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News and Events

Board of Trustees Meeting Recap

President Elaine P. Maimon reported to the Board of Trustees Friday that recent developments confirm that GSU is well on its way to becoming a model 21st century university.

“This is a historic moment at GSU,” Dr. Maimon said. “With last week’s approval by the IBHE of lower division programming at the university, we now have the opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art freshman curriculum and learning environment.” GSU plans to admit its first freshman class – a cohort of 270 students – in Fall, 2014.

GSU’s Dual Degree Program, already recognized as a national model for degree completion, will be strengthened by an \$875,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation, Dr. Maimon noted. The Foundation announced the grant last month. The resources made available through the three-year grant will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the GSU. The university will develop a cadre of transfer specialists who will work with advisors at GSU and partner community colleges to facilitate the success of Dual Degree students as they work to achieve their associate and bachelor’s degrees.

Dr. Maimon also noted other significant developments at the university. “This semester has been a game changer,” she said. Construction is about to begin on the renovation of the university’s science facilities. Dr. Martha Kanter, Under Secretary of the U.S. Education Department, visited campus this fall and praised the Dual Degree Program. And the Datatel computer system is improving the way GSU operates every day, and in myriad ways.

In other business Friday, the Board approved a conceptual plan for the introduction of on campus student housing, and authorized the seeking and securing approval from the Illinois Board of Higher Education at its February meeting. Under current plans, Phase One of the housing initiative calls for construction of a 300-bed student apartment complex, to be financed through the sale of revenue bonds. The building will be available for occupancy in the Fall of 2014.

Dr. Gebeyehu Ejigu, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, said studies indicate freshman students benefit the most from living on campus. The current plan will provide students with living-learning opportunities that will enhance their college experience, he said. The U-shaped housing complex will offer four types of apartments, as well as classrooms and lounges in the building, and 24-hour safety features. All residents -- freshmen through doctoral candidates -- will benefit from living together in an environment that promotes academic interaction among the diverse age groups and experience levels.

The Board also approved the creation of a new position, Vice President for Administration and Finance. The new position is a cabinet level position that will assume day-to-day operational responsibility for administrative and financial services, freeing the Executive Vice President to focus on major issues and projects of strategic value to the university. Administrative and functional units reporting to the new vice president include the Budget Office, Financial Services and Comptrollership, Facilities Development and Management, Procurement and Business Services, and the Department of Public Safety.

Following the Board’s approval, Dr. Maimon announced the appointment of Karen Kissel, currently Chief Financial Services Officer and Comptroller, to the new position. The appointment is effective December 16.

[View Dr. Maimon’s full announcement of the Kissel’s appointment.](#)

The Board created two requests for new units of instruction:

- The proposed Master of Science in Mathematics is designed to help increase the number of graduates in the high demand field of mathematics with the knowledge and skills needed for current and future job markets. The program will be part of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- The Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership is designed to produce advanced leaders for the fields of education, not-for-profit, and public safety. The program will be part of the College of Education.

Board Chair Lorine Samuels reflected on GSU's accomplishments during the four years she has held the position. With her term expiring, the Board chose a slate of officers who will be in place until next June. Jack Beaupre will serve as Chair, Samuels as Vice Chair, and Bruce Friefeld as Secretary.

Samuels introduced the Board's newest members, Eileen Durkin and Brian D. Mitchell, who were recently appointed by Governor Pat Quinn.

Mitchell, who is village administrator in Matteson, said he was impressed by how much GSU is accomplishing in providing educational opportunities. Durkin, who is president and CEO of Neumann Family Services in Chicago, said she asked the governor to appoint her to the GSU Board because the university is changing the dynamic of education in the Chicago region. She said she was impressed by GSU's accomplishments under its current leadership.



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