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Governors State University Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - February 20, 2009

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

Minutes of the Friday, February 20, 2009 Meeting

Lois Mayer, Chair

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 20, 2009 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors. The meeting was called to order by Chair Mayer at 10:00 a.m. Trustees Kristi DeLaurentiis, Lorine Samuels, Bruce Friefeld, Jack Beaupre and Student Trustee Elizabeth Green was in attendance.

Others present: Elaine Maimon, President; Jane Rhoades Hudak, Provost; Gebe Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Joan Vaughan, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Paul Blobaum, Faculty Senate President; Kathleen Miller, Civil Service Senate President; John Stoll, Vice-Provost; Sandra Mayfield, Assistant Provost; Catherine Brady, Assistant Professor CHHS; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Mayer entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting of October 17, 2008. Friefeld made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORTS RECEIVED

Update on Proposed Academic Calendar Changes

Hudak introduced Dr. Catherine Brady, who was representing the committee in Dean Linda Samson's absence. She also recognized other members of the task force in the audience. Hudak briefly summarized the activities of the committee since the last Board meeting. In addition to the five sub-committee regular meetings, they held two faculty forums and two student forums. The Committee will be meeting with the Faculty Senate next month to make final recommendations, and an implementation oversight committee will be appointed to assure a smooth transition. Mayer thanked the committee for their hard work. She also pointed out the potential economic impact the semester calendar could have by drawing in more students. Brady related that although the committee found some barriers to the seamless implementation of a semester calendar, they did not find any insurmountable barriers. She also explained that during

the course of this exercise a lot of University policies were examined and recommendations for policy amendments have been made in an effort to benefit the University.

Program Accreditation Status Update

An update of program accreditation is provided at each meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee, and is included in the Board book. Hudak recognized Mayfield for the great amount of work she puts in to keep up with the details of every academic program at GSU. There were no questions.

Status Report on Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation

Hudak reminded the assembly that the Higher Learning Commission will be at GSU for its site visit November 16-18, 2009. She reported each of the five criterion sub-committee chairs have given Cabinet comprehensive progress reports after gathering substantial evidence from their committee members to support each criterion. Two outside consultants are working with the Steering committee, free of charge, to review and edit the writing. HLC team members have been assigned to GSU and President Maimon has approved those team members. DeLaurentiis asked if the time period between accreditation years is the same as previously. Hudak and Maimon both responded positively; reaccreditation is sought every ten years. Samuels asked for a point of clarification in the Program Accreditation Report, page 3, in reference to the nursing program. Mayfield clarified the intervals required for reaccreditation in these programs.

Reasonable and Moderate Extension Requests (RAMER)

- **Minor in Latino Studies**
- **Minor in Gender Studies**

A summarization of the above mentioned programs is provided in the Board Book. Hudak reported that the Minor in Latino Studies is going to be offered because Illinois has one of the largest Latino populations in the country, and it is the hope that this course of study will attract more Latino students to campus. It is being offered through the Division of Liberal Arts, and no additional costs will be incurred in order to provide this program. The Minor in Gender Studies is interdisciplinary in nature and offered through the Division of Liberal Arts. Samuels asked if these programs need to be approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Mayfield replied they do not; GSU is only required to notify IBHE.

Sabbatical Report

A list of faculty requesting sabbatical time for Spring/Summer 2010 and Winter 2010 is included in the Board Book along with a synopsis of their proposals. Hudak explained that in the past faculty have been good about writing up their proposals, but not so good about turning in the final report. Therefore the Provost's Office is asking those granted sabbatical time to be more diligent in monitoring their work and submitting their findings. DeLaurentiis asked for a reminder of the cycle process for submission of sabbatical leave. Blobaum responded that in order to apply for sabbatical leave a faculty member must be tenured and have at least four years of service to the University.

