Minutes of October 23, 2013


The minutes of September 4, 2013, were approved as distributed.

NCAA Compliance

Ms. Levick prefaced an overview of NCAA compliance rules with an update on transition from FCS to FBS football. GSU met the first-year requirements to proceed toward the second-year requirements for full FBS certification by the NCAA. The primary, remaining requirement is a 15,000-or-more average home game attendance once every two football seasons, which must be met in 2013. Future non-conference opponents will include Clemson and Washington in 2014, Oregon in 2015, and Air Force and Wisconsin in 2016.

Ms. Levick emphasized the institutional control aspects of NCAA compliance. Five key rules were explained: (1) no extra benefits for prospects or student-athletes; (2) no recruitment of prospects by unauthorized personnel; (3) no evaluation of prospects by unauthorized personnel; (4) no publicizing of recruitment activities; (5) no use of student-athletes for promotional purposes. GSU has never committed a major NCAA violation.

Institute for Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Weyhenmeyer presented for Administrative Council approval the establishment of the Institute for Biomedical Sciences, effective January 1, 2014. Dr. J.D. Li will be the first director. Dr. Palm made a motion for approval. Dr. Eriksen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Controlled Substances Policy

Dr. Weyhenmeyer introduced the proposed controlled (laboratory) substances policy reflecting research integrity and regulatory requirements. Dr. Chapman noted the policy had been developed in consultation with Legal Affairs, Purchasing, and other offices to cover purchase, registration, storage, usage, disposal, etc. issues. The policy was also reviewed by the University Senate Committee on Research. Dr. Weyhenmeyer made a motion for approval. Dr. Palm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minors in Laboratories Policy

Dr. Weyhenmeyer introduced the proposed minors in laboratories policy regarding persons aged 16-17 with provision for Lab I visits by persons 15 and under for educational purposes. Dr. Becker asked that the summary statement include mention of the 15 and under stipulation. Dr. Weyhenmeyer made a motion for approval. Dr. Romski seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Renick reported the Fall Semester 2013 census enrollment was 32,168. The follow-up of students dropped for failure to pay fees in full was key to reaching this enrollment record. New records were also noted in 4-, 5-, and 6-year graduation rates of 24.0%, 46.3% and 53.1%
respectively. GSU led all urban research universities with high Pell Grant participation in 6-year graduation rates. GSU also placed high in US News & World Report rankings for economic diversity, ethnic diversity and up-and-coming status at 15th, 11th and 14th respectively.

Budget Report

Dr. Rackliffe reported Fall Semester 2014 tuition revenues were 99.8% of the budgeted amount, well within the range of manageable adjustments. Natural gas expenditures have tripled in the first three months, a matter under investigation.

Legislative Report

Ms. Kerlin commented on an upcoming congressional committee appearance by Dr. Renick on the topic of innovation in higher education and a campus visit by Congressman John Lewis. The $7 million item for College of Law Building equipment remains on the USGa budget request, although no equipment funds were allocated by the legislature last year.

Student Government Association Report

Mr. Whyte presented information concerning the actions and priorities for the Student Government Association during 2013-14, such as S.M.A.R.T. goals, committee evaluations, smoke-free campus, sustainability, Panther Pride, transportation, Organizations United, and library hours. The SGA is supporting the establishment of a Green Fee and Library Fee through the reallocation of the expiring Library Transformation Fee and seeking participation on committees to recommend expenditures of those fees.

President's Remarks

Dr. Becker commented on the naming ceremony for the baby pandas at Zoo Atlanta and noted GSU partnerships with the zoo.

Dr. Becker reminded that the five-week GSU International Month would be observed in November 2013, with each week devoted to one of the five countries for which GSU is building deep relationships in keeping with the University Strategic Plan.

Dr. Becker announced opportunities for GSU faculty to teach in South Korea at a top English language university during the summer for $10K per course plus travel, living expenses, etc.

Dr. Becker commented on the need to create a more scholarly community on campus, with reference to the poor attendance at the Centennial Lecture Series event on the arts.

Announcements

Dr. Huss announced the J. Mack Robinson College of Business executive MBA program has been ranked #51 in the world by the Financial Times. The College of Law was ranked #24 in the US by Tipping the Scales.

Dr. Berman announced that for the first time a GSU student is a finalist for a Marshall Scholarship.