Faculty Disputes Contract

By Scott Besseler

Governors State University's faculty has been teaching without a contract for the past three and a half months. Contract talks between the faculty and administrative negotiating teams have resulted in a current stalemate between the two sides on several key issues. Negotiations for a new contract for this current school year began back in April 2002. The faculty and administrative negotiating teams have met a minimum of four to five times each month for the past eight months in an attempt to settle the contract disputes.

The previous contract for GSU faculty expired on Aug. 31 of this year. The faculty has since been working under this expired contract while a new contract is being negotiated. See CONTRACT, page 7

Plans to Improve Services for Students Underway

By Kathleen Frossard

Members of the Master Planning Committee are hard at work identifying the needs of the university in the next ten years. Student Senate member Gail Kallend is representing the interest of students in the committee. As the chair of the Student Affairs Committee and a 20-year resident of the area, Kallend is a perfect fit for the committee.

"The university was built in the 60s and does not satisfy the needs of the (current) students," Kallend said.

The committee is evaluating what resources will be needed in the future and how best to use current resources. Discussions on the possibility of on-campus housing, improvement of the sculpture park, and updating physical aspects of the school have taken place.

Kallend is interested in making the student areas more central. "People don't know about student life," she explained adding that a central area would help make the campus more alive.

Kallend suggested adding a coffee bar to the university that would serve students after the cafeteria closes. She is also interested in improving services. "The Child Care closes early and does not accommodate late-comers."

John Tuohy, vice president of Administration and Planning, is also interested in improving services. He would like to see the process of admissions and registration become easier.

"You are the customer, and your experiences should be as good as they can be," he said. A one-stop shop may be a way to simplify these processes.

Another concern of Tuohy's is the lack of adequate lighting and signage. "Is it easy to find the people you need?" Tuohy asked. The lack of signage frustrates people who are trying to find the people and services they need to be successful at GSU, Tuohy believes that the university should be "as homey as possible" and a comfortable place to learn.

LMC Architects are evaluating the needs of the university. At the Dec. 4 meeting of the Master Planning Committee, they pointed out aspects that the university should look into. Some of the real assets of the university are the sculpture park and the environmental studies and conservation areas and should be made more prominent. The need for roadway and walkway development is also a concern. The possibility of on-campus housing and the need of a better conference center were discussed. The one stop shop for admissions and registration, and better signage, issues of concern for Tuohy, were also addressed.

"It is important that the plan addresses the needs of the community," Tuohy said, "We are assessing where we are and what we want to be."

Kallend is excited by the work of the committee. "I am really encouraged because it looks like GSU is moving forward."
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Governors State University

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NEWS RELEASE

FTC Warns: Be Wary of Scholarship Service Fraud

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), some unscrupulous companies guarantee or promise scholarships, grants or fantastic financial aid packages. Many use high pressure sales pitches at seminars where students are required to pay immediately or risk losing out on the "opportunity."

Some companies guarantee that they can get scholarships on behalf of student or award them "scholarships" in exchange for an advance fee. Most offer a "money back guarantee" but attach conditions that make it impossible to get the refund. Others provide nothing for the student's advance fee, not even a list of potential sources.

Others tell students they've been selected as "finalists" for awards that require an upfront fee. Sometimes, these companies ask for a student's checking account to "confirm eligibility," then debit the account without the student's consent. Other companies quote only a relatively small monthly or weekly fee and then ask for authorization to debit your checking account for an undetermined length of time.

Students should watch out for these tell-tale lines:
- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "We'll do all the work."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected by a national foundation to receive a scholarship."
- "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

The FTC recommends that if a student attends a scholarship seminar, they follow certain steps. First, take time to make sure the venture is worthwhile. Avoid high-pressure sales pitches that require buying now or missing out. Solid opportunities are not sold through nerve-racking tactics. A student should investigate the company they plan to pay for help. Also, talk to a financial aid advisor. It is possible the same help could be available for free.

The FTC says many legitimate companies advertise that they can get students access to lists of scholarships in exchange for an advance fee. Other legitimate services charge an advance fee to compare a student's profile with a database of scholarship opportunities and provide a list of awards for a student to consider.

