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# GSU **nAverse**

## Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

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*"Milo had been caught red-handed in the act of plundering his countrymen, and, as a result, his stock had never been higher."*

Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*

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### **Ladies and Gentlemen: Let the Games Begin!**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved a budget for higher education at its meeting Tuesday, February 3, and sent it forward to the Office of Management and Budget. GSU President Stu Fagan, who attended the meeting, said, "The discussion was brief, to say the least. And clearly this isn't the last word. OMB may make changes before forwarding it to the Governor. And the Governor and his staff may still make further changes before he gives his budget address next week. In effect, what IBHE approved was a discussion budget. But thank goodness, the process has begun."

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### **About as Good as it Gets**

IBHE proposed that the total appropriation for higher education be reduced by \$2.34 million, or 3.3 percent. However, the proposed appropriation for the public universities would be essentially flat with last year. In the case of Governors State, that would amount to an appropriation for FY05 equal to our appropriation for FY04. "Given the state's very difficult circumstances, this is about as good as it gets," President Fagan said. Jim Kaplan, Chair of IBHE, said that he felt comfortable in making this recommendation because he had charged the public universities to reduce administrative expenses in 2005 by 25 percent from the levels of 2002. GSU has already reduced administrative expenses by 22 percent.

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### **Where Are the Cuts for Higher Education?**

To achieve the overall budget reduction of \$2.34 million, IBHE has proposed reducing funding for matching grant programs, Health Service Education grants, workforce development programs, and other programs. Funding for MAP will remain at current levels, but the eligibility ceiling for annual family income will be lowered to \$70,000.

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### **Better Shape Up**

The Legislature recently passed an ethics bill for all state employees, including all employees of the public universities. Among other things, the law tightens up the ban on accepting gifts, limits political activity and campaigning while on university time, requires more detailed reporting of work hours and other personnel matters, and calls for annual ethics training of all employees. General Counsel Alexis Kennedy will distribute a memo describing the requirements within a week or so.

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*Board Chair Bruce Friefeld signs GSU/UPI contract. From left to right: Stuart Fagan, Paul Keys, Bruce Friefeld, Sue Kauffman, and Marsha Katz.*

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### **GSU, UPI Local 4100 Sign Contract**

Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Friefeld, President Fagan, Provost Paul Keys, and Associate Provost Peggy Woodard met with University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 President Sue Kauffman and GSU Chapter President Marsha Katz Friday morning to sign the four-year labor agreement negotiated between the university and union. Negotiations over the major terms of the contract, which began in April of 2002, were completed by May of 2003. The final draft signed Friday includes subsequent agreements on language and procedures. Fagan said, "Neither side got everything it wanted. But this agreement satisfied the major demands of both sides. I believe it is a good and fair and equitable agreement." He

noted that a modest salary increase was negotiated, despite a lack of state support. "I know that faculty deserve more than we were able to negotiate," he said. He vowed to take the case for funding for salary increases to the state legislature. The contract is effective from 2002 to 2006.

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### **Subcommittee Consults Focus Group**

The Graduate Council's Subcommittee on Doctoral Studies invited Hispanic faculty and staff members to a February 3 focus group designed to assess the higher education needs of Hispanic students. "This is the first time we've put a focus group like this together," said Provost Keys. He explained that GSU has a unique opportunity. "Since we're just now exploring the idea of adding doctoral programs at GSU, we have the chance to evaluate the needs of Hispanic students and design possible future programs that will meet those needs." He added that GSU's Latino and Latina faculty and staff are the university's best resource for discovering how to do this right. "We need their input to succeed," he said. "We know that, and we want to work with them every step of the way." Feedback from the first meeting identified a need for mentoring and a comprehensive approach with Hispanic students that begins in elementary school and continues through high school and college.

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### **Trustees, Foundation Meet, Discuss On-Campus Housing**

The Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board met in the Hall of Governors January 28 to discuss on-campus housing for GSU. "The Foundation Board was wildly enthusiastic about the idea of a student housing facility," Provost Keys said. "There are still questions and details to work out, and an RFP is a long way off. But we're making progress." Century Development conducted a feasibility study for housing last year that concluded student housing is absolutely viable for GSU. "We all agree that housing will drive enrollment levels, particularly with international students," Keys added.

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### **Alumni AuthorShips: Computer Science**

Books by two M.S. in Computer Science graduates, Cynthia J. Olson and Dr. Jane Cleland-Huang, were released in October of 2003. Huang, now an assistant professor at DePaul University's School of Computer Science, Telecommunications, and Information Systems, co-authored *Software by Numbers: Low Risk, High-Return Development*, which covers incremental funding methodology, a software development method. Olson's book is young adult novel titled *Twanna Underground*.

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