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GSU View

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## News and Events

### [President Maimon Praises PBAC Process](#)

#### **An Open Letter to the GSU Community:**

The Planning and Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC), co-chaired by Provost Jane Hudak and Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu, has now forwarded to me its recommendations for budget allocations for FY '09. I am pleased to accept these recommendations. About 90 percent of the increases in the recommended discretionary allocations are to units under the provost; 8.5 of the 9.5 new, base-funded lines are faculty positions; considerations for improved instruction, quality, and performance were key factors driving the PBAC recommendations.

The PBAC process was exemplary. Planning was done before we had knowledge of our final appropriation from the state. Although the General Assembly has appropriated a 4.6 percent increase over FY'08 -- the second highest appropriation to any public university in the state -- no one has any idea about the final outcome, pending gubernatorial review. As a consequence, we had no choice but to project a conservative budget, totaling \$48.6 million, an amount slightly lower than the "preliminary" budget that the GSU Board of Trustees authorized at its June 13, 2008 meeting. Let me point out again that without the extra revenue from tuition and fees, approved by the Board of Trustees in February, we would have been looking at an austerity budget, with jeopardy to the GSU mission. The success of the PBAC process had a great deal to do with the foresight of the Trustees in approving the significant increases in tuition and fees.

On June 6 and June 11, every budget unit - including Cabinet-level offices - presented to PBAC an analysis of past expenditures in light of GSU goals and a projection of future strategies and needs. This process was transparency in action. Everything was on the table for all to see. Every budget head publicly addressed tough questions about optimizing the use of current resources, cooperation across units, eliminating redundancies, and finding improved ways to reach our student-centered goals. On June 20, PBAC met to formulate their recommendations about allocations.

As the new fiscal year begins on July 1, GSU moves forward with deans and other budget heads knowledgeable about their own available funds and responsible for managing these resources. The Provost has made it clear to the deans that leadership in resource management will be a key factor in their evaluations.

In addition to the fair distribution of base allocations, PBAC has recommended, and I have accepted, one-time allocations to improve classroom furniture, enhance campus safety and security, modernize and improve development and fund-raising capacity, and automate our degree audit system. Further, I have accepted PBAC's recommendation to set aside \$250,000 as a Strategic Opportunity Fund that will be available for competitive grants to individuals or groups of faculty, staff, colleges, or administrative areas to advance any of the six strategic goals of the new

strategic plan. In September, I will appoint a committee to develop the criteria, process, and timeline for the use of this fund. I have confidence that, through this fund, our entire university community will be actively engaged in exploring and executing creative and innovative opportunities.

As PBAC looks ahead, the committee has recommended - and I have accepted - the concept of a tuition revenue sharing model. During the next academic year, PBAC will be working out guidelines for this model that will promote the active engagement of our deans and program leaders in enrollment management and growth, while at the same time motivating cooperation, not competition, across units.

I want to commend everyone who participated in the PBAC process. It is gratifying to see that in only one year we have made outstanding progress toward broad-based participation in the complexities of strategic investment. I am convinced that GSU is now prepared to move forward to achieve our goals of achieving high quality in teaching, scholarship, and service.

I wish to extend special thanks to Dr. Hudak and Dr. Ejigu, the committee co-chairs. The strategic investment of resources is the life's blood of university progress. PBAC has established a framework for broad-based campus ownership of resource allocation. PBAC is shared governance at its best.

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.

President

View the [FY 2009 Approved Operating Budget](#)

## **[Faculty Town Hall Discussion](#)**

A town hall meeting for faculty will be held on Thursday, June 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., in Sherman Music Hall. After a few introductory comments, Dr. Maimon will open the meeting to faculty questions and comments. Faculty are encouraged to attend the meeting and contribute to the ongoing dialogue.

## **[SIDL Portfolio Workshop](#)**

Learn how developing a Prior Learning Portfolio can help you earn credit toward your B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at a workshop on portfolio on Saturday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to noon, in Engbretson Hall. The portfolio workshop includes an explanation of the process, what prospective students are expected to submit to earn credit, and is open to the public.

To register, contact the [SIDL office](#) at 708.534.4092.

## **2008 Pringle Scholar Named**

Katrina Dee Garrett of Highland, Indiana, is the 2008 recipient of the Robert A. Pringle Memorial Scholarship at GSU.

“This scholarship helps me get the tools I need to complete my degree. It will be a great assistance toward books, which are so expensive,” said Garrett who is studying for her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies.

The Pringle Memorial Scholarship is named for Robert A. Pringle who helped create the original Board of Governors degree program from which the School of Interdisciplinary Learning has evolved. The Pringle family administers the scholarship through an endowment.

The School of Interdisciplinary Learning offers college credit based on learning gleaned from life experiences. It was created for students like Garrett with work and life experience equivalent, in many cases, to college level work. Students in the program complete degree requirements within the program, often tailoring undergraduate studies in preparation for graduate work.

## **GSU Students Named Madison Fellows**

Current Political and Justice Studies graduate student Patrick Usher, and Erica Bray-Parker (M.A. Political and Justice Studies, 1999) have been named James Madison Memorial Fellows. The James Madison Memorial Fellowship is extremely competitive, choosing approximately 50 high school teachers from across the nation every year.

Beyond the financial assistance that the awardees are granted, the James Madison Fellowship program brings the participants to a month long Summer Institute at Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.) where they take graduate classes and participate in discussions on American political, governmental, and Constitutional issues.

Usher, a teacher at Carl Sandburg High School, was awarded the fellowship last year and is currently attending the Summer Institute. Bray-Parker, a teacher at Glenbard North High School, earned the honor in 2008 and will attend next year.

## **A Little Bit of Election Trivia**

Here are a few more bits of information to help you prepare for the GSU Votes Trivia Contest in September.

### **Suffrage**

Suffrage is another word for the right to vote. So is franchise. To disenfranchise or disfranchise is to deny someone the rights of a citizen, such as the right to vote or hold office.

The 1972 presidential election in which Richard Nixon defeated George McGovern was the first presidential election in which the previously disenfranchised 18, 19, and 20 year olds voted. The 26th amendment, passed in 1971, set the minimum voting age at 18. They no longer suffered for their age.



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