

Governors State University
OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship

GSU View

University Newsletters

12-16-2016

GSU View, 2016-12-16

Office of Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview>

Recommended Citation

Governors State University Office of Marketing and Communications, GSU View (2016, December 16). <http://opus.govst.edu/gsuview/834>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Newsletters at OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in GSU View by an authorized administrator of OPUS Open Portal to University Scholarship. For more information, please contact opus@govst.edu.

From: [GSUView](#)
To: [Faculty and Staff](#); [Actively Enrolled Students](#)
Subject: GSU View - December 16, 2016: Special Edition
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016 10:07:33 AM
Attachments: [image009.png](#)

If you have problems reading this in your email browser, go to www.govst.edu/gsuview for a web version.

gsuview

A newsletter for students, faculty & staff



December 16, 2016

Special Edition

News

December 2016 Meeting of the Board of Trustees

On Friday, December 9, the GSU Board of Trustees held its final meeting of 2016. Chair Brian Mitchell began the meeting by thanking all faculty and staff for their efforts this calendar year. "Our work is important," he said. "Our students are important and they deserve our hard work."

Accreditation & Affirmation

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon began her report to the board on a high note, announcing full accreditation from the [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#) for [GSU's College of Business](#). AACSB accreditation is the gold standard for business colleges, a distinction held by fewer than five percent of the 16,000 business schools world-wide.

President Maimon said, "Earning this accreditation is a case in point for GSU's commitment to quality, even in the midst of severe budget challenges."

President Maimon also sought to address student concerns by reaffirming the university's unwavering commitment to "putting students first" by covering [MAP grants for fall 2016 and spring 2017](#) (see pages 3-5) and providing [support to "DREAMers,"](#) (see pages 6-7) undocumented students who have graduated from Illinois high schools.

Honors Program

Dr. David Rhea offered a report on the success of the [Honors Program](#), which has been under his leadership for the past three years. The report discussed the changes that were necessary as GSU became a four-year university. The active student population in the Honors Program has grown 381 percent since 2013 and the freshman cohort of 30 students is at capacity. Honors Program students have participated in study abroad and travelled to conferences where they presented their research. In addition, the program now features components that emphasize leadership and civic engagement.

Illinois Budget Impact

Turning to the budget, President Maimon reminded the Board of its charge to the administration to

conduct long-range planning for diversified revenue sources, necessitated by the unprecedented situation of functioning without stable state appropriations. In response to this charge, the university has taken some steps and is considering other possibilities.

Kim Lambert-Thomas, Vice President for Administration & Finance, explained the process for zero-based budgeting, which all non-academic units will undertake in FY2018. This is a common method of budgeting where all expenses start from a “zero base” and every function within an organization is analyzed for its needs and costs. Lambert-Thomas characterized it as “an exercise in which everything is put on the table.”

A study session on tuition and fees for academic year 2017 – 2018 featured information on, and discussion of, several related options exploring whether to increase undergraduate tuition, the possibility of changing how students are charged—from per credit hour to block; for example, charging a “set” tuition that would be the same whether a student took as few as 12 credit hours or as many as 18 in a semester—and whether to charge all out-of-state students the same tuition as in-state students. At the March meeting, the BOT will vote to set tuition rates.

Provost Deborah Bordelon gave an update on the work of the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee, comprised of seven faculty members. The committee’s charge is to review every GSU program based on factors such as the university’s enrollment, the strategic plan, and trends in workforce classifications.

Do you have a story or event you want to submit for the GSU View?
[Click here to learn about our submission guidelines.](#)



Governors State University
1 University Parkway,
University Park, Illinois 60484-0975
+1 (708) 534.5000 | Copyright © 2016

Get the Facts about GSU and the Illinois Budget Impasse

Get the Facts about GSU
and the Illinois Budget
Impasse

As we enter the tenth month of the Illinois budget impasse and approach the end of the academic year without a state budget, many people are wondering how the stalemate is affecting Governors State University (GSU).

We want everyone to know that we are open; we are staying open; we will celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in 2019 and our hundredth anniversary in 2069. [Our tuition for 2016-17 will not increase](#), and we will continue to assume liability for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants promised by the state to low-income students.

We have prepared the following Q & A to address the questions we are receiving and to dispel false rumors:

What is the Budget Impasse?

For this Fiscal Year 2016, which began July 1, 2015, Illinois lawmakers have been unable to agree on a state budget. Illinois now holds the title for the longest state budgetary impasse in recent history.

How does this affect Governors State University (GSU)?

GSU, like all state universities, depends upon state funding. No budget for the State of Illinois means no appropriated funds for GSU. GSU expected to receive about \$24 million for our operations in Fiscal Year 2016 and nearly \$3 million for MAP award reimbursements.