Report on Venues for Commencement

Maimon introduce Vice President Joan Vaughan. She reported that several months ago the Commencement Committee was charged with taking a very hard look at all venues available for

Commencement, including on campus, which would service the needs of the graduates and provide a ceremony that could be done in an economical and logical way. A great deal of study has gone into this process. The Committee priced the various options available to hold Commencement on campus, including renting tents and chairs, having more than one ceremony, etc., and also looked at venues all over the Chicago area. The Committee's final recommendation was that it would be almost impossible to hold Commencement on campus in a cost effective, logical manner that would serve the needs of our students. Therefore the June 6 Commencement will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center (TPCC). The TPCC will have construction going on at that time but it will not affect our ceremony, although it will provide more room for future events. Vaughan emphasized the Committee has scrutinized the procedures followed by GSU staff at the TPCC in an effort to improve conditions across the board.

Mayer asked Vaughan for a ballpark figure on tents for an on-campus ceremony. Vaughan replied estimates they have received are over \$300K. The cost to rent TPCC is approximately \$70K. Ejigu pointed out that there also is no guarantee that weather will not adversely affect tents, no matter how well constructed. Vaughan related how every combination of indoor venues at GSU was considered, and the numbers just won't work; we cannot hold that many people on campus at one time. Maimon gave special thanks to Vaughan and Karen Caesar Smith, and their committee members for their diligent work on the Commencement Committee. She added that in the GSU Master Site Plan there is a plan for a multipurpose building that would be used for commencement, adding that GSU is the only public university in Illinois that does not have a suitable space to hold commencement on campus. She expressed that it is the Administration's goal to hold Commencement on campus as requested by the Board, and that we will continue to work on this initiative in order to best serve our graduates.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 09-20: Elimination of the BA in Integrative Studies Program

Hudak reported that there is zero enrollment in this program. GSU has completed all termination procedures. There was no further discussion. Mayer entertained a motion to move Resolution 09-20 to the Consent Agenda. Beaupre made a motion. Samuels seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 09-21: Request for New Units of Instruction (RNUI)

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

Hudak explained that both degrees have been fully vetted through our system, and enthusiastic enrollment in these programs is anticipated. Mayer asked for a motion to move Resolution 09-21 to the Consent Agenda. Green made a motion. Friefeld seconded. Discussion followed, with DeLaurentiis questioning whether these degree programs had to be approved by the IBHE. Hudak explained that yes, they did, and as soon as the Board approves these new degrees they will be sent to IBHE electronically for formal approval, which Assistant Provost Mayfield will do. She followed up by asking if any further allocation of resources was required, to which Hudak replied there would not. Maimon reiterated that through the PBAC Budget Process deans

are required to look at how the creation of new programs will affect their budget. DeLaurentiis expressed it was her recollection that in the past IBHE asked that we not submit new programs if they require more resources from the State. Hudak confirmed that was correct. There being no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 09-22: Honorary Degree Recipient Nominees

Maimon explained that Vaughan worked closely with Committee Chair Blobaum and the Honorary Degree Committee, and made great efforts to ensure there was a predominance of faculty on the Committee. A call for nominations also went out to the Trustees. Upon the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Committee and the President's concurrence, the following three nominees are recommended for inclusion on the list: Jerry Colangelo, Sports Executive; Lawrence J. Furnstahl, Chief Financial and Strategy Officer, University of Chicago Medical Center; and Dr. Roberta L. Noonan, Educator. There being no discussion Mayer entertained a motion to include Resolution 09-22 on the Consent Agenda. Green made a motion. Samuels seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no call for an executive session of the Academic Affairs Committee.

PREVIEW OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hudak stated the Administration will continue to update the Board on the Academic Calendar Initiative, the HLC Self Study, and the standard accreditation reviews at each meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayer asked the assembly for requests for Public Comment. None were received from the audience, however Mayer commented on a program she recently attended on campus, a woman's read-in for Black History Month. She stated it was well attended and extremely interesting. Good things are happening here on campus.

Mayer entertained a motion to adjourn the Academic Affairs Committee. Friefeld made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Johns