ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
January 16, 2013


The minutes of December 5, 2012, were approved as distributed.

Dr. Becker announced that semi-annual status reports would become standard agenda items for the first meeting of Administrative Council each semester, including reports on fundraising, research, university strategic plan, University Senate, etc.

Revised Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Covey presented the revised Student Code of Conduct with streamlined language to lessen confusion about harassment reporting procedures in particular. Dr. Palm made a motion to approve. Dr. Alberto seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Council for the Progress of Cities

Dr. Banzhaf distributed two handouts concerning start-up of the Council for the Progress of Cities as set forth in the University Strategic Plan. A self-assessment program will seek to catalog current research activities by GSU faculty pertaining to cities. An external review committee of academic and practitioner members will focus on partnerships with various institutions, agencies, etc. A Board of Advisors will advise on creation of a road map for building the Council for the Progress of Cities. Four 2012 Cities Internal Grants were awarded to GSU faculty to jumpstart the strategic plan-based university focus on cities.

Dr. Morris likened the initial activities for cities to the completed life sciences review. Dr. Palm noted the importance of including library resources in the initial assessment. Dr. Morris commented on the enthusiasm of Atlanta Regional Commission representatives, who attended the John Kasarda lecture, for establishing new connections with GSU.

Centennial

Ms. Hines reviewed the schedule of upcoming Centennial events, and commended the Honors College and College of Education for their college events already held. Administrative Council members were urged to RSVP for the kickoff event on January 24, at The Plaza at 25 Park Place. Dr. Seamans noted the Centennial exhibit in the library opening January 18, 2013.

Enrollment/Admissions

Dr. Renick distributed updated Spring Semester 2013 enrollment figures and Spring Semester 2013 and Fall Semester 2013 admission figures. Year-to-date enrollment figures for Spring Semester 2013 were ahead of final figures for Spring Semester 2012 in overall headcounts and credit hours. The first fee drop was lower for Spring Semester 2013, largely due to the Panther Retention Grant program that addressed the needs of students with modest amounts owed.

New freshmen for Spring Semester 2013 were down from Spring Semester 2012 due to fewer students being deferred to Spring Semester 2013 acceptance. New transfers and graduate
students were up for Spring Semester 2013, more than offsetting the drop in new freshmen. Fall Semester 2013 admission figures were running well ahead of same date figures for Fall Semester 2012, including freshmen applying, freshmen admitted, and admitted freshmen with FI 3100 or above.

New information about graduation and retention rates including National Student Clearinghouse data showed remarkable progress in retaining students starting at GSU or graduating from GSU or elsewhere. For white students the 10-year comparisons showed an increase from 31.6% to 50.8% graduating from GSU and 76.9% graduating from GSU or elsewhere. For African American students the increases were from 25.6% to 55.2% and 75.8%. For Hispanic students the increases were from 22% to 66.4% and 95.2%. Dr. Becker noted there would be positive implications of this retention and graduation performance for GSU under the new USGa funding formula and requested a presentation on the new funding formula at a future meeting of Administrative Council.

Real Estate

Dr. Rackliffe outlined real estate developments: (1) occupancy of floors 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 14 in 25 Park Place (no longer to be called SunTrust); (2) availability of four partial floors in 1 Park Place with priority given in order to Institute of Public Health, College of Education, and Institutional Research for backfilling those vacated spaces; (3) design documents available for floors 1 and 2 in 100 Auburn Avenue (no longer to be called Atlanta Life) for the Welcome Center and Honors College and shortly for floor 5 for the senior university administration; (4) approval by Board of Regents of the $25 million (indirect cost recoveries) Science Park first-phase expansion project along with approval for GSU to manage the project directly; (5) construction underway of new power vaults for Classroom South will permit addition of a second tower annex to include a large auditorium classroom as well as several floors of teaching laboratories, which are in short supply as documented in the recent master plan update; (6) a developer is preparing the old Ramada hotel site at Piedmont and Dobbs for student housing in Fall Semester 2013 as the first such major, privately funded project arising from the influx of GSU students in that corridor; and (7) Romeo’s New York Pizza is opening in the former Panther Den location on the ground floor of 75 Piedmont.

Fundraising

Mr. Massey reported gifts totaling $3.6 million in December 2012 for a year-to-date total over $18 million compared to $10 million the preceding fiscal year. The number of donors was up 1,300 over the preceding fiscal year, and the total gifts for the preceding fiscal year should be exceeded during January 2013.

Legislature

Ms. Kerlin reported Governor Deal would make his budget recommendations to the legislature and deliver his State of the State address on January 17, 2013. The carryforward funds bill to continue exceptions to end-of-year lapsed funding for certain types of University System funds had already been dropped into the hopper for action this session. State revenues in December 2012 were up 9% from December 2011, but the year-to-date increase of 4.8% remained below the 5% budgeted increase. GSU Day at the Capitol will be February 6, 2013. Dr. Becker noted the potential impact of MediCare funding changes on the University System and other state agencies if a funding alternative to reallocation is not enacted. Ms. Kerlin noted the successful hosting of Mrs. Deal at the GSU Child Development Center on January 15, 2013.

University Senate

Dr. Reitzes outlined seven topics that University Senate ad hoc committees were addressing as Spring Semester 2013 began: (1) signature experience for undergraduates; (2) doctoral stipend
funding; (3) academic program review; (4) administration of graduate programs; (5) non-tenure track faculty manual; (6) graduate faculty status; and (7) faculty handbook.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker commented on issues to be in the forefront of the legislative session, including ethics, capital project funding (e.g., GSU College of Law building), transportation, etc. The GSU Marching Band will participate in the Inauguration Parade in Washington, DC on January 21, 2013.

Announcements

Ms. Levick announced that the annual Samaritan’s Foot benefit men’s basketball game against William & Mary would be played January 16, 2013, and a women’s game against Northeastern on January 17, 2013.