stating the Inauguration Day activities were wonderful, and that sharing it with the GSU community was very special. She thanked Adam Taylor and the Student Government for organizing this event. Maimon first shared the good news, recognizing Dean Bordelon of the COE, who she described as a very experienced, very sought after dean in higher education, adding that she has given new definition to the phrase "hit the ground running." Bordelon came to the podium, and thanked Maimon, stating she is very excited to be part of the GSU team. She explained she has hit the ground running, working with local school districts, superintendents, and community colleges looking at grant opportunities that will be interdisciplinary and involve the community at large. Maimon pointed out the strong group of deans now in permanent positions -- Dean Foster Curtis, CBPA; Dean Martin, CAS; Dean Dates Casey of the University Library; Dean Samson, CHHS; and Dean Poole, Dean of Students. Maimon recounted another piece of good news, stating that Michael Beschloss has accepted our invitation to receive the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at spring Commencement. Mr. Beschloss is a presidential historian and political commentator, and native of Flossmoor. She and the Trustees met him last year at the Association of Governing Boards meeting. Maimon gave special thanks to Penny Perdue, who made the time and effort to build a relationship with Mr. Beschloss' assistant, thus cementing the University's relationship with him. Maimon was also recently honored with an appointment to the Will County Economic Development Board.

Maimon turned to the challenging news, starting with the current economic climate. GSU's health right now as a university is pretty good, thanks to the cooperative planning of the Board of Trustees and the Administration. Despite tuition and fee increases in the past year, GSU is still has the lowest tuition rate in Illinois, and remains fiscally healthy. It is important to keep in mind that in 2001 75% of GSU's budget was from state appropriations. In FY09 that figure is 50%. She expressed her dismay at those figures because higher education is a public good, and it is sad to see states diminish their support of higher education. Maimon thanked her administrative team for their excellent management of the budget, expressing that there are challenges to face, but GSU has been able to meet those challenges with careful planning. She compared GSU to a sturdy, sea-worthy vessel that benefits from the constant care and vigilance of the Board and the Administration, however these are uncharted waters and there are predictions of rough weather ahead. The global and national situations are challenging. The State of Illinois is facing a \$9B deficit according to Comptroller Dan Hynes. It is important to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. The positive side of the picture, given the University's increasing dependence on tuition and fees, is that to some extent we are better masters of our fate. That is, by following the

strategic plan and strategic enrollment management programs can be improved and created to increase enrollment. Maimon reiterated that both she and Joan Vaughan continue to work hard to make the state appropriation as strong as possible. They recently visited Rep. Mary Flowers and others for in depth discussions on the operating budget needs of the University, focusing on creating an understanding of the relatively higher costs of an upper division university. In December the Administration began closely monitoring non-essential expenses, and just this week imposed a hiring freeze. Essential positions will be reviewed on a case by case basis and will require the President's approval for posting.

With the release of the Federal Stimulus Package, Maimon recently visited Washington to lobby. The document is 1100 pages, but her overall impression is that it is favorable to higher education. Pell awards are being increased from \$5000 to \$5500. \$200M has been added to the federal work study program, with the Federal Government now paying 90% of the salary of a student eligible for work study. The higher education tax credit has been increased from \$1800 to \$2500, and it now allows 40% of that credit to be refundable. In effect students with no tax liability will actually get that money back, and if added to the Pell award the majority of a low income student's tuition will be covered at GSU. Aid to the State of Illinois is estimated at \$3B, with much of that going to decrease the State's budget deficit. However there are also portions designated for capital projects, which could include the renovation of E/F wings. Maimon spoke with Senator Debbie Halvorson last Tuesday on GSU's continued efforts in this regard.

Maimon reported that Standard & Poor's and Moody's once again rated GSU prior to its return to the bond market. The initial rating was A-, the second round rating was A-, and in the third round GSU was rated A- again, an accomplishment to be quite proud of. Maimon reported on a meeting she and Vaughan attended on January 29 with the President and senior staff of the Chicago Community Trust, a major foundation within the Chicago Metro area. The Trust is looking to GSU to help fulfill our role as a unifying entity in the Southland. They asked Maimon and Vaughan to develop a white paper fully realizing goals 4 and 5 of *Strategy 2015*. Deans and faculty, in addition to the President's Cabinet have contributed to this paper, which will also be helpful in the HLC Reaccreditation process. She also reported that GSU is applying for Carnegie Status as a community organization. Maimon concluded by stating that, "As we sail in these uncharted waters we are hopeful. As we weather this crisis we will become even stronger."

