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Governors State University Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - April 3, 2009

Board of Trustees

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees Meeting, April 3, 2009

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees meeting was held on Friday, April 3, 2009 in the William D. McGee Hall of Honors.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Samuels called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Roll call was taken, and the following Trustees were present: Lorine Samuels, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Bruce Friefeld, Lois Mayer and Elizabeth Green. Trustee Jack Beaupre was absent.

Also in attendance: Elaine Maimon, President; Gebe Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; David Curtis, Professor on Special Assignment to the President; Alexis Kennedy, General Counsel; Paul Blobaum, Faculty Senate President; Kathleen Miller, Civil Service Senate President; Carmin Garnica, Student Senate President; Joan Vaughan, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Linda Samson, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services; Eric Martin, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Jeff Slovak, Deputy Vice President of Administration and Finance; Karen Kissel, Associate Vice President for Financial Services and Comptroller; Geoffrey Bates, Curator and Director of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park; Carol Cortilet Albrecht, Registrar; and David Dixon, Internal Auditor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Samuels entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2009 Full Board Meeting. Friefeld made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. Green pointed out an item needing correction on Page 5, first paragraph, where it states, "Green asked if an enterprise system update is an operational cost that can come out of funds generated from a tuition increase." This should be changed to "Green asked if an enterprise system update is an operational cost that can *be funded utilizing revenues from previous tuition increases.*" The minutes will be amended as noted. The minutes were approved, as amended, by unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND FORMAL REPORTS

Report on the Cost of Education at GSU

Ejigu introduced individuals that aided in the compilation of the report including Jeff Slovak, Sherilyn Poole, Carol Cortilet Albrecht, and Jose Reyes. Slovak provided a handout of five graphs with data pertaining to both undergraduate and graduate students for the years 2000-2008. The first graph presented comparative multi-year data on undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for all Illinois state universities, based on a full load of 30 credit hours per year. He pointed out that GSU has had the lowest tuition and fee rates throughout the period studied. The graph

also contained projected tuition rates for 2009-2010. However, to-date only one state university, Northeastern Illinois University, has announced plans to increase tuition for the fall of 2009. GSU is represented with the current proposed tuition increase. Ejigu pointed out that these graphs were generated using data provided by IBHE.

The second graph represents graduate tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois public universities. Slovak explained that since graduate rates vary quite a bit, this graph represents the “basic rate.” He made two points, the first being that GSU and Northeastern Illinois University have the lowest graduate tuition rates, however if the proposed tuition increases are enacted GSU’s rates will be higher than Northeastern’s in the coming years. The graduate table is based on 12 credit hours per term. DeLaurentiis asked whether there was any information on these other campuses in terms of differential tuition for graduates, for example is there a cadre of programs that have their own tuition rate? Slovak replied that the University of Illinois has numerous programs with differential tuition. Green asked if this was like “comparing apples to oranges” since GSU is an upper division university. Slovak replied there is no material difference. Maimon added that it is actually more impressive that GSU has the lowest tuition and fees because upper division education is more expensive. GSU cannot subsidize upper division programs with tuition from freshman and sophomore students which typically have large class sizes, so in theory GSU does a better job than other universities because higher division programs aren’t subsidized with lower division tuition and fees. DeLaurentiis asked for clarification on which fees IBHE considers when comparing universities. Ejigu answered that the IBHE is very careful to compare the data “apples to apples;” thus they compare only mandatory fees that are comparable at all universities.

Report on Enrollment Trends

Slovak, using handouts distributed earlier, discussed enrollment trends for the period of 2000-2008. Ejigu pointed out two clear trends that are not reflected in the charts -- that over the last two terms and continuing in the spring and summer there has been a significant increase in full time undergraduate enrollment, ranging from increases of 6-8%. He explained this is a direct result of efforts to partner with community colleges and efforts to encourage students to complete a bachelor’s degree. Cortilet Albrecht explained the initiatives at strengthening partnership with our feeder community colleges towards this end. Administrators and admissions counselors have been meeting with representatives from Prairie State College, Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, and the City Colleges of Chicago. At Kankakee Community College GSU has a baccalaureate degree completion program where GSU admissions recruiters are on site to meet with students. A similar center will open at Prairie State College in the near future. The College of DuPage is also interested in such a program and GSU will be meeting with them soon. Cortilet Albrecht explained that GSU is also revisiting the idea of entering into dual admission arrangements with these community colleges. Ejigu pointed out that one alarming trend is the significant decrease in

