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GSU View, March 6, 2018

Office of Marketing and Communications
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GSUView

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March 5, 2018

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SPECIAL EDITION

2018-19 Tuition Freeze

Taking the long view toward institutional resurgence, Governors State University's Board of Trustees met Friday, March 2 with an eye on managing the delicate balance between keeping tuition affordable while addressing the university's financial needs for its physical plant.

In his opening remarks to the board, Board Chair Pat Ormsby said, "The state has placed us in a very difficult position by not providing maintenance or capital funds for many years. As a Board we must do all we can to support our students and that includes providing them with the infrastructure necessary for their success."

After careful deliberation, trustees voted unanimously to keep tuition flat and increase the student facilities fee.

The vote to freeze tuition means, despite reduced funding from the State of Illinois, students new to GSU this fall will pay the same tuition as GSU students did last year. With the adoption of this recommendation, GSU continues to have the lowest tuition and fees of any university in the Chicagoland area.

The difficult decision to increase the facility fee by \$15 per credit hour will help generate funds for major maintenance projects. An aging roof and water pipes are among the pressing infrastructure needs deferred by lost state funds since 2015. Ormsby said a breach of either system would be a "show stopper" for university operations. In a passionate statement to the board, Student Trustee Linda Coleman said, "This is our house. This is our home ... to keep safe."

Trustees also approved the annual 3% cost of living increase for housing at Prairie Place.

New MFA in Studio Art and MS in Human Resource Management

GSU students will have two new master's level programs to choose from this fall.

The board voted to offer a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (MFASA) and a Master of Science in Human Resources Management (MSHRM) to meet growing demands in the region.

The MFASA, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Arts and Letters, is a terminal degree. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with curators of the GSU Art Gallery, the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, and the MFA in Independent Film. The program will position the university to meet the demands of students seeking jobs as practicing artists and/or scholars.

The MHRM, housed in the College of Business, Division of Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship, will help students navigate a rapidly changing business environment. According to the U.S. Bureau of Statistics, job growth for human resource managers through 2024 is "faster than average," and the state is ranked third in the nation for HRM jobs, said Interim Provost Beth Cada.

She said GSU graduates will likely play a critical role in supporting economic development in the region. The program will be designed as an online and hybrid course to meet needs of working students.

New Shuttle Buses

Two new 2017 Ford Starcraft buses will soon replace the current GSUXpress fleet which have fallen into disrepair. The board voted to purchase two 12-passenger shuttle buses for a total of \$108,842. The new buses, which will have hydraulic lifts and extra space for wheelchairs, are used primarily to drive students, faculty, and staff around campus, to and from the Metra station, and to GSU supported events in the community.

Collective Bargaining Agreement & Renewal of Contracts and Policy

The board approved a new contract for the seven-employee Campus Safety Department and it renewed a three-year contract with Tk20, a software company that offers faculty and students a digital tool to organize modules and portfolios, create assignments, and a variety of other tasks, including linking assignments.

Congratulations, Jaguars!

President Elaine P. Maimon congratulated the GSU Men's Basketball team, which is headed to National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic national championship games this week after only two years in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletics Competition (CCAC).

Following the victorious post-season tournament, Guard Jalen Miller was named CCAC player of the year; Shane Maple was honored as All-CCAC Second Team, and Robbie Brooks received All-CCAC Honorable Mention. Jaguar Men's Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Tony Bates was named CCAC Coach of the year. "When you look at the enthusiasm of the fans at our games, it's GSU at its best," Dr. Maimon told the board.

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