For more information on scholarship or fraud or for a complete list of free publications, contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP.

New Aggressive Marketing Includes Commercials

By Scott Besseler

In an effort to increase the flow of funds coming into Governors State University, the school has begun several new marketing campaigns aimed at increasing enrollment.

"We have found that we must target markets and we must get name recognition out there," said Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Charles Connolly at GSU.

GSU continues its practice of advertising in local community college newspapers. A recent increase in community college enrollment gives GSU a larger base from which to recruit.

However, the average GSU student is in their mid-30s, looking toward degree completion. It is this market that GSU is targeting with their most recent ad campaign, according to Connolly.

"We have developed two television spots that will be running from Thanksgiving until Jan. 1 on cable," Connolly said.

Advertisements will be airing on stations including The Learning Channel, The History Channel, The Weather Channel, and even the Cartoon Network, according to Connolly. "The great thing about TV advertising is it is very affordable."

Recent marketing efforts have focused on targeting individual colleges and programs within GSU directly to professional places, rather than marketing the university as a whole.

An additional effort has been made to target "stop-outs," those students who may have taken a few classes but were never heard from again.

See MARKETING, back page

News Briefs

Our Sympathies

The Phoenix would like to extend condolences to the family of GSU Print Shop employee Emmitt Jones, Jr., who passed away in November. Jones' wife, Denise Jones, works in the GSU Business Office. Also, the Phoenix offers sympathy to Phoenix Adviser John DeYoung, whose father passed this month.

Employee of the Year

The Phoenix congratulates Nancy Rios, who was named GSU Employee of the Year. She works as secretory TV in the College of Arts and Sciences. According to Lillian Jung in Human Resources, Rios received many votes. Along with a plaque and flowers, she was awarded a one-year membership to the Recreation Center, a $25 gift certificate from both the Follett Bookstore and Aramark food services and a $500 check from the university. Faculty, staff and students can nominate a Civil Service employee for Employees of the Month in the office of Human Resources.

Welcome Week Activities

Welcome Week, coordinated by Student Life, will take place in the Atrium and the Hall of Governors Jan. 6 to Jan. 9 from 10:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be food and entertainment, along with free tickets to Center of Performing Arts productions. There will also be door prizes, "Good Stuff" giveaways and tables representing New Student Welcome Center, GSU Senate, GSU Clubs, The Phoenix, Student Newspaper, Student Affairs and Services, Recreation/Fitness Center, Childcare Center, Information Technology Services, University Library, Public Safety, Occupational and Physical Therapy.

Students will be able to get their I.D.s validated as well.

Free Library Computer Workshops

The GSU library will be offering free workshops in 2003. These one-hour workshops are open to the public. Individuals can reserve a spot by calling 554-2227 or email at e-machur@govst.edu. The workshops are as follows:

- Friday, Jan. 17: Web Design (Netcape) at 2:15 p.m.
- Beginning Microsoft Word at 3:30
- Friday, Jan. 24: Basic Keyboarding at 1 p.m.
- Beginning Microsoft Word at 2:15 p.m., Web Page Design at 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 31: Basic Keyboarding at 1 p.m.
- Beginning Microsoft Word at 2:15 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 7: Dreamweaver Image Mapping at 1 p.m.
- Beginning PowerPoint at 2:15 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 14: Dreamweaver Forms at 1 p.m.
- Intermediate PowerPoint at 2:15, Beginning Web Navigation at 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 21: Beginning PowerPoint at 1 p.m.
- Intermediate Word (Working with Tables) at 2:15 p.m.
- Beginning Excel at 3:30 p.m.
What Do You Think of the Cyber Cafe?

Photos by Carole Schrock

"I use the cyber café to check my email. I will probably try the registration process soon."
- Kim Sanders, undergraduate, psychology major

"It's a nuclear waste of funds."
- Thomas McKeen, undergraduate, communications major

"I see it's always busy here. I don't have a computer at home, so I will continue to use this one."
- Dennis Hogensen, graduate, education major

"It's convenient."
- Scott Gardner, undergraduate, computer science major

"I've already come a few times to check my email and use the Internet."
- Gail Uecker, undergraduate, Board of Governor

Honors Program Offers Hard Work, Personal Rewards

By Kimberly Sanders

The GSU Honors Program is rapidly growing despite its obvious latency. Many students are simply not aware of the program or do not know how to get involved. Dr. Levinson, coordinator of the Graduate Political and Justice Program, and university professor of political justice, is director of the GSU honors program.