#### **Paul Blobaum, President, Faculty Senate**

Blobaum opened by recounting how one year ago the Nation was shocked and saddened by the shootings and deaths at Northern Illinois University. Since that time GSU has accomplished a tremendous amount of work in ensuring the safety of its students and staff with the Emergency Response Team (ERT.) He thanked the Board for the critical improvements in campus facilities, stating that the GSU Community feels much more safe and secure. It is one less thing for faculty to worry about, enabling them to focus more on scholarship. Since the October meeting the observance of Charles Darwin's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays has passed. Blobaum stated he is very pleased Michael Beschloss has accepted the invitation to be GSU's Honorary Degree Recipient in June. On the economic front, possible job losses are a concern at GSU. Yesterday the Administration made a presentation to the Faculty Senate on the state of the University's budget. Because faculty and staff have been involved in the budget process through PBAC it is much easier to understand the situation and alleviate fear. A chief concern of the faculty in these difficult economic times is the maintenance of program quality. The Faculty Senate will continue to

review programs and proposals as in the past, striving for the utmost in quality. Blobaum added that recent appointments were made to the Graduate Studies Council, which advises the Provost and Faculty Senate Committees. He concluded by stating the HLC Reaccreditation Self Study has been a great focus for the faculty, and that committees are meeting regularly and working diligently toward this goal.

### **Adam Taylor, President, Student Senate**

Taylor wished everyone a happy new year. He did not run for reelection, and therefore this is his last Board meeting as a sitting member. He explained that one of his main goals as President was to make the Student Senate more visible, and he believes this has been accomplished through activities including a Voter Registration Campaign, informative sessions leading up to the Presidential election, and election day and Inauguration Day celebrations. These events had great turnouts, as did numerous other activities designed to get students minds off academics, allow them some down time, and enjoy GSU. The Student Senate has a great new website. The Senate's bylaws were updated and approved as of February 1, 2009. A new logo for Student Senate has been designed in conjunction with the Public Relations Department, and recently student elections were held completely online for the first time. Taylor stated it was sad to say, but all good things must come to an end and he chose not to run for reelection because of his impending graduation from GSU. He related how Dr. Ejigu and Dr. Slovak did everything they could to keep him on campus, but that they understand he has to move on to teach mathematics at the middle school and high school levels. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to service the Student Senate and the student body, and vowed that he will continue to be active at GSU and in service to the community.

Samuels stated the Board is saddened that this is Taylor's last meeting, and expressed their gratefulness for his presence and contributions to the Board. On behalf of the Board she wished him the best of luck and success in his new career and endeavors. On behalf of the Administration Maimon also thanked Taylor, stating that increased student involvement has been very apparent under his presidency. DeLaurentiis asked about the advisory referendum that concluded today. Taylor responded it was in regard to the fee increases proposed. He stated over 166 student voted, which is a significant increase from past years. Doing it online was extremely helpful. DeLaurentiis stated the student participation level clearly has increased, and she commended Taylor and the rest of the senate for taking on these tasks. Green commended Taylor on a job well done. Taylor thanked everyone.

### **Kathleen Miller, President, Civil Service Senate**

Miller opened by stating it has been a joy to work with Taylor, and that she will miss him. She also stated that the hard work of Taylor and the senate is apparent in the increased student participation on campus. Miller turned to the hiring freeze, which is of concern to civil service employees, but that the transparency of information is greatly appreciated. She asked that the Board and the Administration continue to keep the senate informed, as the next point of concern is the possibility of layoffs in future. The senate does not want to provide any misinformation to the civil service employees. A "Chat with the President" has been scheduled with the Civil Service Senate in the near future. Winter scholarship applications were up to seven, up greatly from the past. Two scholarships were awarded, to Karen Stuenkel and Annie Weir. Miller thanked Human Resources for their new "Get Fit Program," stating the personal support from HR employees has been incredible, and that it has made a tremendous difference in how she feels. She

concluded by stating the Civil Service Senate and its employees will continue to support the Administration in any way it can.

