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News and Events

Board of Trustees Meeting – May 17, 2013

The Board of Trustees meeting Friday provided an opportunity for transitions, announcements, and presentations. Newly confirmed board members Lorraine Tyson and Anibal Taboas were welcomed by Board Chairman Jack Beaupre and President Elaine P. Maimon. Chair Beaupre noted that this was the first time the board has had full membership in many years.

President Maimon reported that the recent focused visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) team was very positive. While the final report has not been filed, Dr. Maimon noted that, during the exit conference, the visiting team expressed “praise” for the way we have been planning our lower division and our general education curriculum. Dr. Maimon complimented the work of the General Education Task Force, “brilliantly chaired by Professor Ann Vendrely.”

In addition to the positive review of the university’s progress on student assessment, Dr. Maimon reported that the HLC team gave full approval to the operational change to admit freshmen. “The team noted that this was not a change in mission. GSU was founded as a comprehensive regional university; admitting freshmen helps us fulfill our mission.” The HLC Team also praised the extensive planning in progress for the first-year program at the same time the university is expanding to meet the needs of transfer students through innovative programs such as the Dual Degree Program.

“Many thanks to the campus as a whole for the great work that has led to this outside validation,” added Dr. Maimon.

In response to board inquiries, Dr. Maimon provided an overview of recent efforts by the Council of Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors (IPUPC), a statewide organization that Maimon serves as a convener, to offer research-supported solutions to issues of pension reform in Illinois. IPUPC has been engaged in constructive discussions with the legislative leadership to ensure that our employees’ interests are protected while ensuring the solvency of the pension system, explained Maimon. Towards this end, the IPUPC has been advocating the adoption of the “Six Simple Steps”, the position paper developed by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, as a guide in reforming the state’s pension system. “The IPUPC solution is a responsible, constructive position,” Maimon added.

Dr. Maimon acknowledged several transitions at GSU, announcing the appointment of Lydia Morrow-Ruetten as Dean of the Library. (See related story) She also noted that this was Provost Terry Allison’s final board meeting. “As GSU gains prominence nationally, executive search firms become interested in our top administrators.” Dr. Maimon thanked Provost Allison for his many accomplishments and service and wished him well in his new position at Indiana University, South Bend.

Looking forward, Dr. Maimon said that the new provost will join GSU at a remarkable time. “As I complete the sixth year of my presidency, I am

pleased to see our goals come together in what we are calling Renaissance 2014.” Dr. Maimon cited the success of DDP and the GSU Promise, expansion to a full-service university, construction of student residences, and the renovation of E and F wings, among many other developments and accomplishments. “Renaissance 2014 means the rebirth of our founding principles of innovation, diversity, and student-centeredness in the shape of a 21st Century model university.”



BOT Tour of E and F Wings

In his report, Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu reported that the first phase of the E and F wing renovation project was almost complete, adding 75,000 square feet of badly needed science labs, classrooms, and faculty

offices. Classes will be held in the new spaces this summer even as work begins on Phase II of the project.

At the conclusion of the meeting, board members and members of the GSU community toured the renovated areas. Dr. Walter Henne, of the chemistry faculty, led the tour and answered questions.

Additionally Dr. Ejigu introduced the preliminary FY14 budget, which the board approved. In other business Friday, the Board approved the promotion to associate professor, with tenure, of the following faculty: Carlos Ferran, CBPA; Barbara Gormely, COE; and Robin Washington, CHHS. CHHS’s Susan Ji was also awarded tenure.



Trustees Durkin and Fletcher

The Board of Trustees honored student Trustee Erin Fletcher, who will be graduating on June 8, with a resolution read by Trustee Eileen Durkin. Fletcher was recognized for her academic success and her contributions to GSU. She chaired the Sustainability Committee, helped organized the First Annual Student Sustainability Conference, and represented GSU at the 2013 Association of Governing Boards Annual Meeting as a panelist on the topic of *Today’s College Students*.

New Dean of the Library - Lydia Morrow Ruetten

President Elaine P. Maimon is pleased to announce the appointment of Lydia Morrow Ruetten, Interim Dean of the GSU Library and tenured faculty member, to Dean of the GSU Library. Professor Morrow Ruetten holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Governors State University. She began her

career with the GSU Library in 1989 as a Serials Librarian.

"It is an honor for me to be named Dean of the GSU Library at this important time in the history of GSU. All of us at GSU are focused on preparing for our new students while maintaining a high level of service to our current students. We in the library are looking forward to being an important partner in this process," said Morrow Ruetten.



Dean Morrow Ruetten

For the past ten months, Morrow Ruetten has served as the Interim Dean of the GSU Library. In her role as Dean, she will continue to provide leadership and oversight of the University Library including: its public and technical services; reference, information literacy, research support, technology and other critical functions; guiding library faculty and staff in the implementation of a shared vision to meet and support the University's 2014 initiatives; library space planning; and the University's program of records retention and University policies and strategies with respect to copyright law.

"In the interview process, Ms. Morrow Ruetten outlined a clear vision for the future of the library as a learning commons," said Provost Terry L. Allison. "Her vision is already helping to shape a significant university-wide grant proposal. As a former librarian, I appreciate Lydia's range of knowledge on a wide set of challenges that academic libraries face."

As one of the senior managers in Academic Affairs, Morrow Ruetten will continue to provide leadership for academic student services in close collaboration with Information Technology Services, Digital Learning and Media Design, the Center for Faculty Scholarship and Teaching, and other appropriate offices.

President Maimon expressed her deep appreciation to the search committee, chaired by Dean Beth Cada, for working diligently on the national search that has resulted in this excellent choice. "Dean Morrow Ruetten is committed to creating a central role for the library in Renaissance 2014."

