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Longtime Democratic politician to teach students

April 6th, 2007 by - Central Monitor Staff · [2 Comments](#)

[Central Michigan University ended speculation](#) on who would become the next [Griffin endowed chairman](#) Friday by hiring state Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters.

Peters, a Democrat, was elected to the state Senate in 1995 and served two terms. In 2002, he was briefly a candidate for governor before dropping out to run for attorney general – a race he narrowly lost.

“As a former state senator, city councilman and candidate for Michigan attorney general, I look forward to sharing my nuts-and-bolts knowledge of public service with students at Central Michigan,” he said. “I am also looking forward to hosting forums that will explore some of the public policy challenges we face in Michigan.”

Peters wasn't sure if he would step down as lottery commissioner, saying it would be possible to moonlight.

“It's uncertain what I will be doing,” he said. “I may be exploring other career opportunities.”

While some people may be daunted by the prospect of teaching college students, he is ready and eager to bring real world experience to CMU.

“I always look at college and university as a lifelong learning process,” said Peters, who is working on a doctorate in political philosophy at Michigan State University.

The new Griffin chairman also has previous faculty experience teaching management at Oakland University and finance at Wayne State University. As a student, he graduated from Alma College with a bachelor's in political science before earning a master's in finance from the University of Detroit Mercy and a law degree from Wayne State University.

Peters says he will meet with both Bill Ballenger, the current Griffin chairman, and Craig Ruff, who had the position when it was first created in 1999, over the coming weeks to prepare himself and get an idea of what to expect when classes begin in the fall.

Ballenger's term officially ends in August. He will continue working as editor and publisher of Inside Michigan Politics.

“I think he is a very solid choice,” Ballenger said. “He obviously has outstanding credentials.”



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[...] Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters will earn \$65,000 a year as Central Michigan University's new Griffin [...]

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