Hispanic student enrollment. GSU is analyzing and evaluating this trend in an effort to turn it around. The Enrollment Issues Forum, consisting of all the deans and enrollment management staff, has also been established to address these and other enrollment-related issues. Ejigu emphasized that increasing enrollment is one of the most important goals of the Strategic Plan and the University has to be very aggressive in these efforts. Samuels asked if the sharp decline in international students is an effect of the economy. Ejigu replied that is the belief, but we're not entirely sure. He pointed out another cause could be the tuition multiplier used for non-resident and international students, which is three times the base tuition rate. This is being looked at closely. Green wondered if we had a grasp of why we are losing the Hispanic population. Ejigu stated that two days ago an enrollment services workshop was held and this was one of the extensively discussed topics. There are some indications that the cost of education may have something to do with it, stating there is anecdotal information from other institutions that indicate their enrollment rates for Hispanics is better because they have more comprehensive financial aid programs.

Samuels pointed to the graphs and asked why enrollment in the College of Education is showing a decline, and what actions are being taken to turn that trend around. Ejigu cited that a new dean for the College of Education, Deb Bordelon, recently came on board after a long search. With new leadership in place she and her staff are working diligently to turn this trend around, and we really expect material improvement in the terms to come. Maimon added that Dean Bordelon was unable to attend the Board meeting today because she is participating in an NCATE visit at another university. DeLaurentiis asked for clarification on what information is of more benefit to us in terms of student credit hours (SCH) versus head count. Maimon explained that SCH allows us to count real growth, while head counts are misleading. We are looking for students taking more than one course and staying more than one trimester, and the SCH is the more accurate figure.

Presentation on the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Vaughan introduced the agenda item stating that the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP) focuses on engaging external constituents, and that Geoff Bates, Director and Curator, is doing an amazing job of weaving the NMSP into all of GSU. New audiences from all over are coming to GSU to view the park, and they have seen a significant increase in fund raising. She turned the floor over to Bates, who provided a Power Point presentation on the NMSP. He began by expressing his appreciation for the support of the Administration, stating he appreciates their recognition of the value of the park and the art work. He described the park's mission, based on three axes, organizational, professional and educational. Bylaws were created to define participation in the life of the park. Currently there are eight board members, however five new members are being accepted at the end of the month. Each board member has agreed to host friend raising events. A video was made of the park, which is distributed to visitors and external constituents. Bates explained some of the outreach efforts in order to make the NMSP "A park

that is for everyone,” including working with GSU Facilities to design a fitness walk through the park, the docent program, Two for Tuesday programs, providing tours to schools for programs that incorporate the prairie and nature into the curricula, and attending gallery openings in Chicago to reach out to artists and others in the art world, to name a few. The NMSP Board works diligently to make sure they meet the highest standards of art, working with conservators to maintain the art work as well as to move pieces to areas for better exposure. Maimon highly recommended viewing the 18 minute CD, which is a work of art in itself, and includes a marvelous interview with Lew Manilow. Samuels thanked Bates, on behalf of the Board, for the positive development of the NMSP.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was called.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Samuels stated that the Board’s committees have met, deliberated and have recommended that the following resolutions be placed on the Consent Agenda: **Resolution 09-24, 09-26, and 09-27**. **Resolution 09-25: FY10 Tuition Increase**, was tabled at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting. 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. There were no requests. Therefore the resolutions will be adopted as written. Samuels asked for a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. DeLaurentiis made a motion. Green seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 09-24: Award of a Construction Contract for Roadway and Walkway

Reconstruction: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon and the Facilities Committee, the Governors State University Board of Trustees authorizes the award of a contract for the reconstruction of existing University walkways and roadways to the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000. The contract award pursuant to this resolution shall include the work as generally shown in sections A through E on the drawing attached to this resolution, and may include one or more alternative work items for lighting and a new parking lot for the Family Development Center—if the cost of inclusion of one or more of these alternates are included within the authorized contract limit of \$1,800,000. The President shall report to the Board of Trustees in writing on the outcome of the bidding and award process pursuant to this resolution as soon as the process is complete.

