

3-7-2017

GSU View, 2017-03-07

Office of Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview>

Recommended Citation

Office of Marketing and Communications, "GSU View, 2017-03-07" (2017). *GSU View*. 843.
<http://opus.govst.edu/gsvview/843>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSU View by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.

If you have problems reading this in your email browser, go to www.govst.edu/gsuview for a web version.



March 7, 2017

Vol. 39, Issue 1

News

Board Approves Program Cuts to Preserve 'Long-term' Health of GSU

The Governors State University Board of Trustees met Friday, March 3 to address the difficult task of managing the University's fiscal outlook amid the continuing Illinois budget crisis. After an impassioned public discussion, the Board moved to increase tuition by 15 percent and cut some university programs.

Trustees unanimously approved the tuition increase and elimination of two certificates, seven degrees, and 13 concentrations at GSU, bringing the university's total program reductions to 35 since August 2016. (See the article below for more information about Secondary School Teacher Preparation.)

Board Chair Patrick Ormsby said, "None of us want to consider these options. Cuts are painful, but it's our obligation to protect the long-term health of the university while we continue to serve as many students as possible with high quality programs. And that's what we're going to do."

In her report to the Board, Governors State University President Elaine P. Maimon said, "Unfortunately, the state budget stalemate continues, and we are now forced to find ways to focus and reduce our offerings to fewer programs. We must cut and consolidate so that even in this impoverished state environment we can strengthen remaining programs and develop a few new majors specifically tailored to twenty-first century need. High quality will always be our bench mark."

Any student enrolled in a degree program that has been eliminated will be able to complete their degree program at GSU through a [teach-out plan](#).

Board Approves First Tuition Increase in Two Years, Fees Stay Frozen

Fall 2017 will see a 15 percent tuition increase for incoming undergraduate students. It will also apply to all graduate students and doctoral candidates, including those currently enrolled. A portion of the increase will be set aside as aid for GSU students on the basis of both achievement and need. For the first 19 months of the stalemate in Springfield—encompassing academic years 2015 and 2016—GSU was able to freeze tuition in an effort to lessen the financial burden on students in an uncertain fiscal climate.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said, "Although we do not yet have the numbers from all public universities, we estimate that GSU will still charge the lowest tuition and mandatory fees in Chicagoland and possibly in the state."

Alongside the tuition increase, the Board voted to keep student fees at their current rate. The approved new fee structure shifts more money toward the Student Center and Student Activities.

GSU Board Welcomes New Members

GSU welcomed three new members to the Board of Trustees at the March 3 meeting: Carney Barr, Masah Renwick, and Cornelius Griggs.

Barr has a longstanding relationship with Governors State, having served on the Foundation Board for 40 years where he worked with all five GSU presidents. He has also served Rich Township for 35 years in various roles, including financial advisor.

Renwick is a family law attorney with her own practice in Homewood. She brings a lifetime commitment to education and the Southland with her to GSU.

Griggs co-founded and presides over a Chicago-based construction company and is dedicated to "providing access to educational opportunities for inner city youth."

Board members are appointed by Illinois' governor and serve six-year terms. Leaving the Board were Chair Brian D. Mitchell, Eileen Durkin, and Jack Beaupre. All three were honored by Maimon and the Board for their service to Governors State University. President Maimon stated that Mitchell, Durkin, and Beaupre will continue to be involved with GSU in other capacities.

With the departure of three members, the Board elected new officers. Patrick Ormsby will serve as Chair, Lorraine Tyson as Vice Chair, and Bruce N. Friefeld will serve as Secretary.

GSU thanks all of the Board members for their service and congratulates the new trustees and officers on their appointments.

Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved by Board

GSU's Board of Trustees approved the 2016-2019 agreement with Service Employees International Union Local 73 (SEIU). Fifteen building service workers from the Facilities Development and Management Department (FDM) are represented by SEIU at GSU.

Water Quality Assessment Reveals Safe Water at GSU

In response to a Student Senate request for investigation into water quality at GSU, a study stating "unequivocally that the drinking water at GSU is safe for consumption" was presented to the Board. Conducted by Test America, the independent study's findings agreed with results from additional analyses by GSU Science Division Chair Dr. John Sowa and students Sreenivasa Annem and Enas Elhhatib.

"Let me be very clear: the water at GSU is safe to drink," President Maimon said. "We invest in and undertake constant testing of the water both by our staff and by independent contractors."

To address outlying concerns of taste and appearance, Maimon said the university has plans to install filtered water stations on campus.

Secondary School Teacher Education

GSU has offered two paths to secondary school teacher preparation. The university will continue its strong commitment to secondary teacher preparation by offering the undergraduate bachelor's degrees in the student's content area (Biology, Chemistry, English, or Mathematics) as well as pedagogical preparation, including student teaching, leading to a Post-baccalaureate teacher licensure certificate. This option will ensure that students have strong subject matter preparation as undergraduates and complete their majors in a timely fashion.

