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GSU View

University Newsletters

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## News and Events

### **October 2009 BOT Meeting Recap**

GSU's full Board of Trustees met on Friday, October 9.

The meeting began with presentations by Dr. Sherilyn Poole, Associate VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, followed by Eric Wignall, Coordinator of Instructional Development for GSU's Center for Online Teaching and Learning.

Dean Poole discussed the university's preparedness to handle a potential H1N1 flu virus outbreak, noting that the university's Emergency Response Team has a response plan in place. She also provided prevention tips and information from Will County and the National CDC.

Wignall discussed the continuously evolving online teaching/learning resources available to faculty and students. GSU now provides an online course shell for all courses. He noted that research shows that online teaching is at least as effective as traditional classroom methods.

The Board adopted several resolutions including approval of new honorary degree candidates, adoption of the FY2010 operating budget, and approval the FY2011 State funds budget request.

The most significant resolutions will help the university reach the enrollment goals laid out in Strategy 2015.

1. Undergraduate tuition rates for Indiana residents will now equal in-state tuition for Illinois residents.
2. Tuition for other non-resident students will be reduced to a multiplier of two times the resident rate as opposed to the current 2.5 multiplier.
3. New students who are dually admitted to GSU and a partner community college will now have their GSU tuition rate locked when they begin study at the community college, up to two years prior to enrolling at GSU.
4. Up to fifty qualified, dually-admitted transfer students will have the opportunity to earn a debt-free undergraduate education at GSU, in

a new need and merit based program.

Most of these changes will go into effect starting fall 2010.

During her report, Board Chair Lorine Samuels commented on the success of the August Board retreat. She provided a preview of the upcoming HLC accreditation continuation visit and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in November. She commended the recent excellence award winners and discussed satisfaction with many new campus upgrades. She also discussed the recent funding decrease for MAP grants funds and stressed the importance of supporting the full funding of this critical financial aid program.

Dr. Maimon echoed Samuel's concerns about MAP funding and noted that the administration is working with other state universities, legislators, and other groups on the issue. Maimon recognized that the State is in a dire fiscal situation, noting that it is not yet time to panic about the budget. The university will be prudent and move forward.

The president recognized the success of the university's recent Connections customer service training and noted that employees are putting their knowledge to work immediately. Maimon reported enrollment increases that reflect Strategy 2015 goals, including a 12 percent increase in undergrad enrollment this Fall. She closed by noting that because of the state's budgetary conditions the university faces, and is prepared to take advantage of, insurmountable opportunities.

Brief reports were made by the Faculty and Civil Service Senate Presidents. Paul Blobaum, President of the Faculty Senate, noted how he was looking forward to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. He also indicated that some faculty are expressing concerns regarding pending changes to the academic calendar.

Civil Service Senate President Kathy Miller gave an update on Civil Service events including the summer picnic/baseball game, cookout fundraiser, and reported that changes have been made to the Civil Service Scholarship program.



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