

2-19-2009

AY 08-09 Meeting 2009-02-19

Faculty Senate

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**Governors State University
Faculty Senate
Minutes February 19, 2009**

Senators (Present = X):

<u>X</u>	N. Adam	<u>X</u>	H. Heino	<u>X</u>	B. Parin
<u>X</u>	E. Alozie	<u> </u>	M. Kasik	<u> </u>	L. Proudfit
<u>X</u>	R. Bell	<u>X</u>	T. Kelly	<u>X</u>	W. Rudloff
<u>X</u>	P. Blobaum	<u>X</u>	T. Kim	<u> </u>	A. Sanders
<u>X</u>	M. Bruce	<u>X</u>	J. Klomes	<u>X</u>	J. Simon
<u>X</u>	B. Essex	<u> </u>	C. Luo	<u> </u>	E. Wignall
<u>X</u>	S. Gandy	<u>X</u>	G. Lyon	<u>X</u>	B. Wilson
<u> </u>	D. Green	<u>X</u>	R. Muhammad	<u>X</u>	B. Winicki
<u>X</u>	P. Guimond				

Guests: President Elaine Maimon, Provost Jane Hudak, Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu, Vice Provost John Stoll, Colleen Rock, Joseph Matula

Call to Order

Blobaum called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Announcements

Blobaum presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Dianne Kronika for service on the EPC.

Minutes

The Senate reviewed the January 22, 2009 meeting minutes. Muhammad moved to approve the minutes. Guimond seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Administration Reports

President Report

Maimon reported that Michael Beschloss will be the Honorary Degree Recipient for the June 2009 Commencement. Commencement will continue to be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Tinley Park. Maimon thanked the faculty who participated in the January Commencement. The President is doing everything possible in terms of making the federal, as well as state, legislators aware of the continuing need for funding for the E/F wing renovation.

Executive Vice President Report

Ejigu reported that the budgetary crisis is national. Forty-three states are struggling with major deficits. In Illinois, the FY09 year is projected to end with a \$4.28 billion deficit. There will be a record backlog of bills payable of approximately \$4.5 billion on June 30, 2009. Without an infusion of revenue, “the state will be virtually insolvent.” Based on current revenue and expenditures, the estimated deficit will be approximately \$8.95 billion in FY2010. Illinois stands on the precipice of the “worst fiscal crisis in the state’s history.”

Measures that other states and universities are taking to address the fiscal crisis, include: 1) curtailing discretionary spending; 2) hiring freezes; 3) limiting enrollment, especially those

which are formula-funded; 4) freezing compensation increases; 5) furloughs, 1-2 days per month; 6) layoffs; 7) declaration of financial exigency; 8) elimination of programs; and 9) closing program or satellite operations.

Ejigu stated that GSU's current financial situation is fairly healthy for two reasons: 1) the action taken a year ago to increase of tuition and fees, coupled with an increase in SCHs, and 2) during the PBAC budget allocation process, a conservative posture was taken and reserves were set aside. The main part of those reserves was used in December.

Ejigu shared data from the FY09 Operating Budget Status Report, dated December 31, 2008. Across the University, 44% of allocations were spent by December 31, 2008. Encumbered expenses from January 1 through June 30 were estimated. Using the actual amount spent as of December 31 and the anticipated encumbered amount to be spent, it is projected that GSU will have an uncommitted balance of \$3.5 million at the end of FY09. (This figure should be correct within +/- 5%.) Units will keep their balances at the end of the fiscal year. In response to a question from a Senator, Ejigu stated that adjunct funding was considered in the projections.

Ejigu shared the breakdown of gross revenues from the following sources: appropriations, tuition and fees, federal grants and contracts, state grants and contracts, other grants and contract, sales and services, auxiliary, and other operating. Overall, 78% of what was projected has been collected. GSU is becoming increasingly tuition-driven. By the end of FY09, slightly more than 50% of operating revenues will be from tuition and fees.

The steps GSU has taken to address the fiscal crisis include: 1) restricted discretionary spending, 2) a hiring freeze for personnel actions that may have fiscal implications, 3) engaging in contingency planning, and 4) engaging in analysis and exploration of measures that would allow GSU to take advantage of the crisis and come out of it stronger.