Because many of the content area majors have electives built into the 120 credit hour baccalaureate program, students will be able to take some of their education courses as electives as part of their content area bachelor's degree. This will reduce the time needed to completing the licensure requirements. The bachelor degree programs leading to a B.A. or B.S. in secondary school teacher education will be phased out, and all students currently in this program will be able to complete their degrees under a 'teach-out' plan for each student.

Beginning in Summer 2017, students who are interested in pursuing secondary education should first contact an advisor in the major area of study (Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics) to look at the requirements for the content. The Post-baccalaureate certificate will be housed in the Division of Education and students will be able to work with an education advisor to complete their licensure requirements.

For the future, the university is exploring the establishment of a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) option for individuals who have bachelor degrees in content areas, but are interested in becoming a licensed teacher and earning a master's degree.

These are very challenging times for all of us. Our commitment to our students and the communities we serve is as strong as ever. We must take a clear-eyed view of the future of the university and work together to insure its continued excellence in the preparation of secondary education teachers.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?

[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)





Teach-Out Process: Fall 2017

Governors State University is committed to assisting students, faculty, and staff affected by program terminations or suspensions and is making every effort to formulate procedures that minimize the impact on students and maintain the integrity of the GSU's degrees or concentrations.

In the following sections, guiding principles for termination or suspension of undergraduate and graduate programs are set forth in an attempt to answer many questions and offer recommendations about student issues which may arise. If you have any questions after reviewing this document and the FAQ, please contact your division/department chair and/or dean. Questions may also be submitted to the Office of the Provost at provost@govst.edu (<mailto:provost@govst.edu>).

For students in programs that have been discontinued, an individual teach-out plan for each student(s) should be completed by December 2019. Advisors will be reaching out to students in the affected programs to discuss the teach-out plans. Any exceptions or changes to an approved teach-out plan would be subject to approval by the Chair, Dean and Provost on a case-by-case basis.

Each of the seven discontinued programs and fifteen discontinued concentrations/sequences and two certificates will have a specific period for teach-out, depending on the length of the program and the remaining courses required by the students in the program. Each of the degree programs, the concentrations and the certificates will no longer accept new students after the beginning of the fall 2017 term.

Students in affected programs must be enrolled in coursework included in the teach-out plan beginning fall 2017 and are expected to complete the program within the teach-out timeline.

Frequently Asked Questions

Undergraduate Programs

- Admission to affected programs will be suspended beginning in fall 2017. Prospective students with active applications to an affected program and awaiting admission decisions for fall 2017 should be advised to seek alternative majors or concentrations.
- Notify students who have already been offered admission that they must complete the program within the teach-out time period specified for the particular program, as well as in the Academic Plan for Teach-Out for each individual student. Course offerings will continue beginning fall 2017 and ending spring 2020. The time period will vary by program or concentration and may extend beyond spring 2020 in some cases.

Currently enrolled and admitted students:

- Programs will place high priority on enabling students to complete their degree programs or concentrations.
- Programs will provide each student an academic plan that enables him/her to complete the program requirements within a reasonable teach-out period. Some courses may be offered in the summer semesters.
- Students who do not make adequate progress on their academic plan for teach out will be advised into another major/minor/concentration.
- Course offerings will continue beginning fall 2017 and ending spring 2020. The time period will vary by program or concentration and may extend beyond spring 2020 in some cases.
- If a course required for the degree is not offered at GSU, students may make arrangements, with the program and chair's consent, to take the course at another institution and transfer the credit back to GSU.
- Students are required to have ongoing contact with their academic/faculty advisors during this time to ensure that their academic plan is current and consistent with the projected course offerings.

Q1. Can the requirement for at least 25% of semester hours toward a bachelor's degree be waived for the affected programs?

A1. The current policy (Policy 28) requires a minimum of 24 semester hours applied toward a bachelor's degree to be earned through regular enrollment in Governors State University's junior/senior level courses. There is no change in the policy or procedure. In cases of extreme hardship, appeals for additional hours to be taken outside of GSU may be approved by the dean and provost. Student appeal requests should be made to the academic advisor. The advisor will communicate with the program coordinator, division chair, and dean in order to consider submission of a request to the Provost's Office.

Q2. What about a student in a continuing major who is currently required to take coursework in an eliminated/suspended major, concentration or program?

A2. Coursework will, in most cases, be offered for two academic years following elimination/suspension of the major. Programs and divisions/departments will be encouraged to reserve seats for the majors requiring the courses. Students in the continuing major should work closely with their advisor who will be knowledgeable about the projected course offerings of the eliminated/suspended major or concentration. Also, programs, divisions, and departments that are continuing should be flexible in identifying course substitutes for their students when courses are required from eliminated/suspended programs.

