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News and Events

[Board of Trustees Meeting - February 2009](#)

Friday, February 20 was marked by the first full GSU Board of Trustees meeting of the year. The full board meeting was preceded meetings of the Human Resources and Academic Affairs Committees.

During the full meeting, Board Chair Lorine Samuels began her remarks by remembering former Board member Bill McGee, who passed away one year ago. Samuels went on to speak about the recent Commencement ceremony, noting that despite the continued success of our students and the university as a whole, that difficult budget times lie ahead. She noted, "Most of us have not seen economic challenges like these in our lifetimes. Still, GSU remains fiscally sound and much credit should go to the university's budgeting process...the conservative course recommended by PBAC and our outstanding administrative team will allow us to continue our mission – providing the opportunities to educate our students – even when surrounded by economic upheaval."

Chair Samuels also mentioned the continued progress of deferred maintenance projects and applauded the collaborative spirit witnessed during the university's Presidential Inauguration celebration. She concluded with a charge to the university community: "At GSU, we are hopeful because we know what can be accomplished when people of good will act together and never give up. In this new year, and during this university's 40th anniversary, we need to stay true to GSU's mission, and spirit."

President Maimon followed Samuels, formally introducing new COE Dean Deborah Bordelon. She noted that Bordelon is the final addition to complete an exceptionally strong group of GSU deans. Dr. Maimon also mentioned her recent appointment to the board of the Will County Center for Economic Development and the selection of U.S. presidential historian Michael Beschloss as June's honorary degree recipient.

Maimon mirrored Samuels' comments by commending the Board, the administration, and those involved in the PBAC process for preparing GSU to meet current and future fiscal challenges. Recognizing the current economy, Maimon stressed that GSU is a master of its own fate. "We can

still follow our strategic plan through strategic enrollment management and creating programs to fulfill our mission." She stressed that GSU next steps involve "strategy, prudence, and common sense." Also, on the financial front, the university Standard & Poor's and Moody's bond rating remained at a constant A-minus during the recent third review.

The President discussed how the new Economic Stimulus Package will help GSU students through increased Pell Grants, improvements to the work/study program, and a higher education tax credit.

The university is also making headway as it develops a relationship with the Chicago Community Trust. The Trust is looking to GSU to help fulfill our role as a unifying entity in the Southland and has tasked the administration with preparing a document focusing specifically on Goals 4 and 5 of the new Strategic Plan.

The Board approved several resolutions including:

Resolution 09-14: Award of an Energy Audit Contract

Energy Systems Group of Itasca, IL was awarded a contract to assess and recommend energy saving projects.

Resolution 09-15: Award of Contract for Road and Walkway Design

JJR, LLC of Chicago, IL was awarded a contract to develop drawings/specs, assist in the bidding process, and monitor construction of selected roadway, walkway, and lighting projects as part of ongoing deferred maintenance.

Resolution 09-16: Approval of Master Site Plan

The university's Master Site Plan was approved to serve as a guide in the physical development of the campus.

Resolution 09-17: Authorization for the Sale of Certificates of Participation to Finance Deferred Maintenance Projects

Resolution 09-18: Approval of Student Fee Increases FY 2009-2010

The following student fee increases were approved:

- Technology Fee: From \$10 to \$17
- Undergrad Graduation Fee: From \$40 to \$50
- Graduate Graduation Fee: From \$45 to \$50
- Transcript Fee: From \$5 to \$10
- Late Payment Fee: From \$60 to \$100

Resolution 09-19: Approval for Termination of Relationship with ING Life Insurance Co.

ING Life Insurance will no longer issue 403 (b) annuity contracts for participants of GSU's Tax Deferred Annuity Plan.

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

The Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies degree program will no longer be offered in the College of Arts and Sciences at the end of the Winter 2009 Trimester.

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

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

Resolution 09-22: Honorary Degree Recipient Nominees

The Board approved the following names to be added to the list of candidates: Jerry Colangelo, Lawrence J. Furnstahl, and Dr. Roberta L. Noonan

Resolution 09-23: Release of Executive Session Minutes

The meeting continued with reports from the senate presidents, V.P. for Institutional Advancement Joan Vaughan, and Professor Marsha Katz representing the University Professionals of Illinois.

Faculty Senate President, Paul Blobaum, commended the work of the university's Emergency Response Team to ensure campus safety. He noted unease from the faculty regarding the economy and job losses, but is glad that faculty and staff are involved in the budgeting process. Blobaum noted that the faculty's primary concern moving forward is maintaining program quality and the appropriate allocation of university resources. He closed by mentioning the positive focus on reaccreditation-related self-study.

Student Senate President Adam Taylor delivered the bittersweet news that he would not be seeking another term as he will concentrate on student teaching prior to graduating in December. Chair Samuels commended Taylor on bringing new life to the student body and significantly increasing student participation in university events.

Kathy Miller, President of the Civil Service Senate, reported great success in the awarding of Civil Service Scholarships this term. She noted that seven scholarships were provided to employees or their family members.

Despite the current economy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Joan Vaughan noted that the GSU Foundation will meet their goal of raising \$430,000 during the current fiscal year. The Foundation's portfolio has been affected by the economic downturn, but Vaughan assured that the Foundation was pursuing an aggressive effort to maintain full funding of its scholarships. She also discussed a resurgence of alumni association events.

Faculty member and UPI President Marsha Katz addressed the Board during the public comment period. She noted that the faculty contract negotiations had begun and expressed confidence that they would move along successfully with the assistance of a federal negotiator. She expressed concerns regarding the administration's call for a hiring freeze and the proposed academic calendar changes.



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1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois 60466-0975
708.534.5000 | [E-mail GSUView](#)