Is GSU closing?

No, GSU is not closing. The university is well managed and has been doing ongoing budget reallocation for many years.

How has GSU been able to survive without a budget for so long?

GSU operates on an annual budget funded primarily by student tuition and a state appropriation. The state appropriated funds offset the cost of operating each university so that tuition can be kept affordable. Without state support in 2015-16, GSU has tapped into its emergency operating reserves that were set aside for physical plant repair, maintenance projects, and other essential uses. These funds must be replaced as soon as a 2015-16 budget is appropriated. GSU also continues its practice of careful planning and budgeting, giving the highest priority to student services.

I am a [Monetary Award Program](#) recipient, but the State has not funded MAP. What will happen to me?

GSU is committed to putting students first. GSU will continue to accept liability for students' MAP funding for the coming academic year, 2016-17. In other words, students will not have to pay back funds to the university, even if the state does not fulfill its promises to Illinois families. In addition, the Board of Trustees decided there would be no tuition increase for 2016-17. [Our tuition and fees remain the lowest in the state.](#) These decisions were made so that students can enroll in school without financial fear.

Will GSU be open in the summer and fall?

Yes! GSU has made it easy for you to enjoy the warm weather this summer while taking advantage of our [flexible course scheduling](#), with numerous online and hybrid courses. We look forward to welcoming students this fall. [Our award-winning first-year program, taught entirely by full-time faculty](#), will continue to provide what we consider the best freshman experience in the state—maybe in the nation. The [Center for the Junior Year](#) (funded under a federal grant) delivers state-of-the-art assistance to transfer students on connecting study in the major with career opportunities. And our graduate programs continue to offer the highest quality advanced education.

Are some academic programs going to be cut in the future?

Academic program review is an ongoing process. Programs are evaluated for their viability [enrollment, growth], alignment with the university or college mission, and workforce demands. Program review is carried out by the Provost, in consultation with the Faculty Senate and program faculty. During the continuing budget crisis for university state funding, we will consider a number of possible reductions in personnel costs. Of course, if these reductions were to include elimination of academic programs, the university would meet its obligations to student completion for students enrolled in affected programs.

Will GSU and the other public universities ever get an appropriation?

Yes, and we hope it will be soon. We are doing our best to communicate to state leaders the importance of higher education to the success of Illinois' economy and its intellectual and workforce development.

Is GSU in jeopardy of losing its accreditation?

No. GSU continues to meet or exceed the criteria for accreditation by the [Higher Learning Commission](#) of the North Central States and by various specialized accreditors in major fields.

What can members of the general public do to help?

Please spread the word about GSU's secure future and let [elected officials know](#) about your pride in this university and your expectation for state support.

Chicago, IL, January 30, 2017

GSU joins national campaign to uphold and continue protections offered by DACA

Dear GSU Community,

I'm writing to reassure you that Governors State University remains committed to supporting our students who are undocumented immigrant residents.

There is a growing national concern that the protections afforded by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), initiated by a Presidential Executive Order in 2012, will be reversed. GSU supports the continuation of DACA protections.

Since the launch of DACA, nearly 750,000 undocumented U.S. residents have obtained renewable work permits and temporary protection from deportation. This group is known as the DREAMers, after the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) of 2010, and many of them are college students brought to the U.S. as very young children. By participating in the DACA process, they have placed their trust in the government and have enriched our college campuses and communities.

GSU's President, Dr. Elaine P. Maimon, has joined more than 450 other college and university presidents in signing a statement supporting DACA and undocumented immigrant students. The [statement](#) seeks to ensure that the students in our classrooms, the student athletes on our teams, the leaders in our student organizations, the volunteers in our service programs, and their loved ones have sustained protections and are not once again burdened with fears and anxieties resulting from living in the shadows.



GSU will proudly continue to support our DREAMers. In 2015, we launched a [website](#) to serve as a clearinghouse for college-bound undocumented students. This resource outlines financial, institutional, and community resources for students and their families. In addition, programs and workshops are offered to educate faculty and staff on providing the necessary resources to assist undocumented students in pursuing and successfully completing their education at GSU. Many of the participating faculty and staff who serve as allies display a [nationally adopted illustration](#) that demonstrates support for DREAMers.

In July, following a sequence of national tragedies that affected all of us, President Maimon reminded us that “GSU is a family. And, like a family, we support each other. That will never change.” These words still ring true. Together, we must work to uphold our ideals that GSU, and our broader communities, are places where differences are embraced and respected.

If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please contact me directly.

Yours truly,

Dr. Aurélio Manuel Valente

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

www.govst.edu/studentaffairs | www.govst.edu/dos

<https://www.facebook.com/GSUDean>

<http://twitter.com/GSUDean>