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News and Events

[GSU BOT Meeting Recap - June 10, 2011](#)

Friday, June 10, marked GSU's second full Board of Trustees meeting of the calendar year.

The Board's executive committee received formal reports, reviewed and adopted a number of resolutions on such issues as award of tenure and construction contracts, and heard administrative reports by Board Chair Lorine S. Samuels, GSU President Elaine P. Maimon, and Student Senator Brendan Hollandsworth gave remarks on behalf of the Student Senate.

During the formal reports session, Executive VP Dr. Gebe Ejigu introduced a new video chronicling GSU's recent sustainability efforts. The video was produced by DLMD to commemorate the "legacy of sustainability" left behind by retiring Chief Facilities Officer Susan Rakstang.

Dr. Ejigu also presented the formal feasibility study for student housing, prepared by Brailsford & Dunlavey, a facility planning company based in Washington, DC. The report noted the strategic importance of a housing facility to the attainment of GSU's enrollment goals. Significant research, surveys, and analysis focused on single students currently enrolled full-time in GSU's programs as the Phase 1 target market. Board member Jack Beaupre noted that "the Board expresses interest in moving forward with site capacity study and pre-schematic designs."

Regarding E and F Building remodeling progress, Dr. Ejigu noted that the administration expects resolution and a new bid deadline from Illinois' Capital Development Board in the near future. Groundbreaking for the project is expected to take place on August 18 to coincide with Convocation.

Tenure was awarded to Reinhold Hill, Christopher Dyslin, David Green, Martha Libster, Kerri Morris, John Simon, and Michel Nguessan. Linda Proufit was awarded Professor Emeritus status. The Board also approved the creation of the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing as well as two new degree programs: M.A. of Teaching in Urban Education and B.A. of Entrepreneurship.



The Board also reviewed and adopted a preliminary FY2012 budget. A final budget will be presented to the Board at its October 2011 meeting.

Student Trustee Brendan Hollandsworth was recognized for his contributions and professionalism during his expiring term and founding BOT member Kristi DeLaurentiis was acknowledged

for 15 years of dedication and leadership upon her recent resignation.

Board Chair Samuels reported on her extreme satisfaction with the reformatted Commencement ceremony. She also noted her admiration for recent Honorary Degree Recipient Vivian Gussin Paley who delivered an “inspirational message” to graduates and faculty. The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park’s recent installation of *The Granary Project* by Dan Peterman was noted. Samuels commended Vice President Joan Vaughan and the Institutional Advancement staff for exceeding their FY2011 fundraising goal and noted the Board’s delight with the new marketing campaign as well as the Alumni Association’s expanded outreach initiatives.

During her report, President Maimon also complimented those that worked on the June Commencement. She noted the highly successful NCATE accreditation visit. “In all my years in education, I’ve never heard a preliminary NCATE report as stellar as the one received from the GSU site visit team,” Maimon noted. The report included five commendations and contained no areas of improvement.

The President noted that while Governor Quinn has not signed Illinois’ FY2012 budget, it appears that GSU budget will not be significantly reduced. “GSU’s business plan is focused on increasing productivity and student enrollment. We are fortunate that our mission statement matches our fiscal goals,” she added. Maimon also noted that Dual Degree Program recruitment is moving forward with great success, calling the program a “hallmark with national implications.”

She noted the leadership of retiring Chief Facilities Officer Susan Rakstang who “made the campus more beautiful, safer, and environmentally responsible.” Maimon also recognized retiring Dean of Library Services Diane Dates Casey noting that Diane “not only led the library - heart of the university - but brought faculty, staff, and students together to experience rich cultural life.” Finally, Maimon thanked Dr. Karen D’Arcy for her yearlong tenure as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Maimon closed her remarks by noting the significant success of the IRiS Project, which will better serve both student needs and business operations. “As you know, June 6 was D-Day in World War II,” she said. “June 6, 2011 was GSU’s D-Day for the first large-scale test of the Datatel system - student registration.” She noted that 1,275 students had already registered in the system thanks to the successful implementation of the myGSU portal. “I’m happy to report that the revolution is here, and it works!”

Brendan Hollandsworth reported that the Student Senate will open a permanent food bank to serve area residents. He said students generally accepted the marginal increase in tuition and fees and were excited about the prospect of on campus housing, noting some concern with the cost of rent. Hollandsworth also reported that the recent Student Senate election was unique as an increasing number of international students were elected and will be involved in student government.