In 1993, the provost formed a faculty committee to study different honors programs across the country, in hopes to get some sense of what a good honors program should entail. The goal was to find the best programs, study them, and integrate the key concepts into GSU's mission and status as an upper-divisional institution. In 1994, a proposal was made to start the program. After four years, the proposal was approved and Dr. Larry Levinson was appointed director of the undergraduate University Honors Program.

Students often feel overwhelmed by the tremendous amount of work that accompanies most classes. Therefore, the thought of doing work over-and-above what normally is done is inconceivable for some. The Honors Program does require some additional work. However, it is necessary in order to provide the student with a deeper appreciation of their academic program. The curricular components are as follows:

- One course, 500 level or above in the student's academic program for which the student will be given the opportunity to do graduate work
- One advanced interdisciplinary honors seminar. (If not available, other pre-approved courses can be taken in its place.)
- An honors thesis/project/internship which is completed under the supervision of a faculty mentor
- A minimum of a 3.6 cumulative GPA for courses taken at GSU by the time of graduation

The objective is for the student to gain more knowledge from their academic discipline. Levinson believes it provides a unique learning experience that will increase the student's interests and awareness in their field of study.

Students from any academic discipline can become part of the program. The honors committee reflects faculty from each academic area at GSU. The committee consists of Dr. Jun Zhao and Dr. Carl Stober from the College of Business, Dr. Karen Peterson and Dr. Darlene Wright from the College of Education, Dr. Fran Kostarelos and Dr. Shelly Kumar from the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Sonya Monroe and Dr. William Yacullo from the College of Health Professions.

According to Levinson, "What makes the GSU Honors Program unique is that the traditional barriers that separate programs and divisions are broken down... and in their place, a true community of learners and scholars has emerged."

It also allows for individuals to network with others in different academic areas, which provides a fresh See HONORS, page 7
Holidays

GSU Community Raises $50K for Kids

By Carole Schrock

For the sixteenth year, Virginia Cunningham has raised money for the Neediest Kids Christmas Fund. The GSU cashier placed a jar next to her register in the cafeteria in 1986 and the donations she has received have grown ever since.

"People have been very nice," Cunningham said.

She got the idea when she was driving to work one day listening to the Wally Phillips show on WGN Radio. Phillips raised money for the fund, a division of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune foundation. She didn't like the idea of asking people for money. So she placed a jar with a sign on it next to the register and let people give when they wanted to and in the denomination they wanted.

"The jar is there," she said. "Some people just drop in their change and some people give me checks. But it all adds up."

During the Christmas season, when people are feeling more in the spirit, the donations rise. In 1986, the total donations amounted to $239. Last year, the total was $7017.

While the donations have been steady this year, Cunningham believes the economy have made it a little tougher for people.

However, all money raised on Dec. 5 was matched by two anonymous donors, up to $100 each. That day $300 was collected, for a total of $500 with the donors' money.

Cunningham sends a check to the radio station every year around Dec. 17. The money is used for underprivileged children in the Chicagoland area for items they might need such as food, clothing or school supplies all year-round, and for toys as well during holiday times. Parents in the GSU community have even sent thank you notes to the university.

Cunningham says her goal was to raise $50,000. Her goal was met and exceeded last year. She was going to stop, but just figured she'd keep going.

"What school can say they raised $50,000 for charity?" she said.

Refusing praise for herself, Cunningham insists the accolades go to the students, faculty and staff that have given, including her co-workers Barbara, Julie and Gunny. She says she's thankful to everyone who gives.

The Neediest Kids collection jar is beside the cafeteria register year-round.

Art professor paints his last trimester

By Kathleen Frossard

Professor Paul Schranz never expected to become a teacher. After thirty-two years of teaching, however, he says, "I'm glad I did it. It was a terrific experience."

Schranz began his career thirty years ago at, where he has taught photography and digital imaging. He was attracted to the new, experimental institution.

