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GSU View

University Newsletters

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Office of Marketing and Communications

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gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



April 5, 2016

Vol. 28, Issue 1

News

President Holds Town Hall Meeting

In a move to protect and strengthen the viability of Governors State University for decades to come, President Elaine P. Maimon announced a change in budget modeling for the upcoming academic year. Maimon said the change allows the university to be more "forward-looking." The announcement was made last Thursday during a Town Hall meeting with staff and faculty in Sherman Hall.

Clarification on Executive Compensation

President Maimon wishes to clarify a response made during the Town Hall meeting. She said that the Leadership Team, unlike the negotiated and non-negotiated employees had gone without salary increases for the last two years. Actually, during the three years of the union contracts, the Leadership Team did not receive the retroactive increases that others did for 2013-14 or increases for 2015-16. Some, on a merit basis, did receive increases for 2014-15. So during the three years of the current contracts, the GSU's Leadership Team went without salary increases for two years, although the years were not consecutive.

Facts about GSU and the Illinois Budget Impasse

As we enter the tenth month of the Illinois budget impasse and approach the end of the academic year without a state budget, many people are wondering how the stalemate is affecting Governors State University (GSU).

We want everyone to know that we are open; we are staying open; we will celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in 2019 and our hundredth anniversary in 2069. [Our tuition for 2016-17 will not increase](#), and we will continue to assume liability for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants promised by the state to low-income students.

We have prepared the following Q & A to address the questions we are receiving and to dispel false rumors. (See pages 7-9).

Entrance Sign Will Be Down Temporarily

Due to the ongoing roadway expansion project, the west-entry campus sign will be down on Thursday, April 7. Please plan accordingly.

Faculty Authors

The GSU Library is hosting a reception for faculty authors and sponsored grant recipients on Wednesday, April 13 on the GSU Library Balcony from 2 to 4 p.m.

Student Commencement Speakers Wanted

The Commencement Student Speaker Committee is currently accepting nominations for the commencement ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

Summer Courses

Get a leg up on your degree by registering for summer classes at GSU. Registration is open for summer courses now.

GSU Ranks High Nationally on Risk-Reward Indicator Assessment

Governors State ranked 49 out of over 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide in an analysis of risk versus reward in higher education.

Online Master's in Substance Abuse and Addiction Counseling Nationally Ranked

GSU's online program for a Master of Health Science in Addiction Studies Program received a national accolade as one of the [best programs](#) of its kind by Best Counseling Degrees.

Announcements

Water Resources Posters on Display

Water is essential for human survival and well-being, yet this resource is under pressure due to human activity.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action is a nationally recognized day to focus awareness on sexual violence prevention.

Bill Deering, Motivational Speaker

Bill Deering will address the topics of teamwork, overcoming adversity, self-acceptance, overcoming bullying, leadership, and mental toughness during a talk.

Stand 4 Abilities Obstacle Course

An obstacle course will be set up on Tuesday, April 5 in the Hall of Governors from 3 to 5 p.m. that lets participants 'experience' the struggles and challenges of a 'dis'ability.

LinkedIn Workshop

Learn how to network more efficiently through LinkedIn, one of the premier online professional resources.

Disability & Wellness Resource Fair

Meet with representatives from local, regional, and state agencies that provide assistance for individuals and families with alternative needs in our community.

Maria Finitzo, Award-Winning Filmmaker at GSU

On Wednesday, April 6, at noon in Screening Room F1622, GSU welcomes a truly accomplished American filmmaker.

Language Expert, Fulbright Scholar on Campus

On Wednesday, April 6 at 5 p.m. in the E-Lounge, Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar in Linguistics, Dr. Pius W. Akumbu, presents "Language Policy and Practices in Cameroon."

Alcohol Screening Day

In observance of National Alcohol Screening Day, free anonymous screenings for alcohol abuse will be available in the Hall of Governors on Thursday, April 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GSU Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

On Tuesday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 6 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Friends of the Library Book sale will take place on the Library Balcony.

Early Reading Competition

The Journey of a Book Starts with a Word Reading Showcase, an early literacy showcase and competition, will be held on Wednesday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts.

GSU Dance Festival

On Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m., TAPS brings the elegance and artistry of dance to GSU in the Center for Performing Arts during the [Second Annual Governors State Dance Festival](#).

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

On Friday, April 8 from 6 to 7 p.m., this student-led faith group invites members and interested parties to join them in F1622 for fellowship and praise. Additional information is available through [Dwaylon Bledsoe](#).

Advancing Success for College Men of Color

Dr. J. Luke Wood and Dr. Frank Harris III, Associate Professors at San Diego State University, will present two workshops on Tuesday, April 12 in Engbretson Hall.

Mindful Healing

Join Maristela Zell on Thursday, April 14 outside in front of the lagoon by the picnic tables, for a short mindfulness meditation emphasizing hope, optimism, and gratitude for the GSU community.