Resolution 09-26: Award of Professor Emeritus Status: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon and the Academic Affairs Committee, the Board of Trustees of Governors State University awards the rank of Professor Emeritus to:

- **Karen Peterson, Ed.D.**
- **Michael Purdy, Ph.D.**
- **Beth Hansen Shaw, M.A., M.P.A.**

Resolution 09-27: Elimination of the Certificate in Reading Specialist (RDSP) associated with the M.A. Degree in Education: Upon the recommendation of President Maimon and the Academic Affairs Committee, the Board of Trustees of Governors State University approves the elimination of the Certificate in Reading Specialist (RDSP) associated with the M.A. degree in Education.

REPORTS

Lorine Samuels, Board Chair

Samuels began by welcoming Carmin Garnica, new Student Senate President to her first Board of Trustees meeting. She continued by pointing out the signs of Spring in the air and the signs of growth and resurgence here on campus. The permeable paver parking lots will be dedicated at a ceremony for Earth Week and Governor Quinn has been invited to do the dedication. She expressed her appreciation of GSU's aggressive initiatives to create a sustainable and green campus. Samuels went on to discuss the significant change in leadership of late with the resignation of Provost Jane Hudak. She expressed respect for her difficult decision, and admiration for her many accomplishments while Provost. Dr. Hudak will remain on the faculty as a senior art professor. Samuels thanked Dr. David Curtis for stepping in to assist as Professor on Special Assignment until June 30, and then step into the role of Interim Provost effective July 1. This decision was made after extensive consultation with Deans, Faculty, Division Heads and Administrators. President Maimon has advised the Board that she is actively engaged in conversations on the appointment of a Search Committee for a new Provost.

Samuels continued by praising the work of Drs. Eric Martin, Ann Vendrely and Sandra Mayfield as they prepare GSU for the Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation and site visit in November. She stated Dr. Curtis' expertise as an HLC evaluator and peer consultant will certainly be an invaluable resource to the team.

Samuels recalled her remarks at the February meeting about the State budget difficulties. She stated the Administration now has a slightly clearer vision since Governor Quinn's Budget Address, and our testimony in the State House and Senate. The Governor's budget proposes that FY2010 appropriations for higher education remain relatively the same as FY2009, which is good news. The E/F wing renovation continues to be at the top of the list of priorities, and as the Governor is poised to pass a capital budget, the first in many, many years, she remains hopeful that GSU will get the renovation money needed to bring this project to fruition.

Regardless of the budget uncertainties, GSU has continued to grow, adding two new degree programs in February. Samuels stated that she serves on the Board of Trustees because she believes higher education is one of the major drivers for developing strong families, communities, and our nation. Lack of knowledge is very costly in both human and economic terms. The Board recognizes that and works hard to make a quality education accessible, and to be an engine of growth in the region we serve. Making GSU self sustaining is of the utmost importance.

Elaine P. Maimon, President

Maimon welcomed Garnica and expressed her appreciation of the work of the Student Government. She then thanked Jane Hudak for her work as Provost. She stated Hudak is looking forward to joining the faculty. She extended a special welcome to Dr. David Curtis, and clarified his sequence of responsibilities. She pointed out that Curtis has been at the University since before the first students were on campus, and therefore his historical perspective is an asset he will bring to the position. She pointed out that Curtis has also been asked to chair the Provost Search Committee. Maimon released a memo last night outlining the process and the timetable for the search. Jaime Ferrare, of Academic Search, Inc., will devote his attention to GSU in this effort. He aided the Board in the Presidential Search three years ago, and he is eager to take a look at the campus now as compared to his analysis in 2006. His report may also give GSU some valuable insights to incorporate in the HLC self study.

Three important events are scheduled for April 23 -- the Annual Scholarship Luncheon, Earth Week celebration, and the dedication of the new permeable pavers parking lots. We will also observe Shakespeare's Birthday that day. Warner Saunders has been invited to emcee the event, however his acceptance relies on his health status, having recently undergone surgery. We wish him well in his recovery. Another important event happening this week was the sale of Series 2009 Certificates of Participation (COPS). Ejigu explained that they were sold at a true interest cost of 4.4%. He pointed out that the Board previously authorized the Administration to issue the COPS at an interest rate not to exceed 4.75%; therefore this was a reasonably good outcome.