"You could do good things here," Schranz explained. Many of the "good things" that have come out of Governors State are currently being used in other institutions.

One important aspect is its teaching and mentoring faculty. Here, he said, "you better be prepared to teach." This challenge attracted Schranz, whose favorite thing about teaching is taking people who have just discovered the idea of being an artist, building their skills and ideas, and carrying them through to their first professional exhibition. While it is a very time consuming experience for Schranz, he enjoys assisting young artists.

Schranz pointed to GSU's open admissions policy as a hindrance to his teaching. "While it allows a lot of students a chance, it also opens the door to students who think it's easy," Schranz stated. "It isn't easy."

The problem, he said, is that these students take time away from his quality students. While Schranz would put up his best students for comparison against those all over the country, he feels that his worst students are also comparable to the worst students in other universities.

"I think every teacher would like to have only good students," he said.

As a professor, Schranz has taken the digital imaging program at from its infancy thirteen years ago, developing new concepts into his curriculum. In addition, he is the assistant director of the Center for Technology and Information. "It is one of the quality centers for the institution," Schranz said.

Schranz retired at the end of the winter semester, citing his love for photography and digital imaging for his decision. He plans to concentrate on his artwork.

Schranz is satisfied with his tenure at GSU. "In the words of Dan Burn, 'The highest position you could aspire for is to be a professor.'"
Dude, Have We Sunk This Low?

By Carole Schrock

Recently the administration at Governors State University has put into effect an intense new marketing campaign to attract new students and keep the ones they have. Much concern and effort has obviously gone into the scheme to appeal to a younger crowd.

Advertisements in local papers and placards around campus feature the young faces of “twenty-somethings.”

The most recent installment in this series has surfaced to promote the spanking new computers in the cafeteria and near the Registrar’s office. They are massive placards and other smaller cardboard signs on cafeteria tables and they read, “Dude, we’ve got a cyber café,” or the same utterance preceded by “Dudette” if the accompanying photo is of a female.

It is understandable that GSU is advertising so intensely and trying to capture a younger audience. The recent state budget problems have impacted the university drastically. Classes have been cut, teachers are unhappy. Yet not only has the university seen fit to spend money from student fees on new computers for a flippant scene to grab a cappuccino and some email, but has flitted money away on something of such an odd expense, but in this money crunch, can we afford to squander money away on such frivolity?

Likewise for the massive Winter trimester catalog. Not only did the university obviously pay for the photo adorning the cover, but I can’t imagine what expense went along with printing something of such an odd size. And it doesn’t fit right in my book bag.

So, I guess the new style is really cute if you watch “Dawson’s Creek” and shop non-stop at The Gap. But, Dude, why are so many classes getting cancelled? Dude, why are my professors pickinget? I think the funds should be managed a little more closely.

Get Involved, Make a Difference

By Pamela A. Thompson, senator, College of Health Professions

Do you want to make a positive difference? Do you enjoy meeting new and diverse people? Do you enjoy making things happen? Do you have thoughts or ideas to augment GSU? Do you enjoy helping others? Well the GSU Student Senate is for you!

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity to become a leader. GSU Student Senate comprises a diverse group of students who make a difference. GSU Student Senate will be holding elections for Student Senate, Student Representative to the Board of Trustees (BOT), and Student Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Council (IBHE/ASC) for this Winter 2003 trimester.

Candidates can pick up packets on Monday, Jan. 6, in the Student Life Office (A1120), on the Student Senate/Student Life Welcome Week tables, and in the Executive Director of Student Life Office (A2131).

On Friday, Jan. 17, the completed candidate petitions are to be returned to the Student Life Office (A1120) or the Executive Director of Student Life (A2131) by 9 p.m.

Elections will be held on Monday, Feb. 10 and Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2003. Refer to the timetable for more information regarding the Student Senate Election.

The following is an abridged list of the criteria. For the complete list of requirements, please refer to the packets.

Candidate Eligibility for Student Senate: A candidate must be enrolled in courses for credit at GSU during the Winter Trimester 2003, and for two consecutive trimesters in the 2003-2004 academic year (Spring, 2003; Fall, 2003).

