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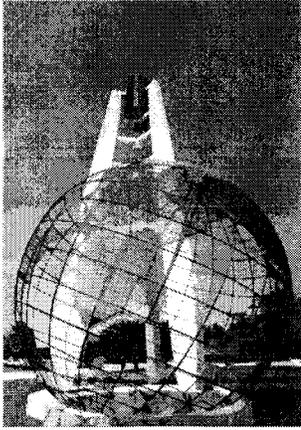
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GSU Universe

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

February 17 – February 21, 2003

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

"There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." Oscar Wilde

Editorial Comment from President Stuart Fagan

I believe we need to improve internal communications in these days of uncertainty about funding for higher education and the likelihood of cuts in the state's appropriated budget for Governors State University. The rumors on our campus are growing exponentially.

Our newsletter is inadequate to deal with rumors about closings, take-overs, layoffs, program eliminations, reorganizations, pay cuts, consolidations, etc. We created our weekly newsletter as a vehicle for letting everyone in the GSU community know what is happening in our university and what developments are occurring outside that would impact us, without offering much in the way of editorial comment. And for the most part, I think we have succeeded. There have been no exhortations from the Provost or me to improve quality, work harder, be more diligent, or do whatever it is that presidents and provosts exhort faculty, students, and staff to do.

I appreciate the hundreds of comments I've received from faculty, students, and staff, over the past year. The newsletter will continue.

However, we will augment it with an e-mail hotline to answer questions anyone may have about any subject. The hotline will be administered by Public Affairs. Confidentiality is assured.

Details are below.

Rumor Mill Hotline Up and Running

Want to know if John Tuohy, vice president for administration and planning, received a \$10,000 year-end bonus? If Dr. Deborah Holdstein was secretly named dean of graduate studies? If new furniture is being ordered for the Faculty Office Center because the old furniture is so heavy the floors of the new building would collapse? If IBHE will announce GSU is shutting its doors in June? Or if GSU is applying for the 10th casino license with plans to put a boat on the pond? Each of these was a rumor which circulated during the past few months. Send an e-mail to the rumor mill hotline: GSUfacts@govst.edu. Ask about any subject. "We intend to answer each query within 48 hours," Chuck Connolly, executive director of marketing and communications, said. "And we'll assure the confidentiality of anyone who contacts us. As we check the facts and respond to the person who asked the question, names will never be revealed. We may publish the answer, but never the name of the person who asked the question." The new e-mail site is now included in the Outlook global address list, and can be selected like any other name in the "Select Names" box when a message is composed.

As to the Rumors...

In the examples cited in the previous article, each was a hot rumor for a week or so, and each was wrong. John Tuohy did not receive a \$10,000 bonus. "I wish someone had offered it," He said. Deborah Holdstein was not secretly named dean. "It's so secret they haven't told me yet," she said. The Faculty Office Center is structurally sound and can hold the weight of the old furniture, but the new furniture fits the space better and is more efficient. GSU is not closing. "Good. I need the job," said Assistant Provost Eric Martin. And the university is not applying for a casino license. "Darn," said executive budget director Jeff Slovak. Remember to send an e-mail to GSUfacts@govst.edu to get the straight scoop. (It's in the Global Address List.)

Governor Gets Higher Education Support for His Reforms

Governor Rod Blagojevich is pressing forward on his plans with higher education, as reported in last week's *GSUniverse*. Last week, GSU and other public universities agreed not to provide charter flights to trustees (GSU never did), not to provide free tickets to sporting events (GSU has no teams), and to bring trustees expenditures in line with the regulations of the State Travel Board. GSU already complies with the regulations and requires that Foundation and Alumni trustees comply with the regulations as well.

State Senate Testimony Scheduled

Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Friefeld and President Fagan will testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 4th. As reported, they are already scheduled to testify before the House Appropriations Committee on March 13th.

FOC Update

The third Faculty Office Center open meeting was held Wednesday of this week in E-Lounge. John Tuohy, vice president for administration and planning, and Mike Hassett, director of physical plant operations, were again on hand to answer questions from those present. Substantively, little has changed since the last meeting. The colleges will break down as follows. East wing, first and second floor: CHP (Dean's office, Social Work, Addictions Studies, and Health Administration). West wing, first floor: CBPA. West wing, second floor: CE. Third floor: CE and Administration. Psychology and Counseling are confirmed to move into the FOC. The College of Business and Public Administration has asked that MIS faculty be housed in the new building. Mike Hassett awaits final CBPA staff counts to determine if adequate space is available.

GSU Graduates Make the Grade

Karen Meany and Kathleen Piane, graduates of Governors State University, have been selected as finalists for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Meany, who teaches at Sieden Prairie School, in Matteson, and Piane, who teaches for the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, in Chicago, graduated from Governors State in 1997 and 1991, respectively. Of the finalists, 10 winners will be selected for induction into the Golden Apple Academy of Educators at the 18th Annual Golden Apple Awards Ceremony on May 31st.