

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
August 7, 2013

Attendees: J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Pam Barr, Mark Becker, Larry Berman, Chris Connelly, Doug Covey, Irene Duhaime, Michael Eriksen, Lynda Goodfellow, Don Hale, Kerry Heyward, Chip Hill, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Pearl McHaney, Robin Morris, Linda Nelson, Risa Palm, Bharath Parthasarathy, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Nan Seamans, Rose Sevcik, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker, James Weyhenmeyer, Andrew Whyte

The minutes of June 5, 2013, were approved as distributed.

Staff Grievance Policy

Dr. Parthasarathy presented an overview of the revised staff grievance policy noting the changes were mainly intended to increase efficiency and standardization of the process. Ms. Nelson added the revised policy had been reviewed by the appropriate constituency groups including the Staff Council. The revised policy excludes letters of reprimand from the matters that can be addressed via the staff grievance process and removes vice presidential review as an alternative to the staff grievance board of review. The revised policy also establishes a pool of nominated board of review members, not exclusively members of Staff Council, from whom panels will be selected. Training will be provided to members of the pool regarding pertinent policies, procedures, etc.

Dr. Covey made a motion to approve the revised policy. Dr. Renick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment

Dr. Renick distributed a report on Fall Semester 2013 enrollments showing date-to-date comparisons with Fall Semester 2012 with modest increases in headcounts and credit hours. Headcounts were up approximately 400 students (300 undergraduates and 100 graduates). New freshmen were up approximately 200, and new graduate students were up approximately 270. Students classified as seniors were down approximately 400 reflecting greater success in graduating students. The numbers point to a record enrollment of new freshmen.

Quality indicators for the new freshmen show slight increases in SAT scores and high school grade point averages; however, the number of highly qualified new freshmen is up appreciably as reflected in the numbers for the Honors College. Six-year graduation rate indicators for the 2006, 2007 and 2008 cohorts are also up with the three years trending 51%, 53% and 56%.

Summer enrollments were up as a result of the Success Academy and effective communication of Pell Grant eligibility for summer new freshmen. The summer new freshmen count was also a record. GSU was the only USG institution with an increase in summer enrollments.

Research

Dr. Weyhenmeyer distributed reports on FY2013 sponsored funding awards showing an increase over FY2012 of 7% from \$66.5 million to \$71.1 million in spite of a more challenging climate for federal research funding. Federal funding totaled \$43.4 million placing GSU closer, if not above, the anticipated threshold for Top 200 recognition for FY2013. The largest percentage increases were for the College of Education (39%) and the College of Law (314%). Seventeen faculty had portfolios of \$1 million or more. Awards in the pipeline as of the first quarter of FY2014 point to another excellent year.

Fundraising

Mr. Massey reported FY2013 was a record year for fundraising with \$38.3 million received. The College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Law each exceeded \$10 million in fundraising. The next comprehensive campaign is building toward the total-in-hand for a public announcement with \$108 million already raised toward the \$300 million goal. The campaign planning committee is in place with an impressive membership set to function over the next 18 months.

President's Remarks

Dr. Becker announced Senator Johnny Isaacson was holding a US Senate field hearing on August 7, 2013, in the Student Center, on the management issues at the Atlanta VA hospital.

Dr. Becker called on Dr. Covey for comments on the recent student organization controversy. Dr. Covey stated that the organization was not a recognized student group and had not approached the Dean of Students Office for recognition as a student group. Without such recognition the group is not eligible to reserve rooms on campus for meetings or events and cannot receive student activity fee funding.

Dr. Becker announced the ribbon cutting for 100 Auburn Avenue will be on August 15, 2013, with Mayor Reed and Ambassador Young in attendance. The Welcome Center and the Honors College were in process of moving to the first and second floors respectively.

Dr. Becker called on Dr. Weyhenmeyer for an update on the construction of the next phase of the Science Park. Dr. Weyhenmeyer indicated the design of the seven-story tower was complete and construction would begin in 2014. The openness and flexibility of the space will facilitate collaborative research initiatives focusing on solving major problems facing humankind with both wet and dry labs accommodated as needed.

Dr. Becker expressed appreciation for the GSU Foundation board of trustees and real estate committee for their efforts to acquire or lease buildings quickly in response to small windows of opportunity for doing so (eg, 55 Park Place, Tower Place 200).

Dr. Becker called on Mr. Hale for an announcement of GSU participation in the Junior Achievement Finance Park at GWCC. Mr. Hale described the program that will bring 30,000 students in area middle schools to the facility for personal finances education. GSU, the only higher education participant, will have a store front pertaining to financing college education and featuring a faux dorm room.

Dr. Becker noted the national attention to the innovative student advisement system implemented by GSU, in particular designation as one of only two finalists for an APLU award.

Dr. Becker announced that the copyright lawsuit initially won by GSU will proceed to the federal appeals court in November, 2013.

Dr. Becker commented on the on-line master's degree program in computer science being offered by Georgia Tech and the need for GSU to be nimble and responsive to a changing delivery environment linked to the needs of the community.