Maimon continued by reporting on her activities in Springfield. She and Joan Vaughan have been in Springfield quite a bit, as well as meeting separately with legislators locally. It has been effective because there is now a good understanding of our needs, in particular the need to fund the E and F renovations project. That is a point that has been made loud and clear. She added that the legislators understand the unique challenges GSU as an upper division university, and they have praised our prudent financial planning and management practices as well as our commitment to a seamless pathway for community college students to a baccalaureate degree.

Maimon discussed the highlights of the operating budget that has been proposed by Governor Quinn, and reiterated that at GSU we will endeavor to focus on controlling the things we can

control; we will continue being prudent and strategic as we continue to sail these unchartered waters.

Curtis asked for a moment to recognize the passing of Dr. Ronald Brubaker yesterday. He stated Dr. Brubaker was one of the first faculty members at GSU, and through the years served in many capacities. Information on his services will be passed onto the University community when it becomes available.

Paul Blobaum, President, Faculty Senate

Blobaum welcomed Garnica and congratulated her on her new position as President of the Student Senate. He explained that she will be coming to Faculty Senate meetings in the future and the faculty looks forward to working with her and supporting the students. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Student Senate and their advisors, in particular the student volunteers. Blobaum went on to express the Faculty Senate's sadness on the resignation of Provost Hudak; however they look forward to working with her as a member of the Faculty. He stated that the University is very fortunate that Dr. Curtis has agreed to continue to serve GSU as Interim Provost beginning July 1. Blobaum stated that Dr. Curtis' willingness to step forward at this time is "almost poetic," and that this assignment should serve as a capstone to his illustrious career.

Blobaum turned his attention to the uncertain financial times, and his belief that the community needs GSU to continue to provide wise management and leadership. He looks forward to the community college initiatives being made to aid students in a seamless transition to a bachelor's degree. He went on to report that Faculty Senate elections will be taking place soon. Blobaum concluded by apologizing for breaking protocol, however he wanted to inform the Board that Dr. Marsha Katz, GSU's UPI representative, had a change in plans and was unable to be at today's meeting. She wished to report that the UPI continues to work with the Administration on contract negotiations.

Carmin Garnica, President, Student Senate

Garnica thanked everyone for their warm welcome. She explained that as an organization the Student Senate is committed to creating student awareness and assist in making GSU a university in which students and everyone who associates with the institution can feel a sense of pride. Numerous committees are taking steps to accomplish this goal, including the Public Relations Committee which is working to make better awareness of the Senate and its activities; the Elections and Bylaws Committee which is advertising for open positions in the Senate; and the Programming and Finance Committee that is working on formulating budgets for various events in the upcoming year. The 40th Anniversary celebration is of particular interest to the Student Senate, and they plan to put together an event representing the various cultural backgrounds represented at GSU.

Garnica explained that one of the projects they are currently working on is the development of a scholarship to help fund childcare, an area of great concern to many students. The Student Senate has also met with Dean Poole in regards to the need for more computers accessible to students on campus. She expressed special thanks to Dean Poole for addressing the Senate's concerns. She also thanked Dean Dates Casey and Vice Provost Stoll for recommending the Library and ACS labs remain open during Summer Hours, two facilities that are fundamental to the academic success of the students.