A Senator recommended that the presentation Ejigu made to the Senate be sent electronically to the University community. Ejigu stated that the presentation will be on file in the UL as part of the Board materials and that he can send it electronically as well. Another Senator asked if the "drop for nonpayment" policy is being revisited because she feels that her program has lost students because of that policy. Ejigu and Hudak stated that the deans are working on enrollment plans, which include discussions of several issues such as policies that affect enrollment. The PBAC Finance and Budget Committee is discussing the possibility of establishing a late registration fee.

Maimon stated that there will be no across-the-board cuts. The administration is looking at ways to be strategic, prudent, and student centered. The budgetary crisis will not affect tenure or promotion decisions, which are based strictly on quality and criteria of the divisions.

Blobaum encouraged the faculty to fully participate on the PBAC committees.

Provost Report

Hudak reported that the President received the list of site team visitors' names from HLC. She reviewed and returned the list, so the team members are confirmed. The HLC writing team is making excellent progress. Hudak appreciates the work of the HLC committee members.

The colleges and units are working on strategic plans. Hudak encouraged everyone to be involved in drafting the plans. Hudak asked Vice Provost John Stoll to discuss plans for faculty development and plans for a pilot study of SEIs for online courses. Faculty development is a priority. As part of the faculty development, the administration recently held a "revitalized" new faculty orientation and two adjunct sessions

John Stoll, Vice Provost

Stoll reported that a Faculty Development Steering Committee has been established. The Committee will plan a summit to define among other issues the scope and depth of the Committee's charge. Faculty Senate was asked to appoint a representative to the Committee. The committee is likely to meet two times a month at the beginning and less often later. A Senator asked about the funding for faculty development and related expenses. A small budget line has been allocated for AY 08/09. The PBAC Budget Committee will highlight funding needs for AY 09/10. Faculty development activities take place in both the university and college levels.

Stoll introduced SEIs for online and distance education courses. The rationale to conduct a pilot project or launch the SEIS based on SEEQ best practices is to try to increase the student response rate. Currently the response rate is somewhere around 2-5%. The instrument distributed to the Faculty Senate has 46 questions compared to the 14 questions in the traditional SEIs. Another reason is to gain an improved understanding of cross university issues in course evaluation.

Stoll stated that he has worked closely with Estep who for many years chaired the committee charged to develop an instrument for evaluating online courses following commonly recognized best practices in online course evaluation. According to Stoll, Estep has endorsed the pilot project using the SEEQ evaluation format. Many senators questioned 1) the suitability (validity) of the instrument to measure learning outcomes, and 2) how to measure or to separate the effect of the environment (technology) on student perception of instruction. A Senator discussed the philosophy and research findings of the rationale and traditional uses of SEIs. SEIs are traditionally supposed to be a feedback mechanism for faculty to improve and change classroom performance.

Faculty Reports

University Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Parin, Chair of UCC, distributed a report. The 2008-2009 catalog is online. If anyone finds any typos, send an email, detailing the typos, to the UCC email account at UCC@govst.edu . Online UCC forms are available at <http://www.govst.edu/ucc> . UCC meets every Monday at 1:00.

Academic Program Review Committee (APRC)

No report. Gandy, a member answered questions about the status of program proposals such as, concentration in entrepreneurship, BS in community health, minor in Latino studies, and minor in gender studies. Senators raised serious issues about the faculty role in developing programs, such as the BS in community health. It seems that the program was developed without faculty input and written by administrators.

Educational Policies Committee (EPC)

Essex, EPC Chair, introduced a proposal for Textbook Policy. The need for it was discussed. Heino moved that the issue be tabled to find the supposed state audit report requiring GSU to have a textbook policy. Rudloff seconded the motion. The Senate approved the motion to table the policy by voice vote. One Senator opposed.

Graduate Studies Council

No report. The Senate discussed Faculty Senate appointees to the graduate council. Elizabeth Ruiz (COE) and Aida Shekib (CBPA) were appointed as Senate representatives. A third appointee will be discussed in the March meeting.

IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee (IBHE FAC)

No report.

Bargaining Unit

No report.

University Safety Committee

Lyon gave a brief summary of the requirements for GSU of the Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008. The Act covers such areas as violence prevention and all anticipated hazards e.g. chemical spills, tornadoes, and fire. The mandated deadline for readiness is 7/1/09. National Incident Management System will provide on-line and in-class training for all administrators and some staff and faculty.

Executive Committee

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.