The Governors State University Board of Trustees convened on Friday, May 6 and approved two key fiscal proposals that pave the way for GSU to continue its mission of quality education and affordability in the Southland. President Elaine P. Maimon addressed the Board and those in attendance, thanking and praising the university community for continuing to stand together during this trying and historic time in higher education.

Acknowledging recent stop gap funds from the State, President Maimon said, "We are grateful to the General Assembly and the Governor for providing some relief. We are especially grateful to our local state representatives and senators who worked for the good of the whole but also had our backs."

Award of Tenure and Professor Emeritus Status

Four professors were awarded tenure by the Board:

- Dr. David Golland, Division of Humanities and Social Science
- Dr. Khalil Marrar, Division of Humanities and Social Science
- Dr. Gökçe Sargut, Division of Management, Marketing, and Public Relations
- Dr. Bradley Smith, Division of Humanities and Social Science.

The Board also approved Professor Emeritus Status for two recently retired professors: Dr. Larry Levinson of Political and Justice Studies and Mr. Tony Labriola of Media Studies.

Summer and Fall Enrollment Numbers Up at Governors State University

GSU continues to thrive even in the midst of a state budget crisis. Provost Bordelon reported that GSU's enrollment numbers for the Summer and Fall 2016 terms are tracking in a positive direction.

Board Chair Brian Mitchell lauded the good work, "The Board thanks the Enrollment Management group – led by Dr. Randi Schneider – for their hard work and dedication, doing much more with much less."

BOT Approves Preliminary Operating Budget for FY17

The Board voted to approve a preliminary operating budget. The move from a cash-flow model into a permanent base budget allows the university to focus on continued growth and fulfill its mission, even as the appropriations stalemate continues in Springfield.

"I am confident the university will be putting in place a balanced operating budget for the fiscal year that starts on July 1," President Maimon said.
Reserve Fund Approved

An Operating Reserve Fund was also approved by the BOT for inclusion in the new budget. Executive Vice President Gebe Ejigu said, "The establishment of this fund was prompted by the serious depletion of all of the university's reserve funds as a result of the state budget impasse."

Expenditures from the fund will be utilized for major infrastructure repairs or renovations and meeting unanticipated emergency needs. This fund cannot be accessed without Board approval.

President Maimon referenced the "sound decisions in the past" that have allowed GSU to "informally (maintain) carry-forward funds," but she stressed the need to replenish those reserves.

Contracts Awarded

Multiple awards of contracts were approved by the Board, including: IL DCFS, Disaster Recovery Services, Architectural Services, Engineering Services, Legal Services, and a contract to proceed with construction of a new storage facility to replace the university's barn lost in the August 2015 fire.

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