Q3. If a student makes an unsatisfactory grade in a required course and the course will not be offered again, what provisions will be made for the student?

A3. The student should work with his/her program coordinator, division/department chair, and/or academic dean to arrive at a reasonable substitution.

Q4. Does a part-time student need to finish his/her degree within the same teach out period as a full-time student?

A4. Yes, a part-time student must plan his/her program to finish in the same reasonable time frame as the full-time student. No student may withdraw for any semester during the teach-out period.

Q5. There may be cases, in unusual circumstances, in which a student is unable to finish his/her degree in the allowable time frame. How will these situations be handled?

A5. A student finding himself/herself in this situation should consult with the program coordinator, division/department chair, and/or academic dean to ascertain if there is any manner in which the degree program can be completed. The university, however, is under no obligation to ensure the program can be completed after the reasonable teach-out period.

Q6. If a student applies for readmission to a program that has been eliminated/suspended, how is the readmission application handled?

A6. Readmission to eliminated/suspended programs will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account prior academic success, and the ability of the student to complete the program within the teach-out period. Students who are applying for readmission will be encouraged to transfer to another major.

Graduate Programs

Prospective students with active applications awaiting admission decisions to an eliminated/suspended program and newly admitted students:

- Immediately suspend admission of all new students for fall 2017.
- Notify students who have already been offered admission that they must complete the program within the teach-out time period specified for the particular program, as well as in the Academic Plan for Teach-Out for each individual student. Course offerings will continue beginning fall 2017 and ending spring 2020. The time period will vary by program or concentration and may extend beyond spring 2020 in some cases.
- The period will end the last day that any grades are normally allowed to be turned in at the end of that semester as determined and stated in the academic calendar for that year. Students unable to comply with these time limits should seek an alternative program. The Teach-Out Plan timeline for eliminated/suspended program supersedes graduate program completion policies.

Currently enrolled students in an eliminated/suspended program:

High priority must be placed on enabling students to complete their degree programs but without sacrificing or compromising the academic rationale for requirements, required courses, and standards of rigor of the program.

Programs will work with students individually to outline a strategy for completion within the teach-out time specified.

All graduate student coursework and non-course requirements must be completed, (including any internship, required comprehensive examination, or thesis and thesis defense) by the stated graduate program deadlines, unless expressly stated otherwise in the individual Teach-Out Plan or unless an exception is requested to the dean of the academic college at the beginning of the semester in which the student intends to graduate, in order for the student to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a degree.

Programs may consider allowable GSU course substitutions for a required course only if the required course will not be offered during the teach-out timeline.

If necessary, students may be approved to transfer more than the current allowable number of course hours, which varies by program. Programs must request this exception prior to a student enrolling in a course at another institution. Allowable course content for transfer courses, and exceptions to the allowable number of hours, must follow the normal procedures stated in the catalog for acceptable graduate transfer credit.

Students must meet the minimum credit hour requirement for the degree and all other program requirements. Non-coursework program requirements may not be waived.

When possible, consideration should be given to allowing a student to switch from a thesis to a non-thesis option within a program if such an option already exists in the program and if doing so facilitates or expedites completion of the student's degree program.

Composition of the thesis committee must meet university and graduate program requirements.

Students seeking readmission into an eliminated/suspended program:

If a student who was previously admitted into an eliminated/suspended program, but who has not been enrolled in the past academic year (2016 – 17), seeks readmission, such readmission to the eliminated/suspended program will be made on a case-by-case basis by the program coordinator, division/department head, and dean, taking into account prior academic success, and the perceived ability of the student to complete the program within the stated teach-out period. If necessary, readmitted graduate students will be advised into a continuing graduate program.

Q1. If I have applied (but not yet been accepted) to a graduate program that has been recommended for elimination/suspension, can I still be accepted?

A1. We are sorry, but we are unable to accept new students for fall 2017 into graduate programs that have been recommended for elimination/suspension.

Q2. If I have applied (but not yet been accepted) to a graduate program that has been recommended for elimination/suspension, can I change my application to another GSU graduate program?

A2. Yes, we will be happy to assist you in selecting another graduate program and in altering your application to reflect this change. Please contact the Admissions Office at 708.534.4490.

Q3. If I have been accepted to or have already completed course work in a graduate program that has been recommended for elimination/suspension, can I change to another GSU graduate program?

A3. Please contact your advisor, program coordinator and division/department chair for advice and to discuss this with them. Each program and your progress within that program will be unique and you will need to consider how a program change may impact your course selection and the length of time needed to complete your degree.

If you switch your program, you must apply and be accepted by the new program according to their program admission requirements. Acceptance into one program does not guarantee acceptance into another program.