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Contract,
From page 1

one can be negotiated, according to
Marsha Katz, lead negotiator for the
faculty’s union.

Two key issues that have slowed
the negotiation process have been salary
and workload.

The faculty has been negotiating for
a 3.6 percent salary increase for its new
contract. The administrative negoti­
ting team has been unable to offer a
salary increase percentage, according to
Katz.

“Tuition has been raised, student
fees have gone up, cost-of-living
expenses have risen, yet wages still stay
the same,” said Katz. The contract
being offered by the administrators
offers no new money and no guarantee
of increases in subsequent years.

The university has two main sources
of income: State Appropriations, and
the University Income Fund, approxi­
mately 90 percent comes from tuition
and fees.

“A major stumbling block is the
uncertainty over the funding governors
State will receive this year and next as a
result of the state’s financial crisis,”
said GSU President Stuart Fagan, in a
memo sent out to GSU faculty.

The memo was released on Dec. 3, a
day before the faculty and staff held an
informational picket on campus at
GSU.

The budget appropriated by the
state last year was cut by approxi­
mately $1.7 million dollars. In addition, the
school was required to give back an
additional $320,000. The school could
again be required to rescind a certain
percentage of money this year accord­ing
with Jeff Slovak, associate director of
planning at GSU.

If this turns out to be true, given the
state’s current financial situation, “the
bottom line still holds,” said Slovak.

“We can’t go back [to the state] and
ask for more money.”

“In years gone by, the appropri­
ations have specified amounts to be used
for salary increases,” said Slovak. The
only salary increases specified were for
police officers, who did receive their
raise.

According to Slovak, cost-of-living
expenses have risen two percent. “A
two percent raise for the faculty alone
would cost the university approxi­
ately $250,000,” said Slovak. This raise
could mean less money to spend on
equipment for the school, or even lay­
offs, according to Slovak.

Additionally, the administrative
team’s contract goal is to increase
required research for professors and
institute a ranking system for faculty
members.

Honors,
From page 4

earning environment for undergradu­
ates.

One benefit, says Levinson, to partici­
pating in the program is the sense of
accomplishment that the student feels
upon completion of the components. It
takes a zealously disciplined student to
complete the requirements, because it is
essentially an individual task. There are
no teachers to direct the student on
when and how to complete the com­
ponents. It is totally up to the student to
complete the work.

It is important, however, that the
student is appointed a mentor from within
their program to provide guidance and
feedback on their progress. This leads
to another benefit on the program.

Supervision from a mentor can provide
tremendous networking opportunities.
The mentor can offer advice, suggest
additional resources and serve as a
guide to the academic setting in
which the student studies.

The program also exposes stu­
dents to speaker’s series and special
events such as the yearly honors dinner and
theatre trips. After all requirements for the
program have been met, the student will receive a
letter of commendation written on
their behalf by Levinson and the
president of the university.

Levinson says the Honors
Program is for the individual who
wishes to get more out of an under­
graduate experience. It is for the
individual who wants to expand their
knowledge in their particular area of
study. It is for the individual who is
not afraid of a challenge, but
embraces it as an opportunity to
enrich their academic excellence.
For more information, call Levinson
at 534-4578.

“The university wants faculty to do
more research with no reduction in
workload,” said Katz. It is a factor that
could potentially hurt the quality of
learning at GSU.

“President Fagan’s priority has been
to establish a ranking system,” said
Peggy Woodard, head of the university’s
negotiating team. “We have built
negotiations around this priority.”

“The administration recognizes
are needs for increased research
time,” said Woodard. “We would not
expect them to do their research on
vacation time.”

The administration has proposed a
system where a faculty would submit a
proposal for research. Once approved,
they would be given a certain amount
of release time to pursue their proposal,
based upon required amount of time,
rather than a pre-specified amount for
each faculty member.

No specific deadlines have been set
yet by either side to reach a contract
agreement. “Ideally, we would have set­
ted a contract before [the last con­
tact] expired,” said Woodard.

Negotiations are set to resume
during the second week of classes in
January.