Career and Internship Fair

Meet with potential employers and learn about job and internship opportunities in communications, technology, business, public administration, criminal justice, addiction studies, community health, and education.

Graduate Program Fair

GSU will host a Graduate Program Fair in the E-Lounge on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Interview Skills Workshop

Grow your opportunities. Learn how to prepare for interviews, improve non-verbal communication, and

overcome common mistakes on Monday, April 18 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Hall of Honors.

Class Gifts

Each year, graduating students are given the opportunity to leave a legacy gift for the university and the students who will follow in their footsteps.

Honor Society for Nursing Students Accepting Applicants

The Department of Nursing at GSU is accepting applications from nursing students for the honor society Lambda Lambda.

School Psychology Master's Program

GSU's four-year, part-time School Psychology Master's program is accepting applications for the Fall 2016 cohort.

Dining Hall Survey

Arena Food Service, GSU's dining partner, has posted a survey on services.

Faculty Highlights

School Counseling Professor Named Educator of the Year

Dr. Katie Wix received the 2016 Illinois School Counselor Educator of the Year Award from the Illinois School Counselor Association (ISCA).

Master of Health Science in Communication Disorders Reaccredited

Governors State's [Master of Health Science in Communication Disorders](#) program recently received their new accreditation from the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



Governors State University

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Get the Facts about GSU and the Illinois Budget Impasse

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and the Illinois Budget
Impasse

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We want everyone to know that we are open; we are staying open; we will celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in 2019 and our hundredth anniversary in 2069. [Our tuition for 2016-17 will not increase](#), and we will continue to assume liability for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants promised by the state to low-income students.

We have prepared the following Q & A to address the questions we are receiving and to dispel false rumors:

What is the Budget Impasse?

For this Fiscal Year 2016, which began July 1, 2015, Illinois lawmakers have been unable to agree on a state budget. Illinois now holds the title for the longest state budgetary impasse in recent history.

How does this affect Governors State University (GSU)?

GSU, like all state universities, depends upon state funding. No budget for the State of Illinois means no appropriated funds for GSU. GSU expected to receive about \$24 million for our operations in Fiscal Year 2016 and nearly \$3 million for MAP award reimbursements.

Is GSU closing?

No, GSU is not closing. The university is well managed and has been doing ongoing budget reallocation for many years.

How has GSU been able to survive without a budget for so long?

GSU operates on an annual budget funded primarily by student tuition and a state appropriation. The state appropriated funds offset the cost of operating each university so that tuition can be kept affordable. Without state support in 2015-16, GSU has tapped into its emergency operating reserves that were set aside for physical plant repair, maintenance projects, and other essential uses. These funds must be replaced as soon as a 2015-16 budget is appropriated. GSU also continues its practice of careful planning and budgeting, giving the highest priority to student services.

I am a [Monetary Award Program](#) recipient, but the State has not funded MAP. What will happen to me?

GSU is committed to putting students first. GSU will continue to accept liability for students' MAP funding for the coming academic year, 2016-17. In other words, students will not have to pay back funds to the university, even if the state does not fulfill its promises to Illinois families. In addition, the Board of Trustees decided there would be no tuition increase for 2016-17. [Our tuition and fees remain the lowest in the state.](#) These decisions were made so that students can enroll in school without financial fear.

Will GSU be open in the summer and fall?

Yes! GSU has made it easy for you to enjoy the warm weather this summer while taking advantage of our [flexible course scheduling](#), with numerous online and hybrid courses. We look forward to welcoming students this fall. [Our award-winning first-year program, taught entirely by full-time faculty](#), will continue to provide what we consider the best freshman experience in the state—maybe in the nation. The [Center for the Junior Year](#) (funded under a federal grant) delivers state-of-the-art assistance to transfer students on connecting study in the major with career opportunities. And our graduate programs continue to offer the highest quality advanced education.

Are some academic programs going to be cut in the future?

Academic program review is an ongoing process. Programs are evaluated for their viability [enrollment, growth], alignment with the university or college mission, and workforce demands. Program review is carried out by the Provost, in consultation with the Faculty Senate and program faculty. During the continuing budget crisis for university state funding, we will consider a number of possible reductions in personnel costs. Of course, if these reductions were to include elimination of academic programs, the university would meet its obligations to student completion for students enrolled in affected programs.

Will GSU and the other public universities ever get an appropriation?

Yes, and we hope it will be soon. We are doing our best to communicate to state leaders the importance of higher education to the success of Illinois' economy and its intellectual and workforce development.

Is GSU in jeopardy of losing its accreditation?

No. GSU continues to meet or exceed the criteria for accreditation by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) of the North Central States and by various specialized accreditors in major fields.

What can members of the general public do to help?

Please spread the word about GSU's secure future and let [elected officials know](#) about your pride in this university and your expectation for state support.