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10-6-2015

GSU View, 2015-10-06

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Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2015, October 6). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/778>

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From: [GSUView](#)
Subject: GSU View, October 6, 2015: Special Edition
Date: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 10:31:10 AM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



October 6, 2015

SPECIAL EDITION

Record Enrollment Numbers Reported, Budget Concerns Addressed at BOT Meeting

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October 06, 2015

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Enrollment at Record High and Prairie Place at Capacity

President Maimon told the Board that despite the state budget impasse, "August and September were great months to be a Jaguar, and October promises to be even better."

She reported that GSU's full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) for the Fall 2015 semester is up 5.4% over last year. The FTE is the measure used state-wide and nationally to compare university enrollment. "More students—undergraduate and graduate—are attending GSU full-time. That means a more efficient and less expensive pathway to their degrees," she said.

Other enrollment increases include:

- Full-time undergraduate enrollment is up 9% over last fall.
- The number of full-time master's students is up 42.5% over last fall.
- International student enrollment has increased 233% over one year ago.

Executive Vice President David Meadows reported that Prairie Place, in only the second year of its availability, is 100% full and has a waiting list of students interested in spring vacancies. This represents a 38% increase over Fall 2014 numbers.

President Maimon Joins Eight University Presidents in Letter to Gov. Rauner, Lawmakers

President Elaine P. Maimon joined the presidents of eight other Illinois public universities in sending a [letter to Governor Bruce Rauner and state legislative leaders](#). The letter calls Illinois' budget impasse

“unsustainable” and urges state officials to end the fiscal standoff, which “casts a shadow of uncertainty” over the public higher education community. In the letter, the presidents also reiterate the commitment they made in the spring to provide the state with solutions to address fiscal issues concerning higher education.

Speaking about the budget situation in Springfield, GSU Board of Trustees Chairman Brian Mitchell said the State of Illinois is dealing with “very real and very serious issues.” He said that although GSU is dealing with “unprecedented uncertainty,” the university will continue to meet the challenges involved. “At some soon point, the state will have to finalize a budget, but our plans can’t wait. Our students deserve our very best and I am confident we are giving it to them,” he said.

GSU to Partner with City Colleges of Chicago and Chicago Mayor Emanuel

President Maimon reported that GSU was the first university to respond to Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s recent challenge to join the University of Illinois Chicago in developing an alliance with Chicago City Colleges’ Star Scholarship students. “Because of the DDP, we were already ahead of the game. On Tuesday, I was the only public university president to join the University of Chicago, Roosevelt, Loyola, and others to meet with Mayor Emanuel to develop the project,” Maimon said. Plans are just taking form and President Maimon told that Board that future reports would provide them with additional details.

Rank and Tenure Awarded

The Human Resources Committee recommended, and the board approved, tenure with promotion to the rank of Professor to [two faculty members](#), effective October 2, 2015:

- **Dr. Effie Kritikos**, Division Chair, College of Education
- **Dr. John Sowa**, Division of Chemistry and Biological Sciences

Emeritus Status Conferred

The Human Resources Committee recommended, and the board approved, emeritus status for [two retired GSU professors](#):

- **Dr. Karen D’Arcy**, Professor of Analytic Chemistry
Provost Deborah Bordelon said of Professor D’Arcy: “She was always willing to step up and take on additional responsibilities at GSU. Professor D’Arcy has done phenomenal things both on our campus and in the community.”
- **Dr. Phyllis Klingensmith**, Professor of Biology
Provost Bordelon said of Professor Klingensmith: “She has always been a champion for GSU, willing to reach out across various disciplines to make contributions during her long career.”

GSU Awarded Significant Grants

President Maimon told the Board that the university has recently been awarded two substantial grants. The College of Health and Human Services, under co-principal investigators Professors Rupert Evans and Catherine Balthazar, won a \$716,000 “P20” research grant from the National Institutes of Health to

address cancer disparities in Chicago's south suburbs. "The grant will help develop a pipeline of students interested in cancer research and build our faculty's ability to pursue larger federal grants for projects that will address high cancer rates and mortality the Southland community," said Dr. Evans.

GSU also will receive \$2 million over a five-year period from a Title III grant to fund the Center for the Junior Year. The goal of the CJY will be to assist students in making informed choices about majors and careers. Students entering their junior year, whether from GSU, one of the 17 partner colleges, or any other college or university, will meet in specially designed cornerstone courses in each major. "Our faculty has designed these cornerstone courses to bring transfer and native students together," President Maimon said.

Board Approves Extension of Preliminary Operating Budget

Executive Vice President David Meadows recommended that the Board extend the Preliminary Operating Budget due to the ongoing lack of a State budget. The Board agreed and passed an extension which will last until December 11, 2015 and presents the university with a working budget until the next meeting in December. If the State passes a fiscal year 2016 budget by that time, the university will present a final FY16 Operating Budget to the BOT for approval.

Appropriations Requests for FY 2017 are Passed

Consistent with past practices, the Board passed GSU's fiscal year 2017 Operating Appropriations and Capital Appropriations requests to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Operating Appropriations request addresses, among other things, increases in total compensation costs, general costs associated classroom upgrades, utility cost increases, and improvements in both printed and electronic collections in the university library. The Capital Appropriations request includes the same two top priorities as last year: an Innovation Center with flexible space that can serve as much needed classroom space and also transform into a large open venue capable of holding events such as Commencement, and a new facility for the university library.

Performance Day Approved for Non-Negotiated Employees

The Board approved a resolution from the Human Resources Committee granting one personal day, to be taken in FY16, for non-negotiated employees who are rated "generally exceeds expectations" or "superior" on their FY15 performance evaluation.

In other Board News:

- The Board approved the recommendation of the Honorary Degree Nominations Committee for candidates to be included on the list of possible recipients of the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.
- The Board approved the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation to extend an agreement with Midwest Tower Leasing for an additional 10 year period on the antenna tower located on the GSU campus.