“THE ESSENCE OF GSU
STUDENT LIFE”

2003 Art Contest

The mission of Student Life focuses on non-traditional aged student who are seeking
life long learning skills. Wellness, fitness and recreation, leadership, volunteering, governance, media, and
ethic cultural observances are integral parts of Student Life at GSU.

WHO: All Interested GSU Students and Alumni

WHAT: The Essence of Student Life at GSU in drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and relief sculptures

(RESTRICTIONS: 36”x24” ready to hang, framed work)

WHERE: Works by Award winners will be on permanent display in Student Commons (A2140)

Best of Show: $200.00

2nd Prize: $150.00

3rd Prize: $100.00

WHERE: Student Commons (A2140)

EXHIBITION OPENING AND RECEPTION

January 22, 2003, 1-3 p.m., Student Commons

WHEN: Submission Deadline: Friday, January 17, 5pm

Vanessa Newby (A2130); 708/539-4531; vnewby@govst.edu

WHY: To showcase the artistry and creativity of GSU students and alumni by displaying their work in the Student
Commons, that reflects Student Life at GSU.
The **PHOENIX**

is looking for reporters and a business and advertising manager.

If you would like to learn how to report or write for a newspaper, or you just want to get involved, contact Carole Schrock at X4517 or cshar2810@mail.govst.edu.

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**DECEMBER 2002**

**Senate**

*From page 6*

Winter, 2004). Undergraduate candidates must be enrolled for at least six credit hours. Graduate candidates must be enrolled for at least three credit hours. A candidate must be enrolled in the college whose collegial representative position he/she seeks. They may not be a full-time GSU employee, and must be in good academic standing, maintain a cumulative minimum of 2.0 GPA – undergraduate, 3.0 GPA – graduate.

Candidate Eligibility for BOT: A candidate must be currently enrolled in courses for credit at GSU during the Winter Trimester 2003, and for two consecutive trimesters of the 2003-2004 academic year (Spring, 2003; Fall, 2003; Winter, 2004). Undergraduate candidates must be enrolled for at least six (6) credit hours. Graduate candidates must be enrolled for at least three (3) credit hours. A candidate must be in good academic standing with a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale – undergraduate, 3.25 on a 4.0 scale – graduate. They may not be a full-time GSU employee and must be a resident of the State of Illinois.

Candidate Eligibility for IBHE/SAC: A candidate must be currently enrolled in courses for credit at GSU during the Winter Trimester 2005, and for two consecutive trimesters of the 2003-2004 academic year (Spring, 2003; Fall, 2003; Winter, 2004). A candidate must be in good academic standing, maintain a cumulative minimum of 2.0 GPA – undergraduate, 3.0 GPA – graduate. May not be a full-time GSU employee.

Joining in the Student Senate is a way to acknowledge that you care about your school, your community, and your family. Take this opportunity to inspire commitments in others by setting a positive example. To be an active participant in GSU shows you care about your community. GSU is a school that belongs to and works with the surrounding communities.

To be involved with GSU is a commitment to your family, as the community is part of GSU, and your family is also part of the community. The Student Senate recently was involved with a community Harvest party at GSU. The participating Senators enjoyed seeing their efforts bring fun and pleasure to families and children. Another endeavor was the recent blood drive that will certainly make a difference in our community by helping to save lives.

The Student Senate may enhance your marketability to future employers. Numerous employers favor potential employment candidates who are involved in extra-curricular activities. Become a Student Senator and initiate some programs you would like to take place.

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**Marketing.**

*From page 3*

Originally, those students were mailed one schedule following the semester they were enrolled in, and then dropped from the mailing lists if there was no response. Now an active emphasis has been placed on recruiting more “come-back” students, and letting them know that they still qualify to take classes at GSU, according to Connolly.

Offsite classes are being taken more seriously as a way to bring GSU closer to students. The presidents of surrounding community colleges have been very receptive to the idea of GSU offering classes on their campuses. The only drawback, according to Connolly, is that 20-25 students must be enrolled in an offsite course for it to break even financially.

The most recent open house held by GSU introduced approximately 500 potential students to the university campus. It gave the attendees a chance to meet and greet with the faculty members, and to learn more about the campus’ offerings.

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**First Snow of the Season**

*Photo by Carole Schrock.*