Kathleen Miller, President, Civil Service Senate

Miller reported that the Civil Service Senate Executive Committee met yesterday to discuss their FY2010 budget. In an effort to help the University, the Senate has worked hard on their fundraising efforts. They will meet with Ejigu at the end of the month to discuss their financial picture, and their recommendation will be to ask for less money from the University in the coming fiscal year. The Senate recently met with HR VP Bradshaw and HR representative Pulchratia Kinney-Smith, where the topic of possible layoffs was discussed. Both representatives eased the fears of many that layoffs are not imminent. They also discussed the proposed Summer Hours program with employees. Due to the nature of some employees' work assignments the proposed summer hours may not apply, and Bradshaw agreed to have all questions referred to her office for clarification. President Maimon recently held a Town Hall Meeting for civil service staff, and Miller reported that as always Maimon and the Administration had the answers, and everybody walked away feeling secure, safe, and continue to have a strong belief in GSU. She went on to report that the Civil Service Senate will be selling food at the Earth Week festivities, and that the GSU Fly-In is coming up. The latter is not a fund raiser, but a FUN raiser that is becoming more popular each year. Senate elections are coming up later in the month, and 12 senate seats will become vacant, including the president's. Miller thanked Curtis for putting off his retirement in order to aid the University. She also stated that as a member of SUAA she has taken it upon herself, with the permission of President Maimon, to keep the faculty and staff informed of what is going on in Springfield via email. She concluded by welcoming Garnica to the Board of Trustees meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Samuels turned the floor over to Friefeld, Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations. Confidential voting took place, and Kennedy tallied the results. Friefeld read the results for positions for the coming year: Chair of the Board of Trustees - Lorine Samuels; Vice Chair - Jack Beaupre; and Secretary - Kristi DeLaurentiis. Friefeld congratulated and thanked the members for their service.

Resolution 09-28: Appointment of Board Committee Chairs. The resolution was amended prior to New Business due to a typographical error, naming Mayer as the Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations. The resolution should have indicated that Friefeld is the Chair of the Committee on Trusteeship, Governance and Nominations. Samuels requested a motion to approve Resolution 09-28 as amended. Green made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution 09-29: Approval of a Facility Use Agreement. Maimon explained that *Chicago 2016* contacted the University regarding use of some of our land as an Olympic venue if Chicago is chosen for the 2016 Summer Olympics. She turned the floor over to Ejigu, who displayed a proposed rendering of the shooting competition venue which would be built on a 70-acre area behind the Family Development Center. In addition, new parking lots would be added, and three access points to the main campus would be added at the train station, the east part of campus, and from the southwest side. Their plans include building an access road leading to the venue. Two major structures are proposed, one 300'x100', and the other facility about 1/3 that size. If Chicago is awarded the 2016 Summer Olympics in October then further negotiations regarding the exact location and size of the structures will ensue. Of primary interest is the retention of one of these structures for use as a convocation center after the Olympics, with parking toward A lot, consistent with the Master Site Plan. The *Chicago 2016* Committee has said they are willing to work with us. Ejigu showed slides of the Beijing 2008 Shooting Facility. Maimon expressed that this is a definitive win-win situation. GSU would be the only Olympic site in the south suburbs and Will County, providing GSU broader PR and marketing exposure. DeLaurentiis stated one of the things that must be intriguing for the *Chicago 2016* team is the sustainability of our campus and careful stewardship of the beautiful acreage. Ejigu echoed her thoughts, relating that during conversations with the Committee Rakstang did a wonderful job of expressing those same sentiments to the *Chicago 2016* people. Maimon added that another point they appreciated about GSU was its diversity, both in the student body and the faculty; with so much advanced planning it would be possible to integrate the Olympic activities into the curriculum of all the Colleges. The Committee felt that kind of argument would strengthen Chicago's bid.

Samuels thanked Trustee DeLaurentiis for being alert to this opportunity and following through on this initiative for the University. Samuels did ask if the University would be responsible for the cost of any of the construction. Ejigu explained that the only cost that may be involved would be the University's integration of design and construction of the facilities for our continued use after the games. DeLaurentiis asked if there was any discussion regarding improvements to Stuenkel Road. Ejigu responded that there was no explicit discussion about Stuenkel Road, however there was a three-way meeting with *Chicago 2016*, GSU, and the Village of University Park, and in that meeting issues regarding improvements to Stuenkel Road and the railroad tracks were raised. The hope is that the discussion on that issue will continue so this long standing problem can be addressed.

There being no further discussion, Samuels requested a motion to approve Resolution 09-29. Friefeld made a motion. DeLaurentiis seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Beaupre left the meeting before the vote, however all remaining Trustees voted “aye” to approve the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geoff Bates spoke to Resolution 09-29, stating the possibility of the Olympics coming to Chicago is something he’s been thinking about for the last two years. The idea of bringing international sculpture to the NMSP is something that is very possible. He offered to participate in this regard as negotiations proceed.

There being no further discussion, Samuels entertained a motion to adjourn. DeLaurentiis made a motion. Friefeld seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Johns Maloney