Samuels called for a lunch break at 12:33 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1:10 p.m.

### **Joan Vaughan, Report on Institutional Advancement**

Vaughan opened by emphasizing the focus within Institutional Advancement is on developing relationships, both within and outside the University, looking to steward current donors and engage new donors. At the beginning of the fiscal year a goal for donations was established, however given the difficult economy the Foundation Board felt it was necessary to adjust this goal. They met in November and reduced FY09 revenue goal to \$430K. Currently \$280K has been deposited, with another \$274K pledged. The Campus Community Campaign, with a goal of 100% employee participation, already has \$60K committed. The Tony Fontana endowed scholarship was recently developed at \$25K, which is a new threshold for the Foundation. As mentioned earlier the Dr. Blondean Davis scholarship was also recently instituted. Warner Saunders and Dr. Davis have both agreed to serve on the Foundation Board. The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is in the process of recruiting new board members, and the Center for Performing Arts has added a new board member, Sonja Coleman, a lawyer for BCBS. As expected the endowment fund for the Foundation lost money due to the economic crisis, therefore the amount that can be rewarded in scholarships is limited. However the Foundation is soliciting previous scholarship recipients for contributions, as well as asking board members to solicit contributions to reach the goal of \$47K. The Alumni Association continues to host events that not only bring alumni back to GSU, but also build on relationships and encourage giving back to GSU. The annual scholarship lunch will take place on April 23, a special event that brings scholarship recipients together with scholarship donors. Communication is key, and Institutional Advancement continues to work hard to build lasting relationships.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayer asked for clarification on the vendors for accrued annuities. AIG was listed; who she believes recently went into default. She questioned whether these monies were secure. Ejigu responded that although AIG has come under very severe financial problems, it is in many ways under the control of the federal government. Retirement funds are administered and managed under strict IRS regulations, so the investments that GSU employees make into their retirement funds and those vendors are not subject to the kind of losses and difficulties that these firms are going through. However many of these accounts are self managed by employees, therefore if they have been exposed to an investment portfolio that has suffered they will too. However it would be a result of the self management, not the vendor.

### ***Resolution 09-23: Release of Executive Session Minutes***

Samuels entertained a motion to accept Resolution 09-23. Beaupre made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meeting to address the Board or its committees on relevant matters within its jurisdiction.

Dr. Marsha Katz, University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), spoke. Her comments were as follows, “Thank you for letting me speak. As the GSU representative of UPI I’m glad to say that negotiations have begun. We had a federal mediator come in to organize and start the relationship building process. We are considering modified traditional bargaining which combines modified and traditional bargaining. It takes longer, but hopefully it will have a positive outcome. Concerns include how a calendar change will fit into the contract as it stands now. I’m hoping that we can talk about that; so far there has been no communication on the calendar change with the UPI. Lastly, we are concerned about the memo that came out yesterday. There have been a number of questions that I can’t answer and I’m looking for clarification. “No job reclassification will take place.” What about those that have been promoted? What happens to the adjuncts that are supposed to be moved into the bargaining unit? We seem to be about a year behind on some of those people and it needs to be settled. Other than that we are having reelections of union officers in April. We are in the midst of nominations. We have a good slate. Thank you.”

Samuels had some additional comments before adjournment. She related that she recently spoke with Trustee McGee’s widow, Patricia, who was very pleased to hear from the Board. She thanked Chair Samuels for the continued support of the Board. Samuels recently attended the GSU Foundation Board meeting. Under the leadership of Bill Sanders the Foundation is moving forward, understanding that with declining state support more emphasis will be on philanthropic contributions. She also had the pleasure of participating in the Occupational Therapy Pinning Ceremony, along with Trustee Friefeld. It was their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a very beautiful ceremony. Finally Samuels recounted her attendance at the opening of the Art of the Kuba Exhibit, which was well attended by the community. She also attended the lecture and met the Prince. She extended a special thank you to Dr. Bourgeois of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Martin, and Sheree Sanders for their excellent work in arranging for the exhibit.

Samuels entertained a motion to adjourn. Green made a motion. Beaupre seconded. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting of the Full Board adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Johns