

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
March 5, 2014

Attendees: Paul Alberto, Pam Barr, Mark Becker, Larry Berman, Chandler Brown, Lynda Brown-Wright, Chris Connelly, Doug Covey, Laura Fredrick, Lynda Goodfellow, Fred Grant, Don Hale, Kerry Heyward, Chip Hill, Fenwick Huss, Julie Kerlin, Cheryl Levick, Tom Lewis, Jun Liu, Bill Long, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Robin Morris, Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, Don Reitzes, Tim Renick, Sterling Roth, Rose Sevcik, Tammy Sugarman, Andrea Thornton, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker, Peggy Wilmoth, Sallie Wright

The minutes of January 7, 2014, were approved as distributed.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

Dr. Covey presented the proposed changes to the sexual misconduct policy, which included clearer definitions of terms, incorporation of language in the Federal law pertaining to such, and alignment with related sections of the student conduct policy. The revisions were endorsed by Legal Affairs and the Senate Student Life Committee. Communication plans were in place for distribution of the revised policy to all students. Distribution to all faculty and staff would also occur. Dr. Heyward made a motion to adopt the proposed changes. Dr. Renick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Travel Warning Policy

Dr. Heyward presented the proposed travel warning policy pertaining to travel by university personnel to countries listed on the travel advisory list of the US Department of State. The policy requires appropriate unit head approvals for all such travel on university business and is consistent with policies of other research universities. The policy was endorsed by Legal Affairs and the Senate Research Committee. Dr. Palm made a motion to adopt the policy. Dr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FERPA Information

Dr. Heyward presented changes to the FERPA policy, mainly clerical, but clarifying instructions as to how students can allow access to designated persons and adding class level as an element of directory information that the university is allowed to release. Interpretation of FERPA is in flux.

Center for State and Local Finance

Dr. Walker presented the proposed Center for State and Local Finance, which would address research issues of a broader scope than the existing Fiscal Research Center and extend its work beyond the State of Georgia. The creation of the new center would enable the FRC to focus entirely on evaluative work for state government entities. Dr. Renick made a motion to approve the new center. Dr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Global Studies Institute

Dr. Long presented the proposed Global Studies Institute, which would pursue Goal #5 of the University Strategic Plan to advance globalization. GSI would organize undergraduate and graduate degree programs in global studies, expand language offerings in the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, collaborate with other GSU colleges, etc. A similar institute at Indiana University served as a model for the GSU proposal. GSI would primarily leverage existing assets; however, a 2CI-like proposal has resulted in university funding of the director position plus three faculty positions. Dr. Alberto made a motion to approve the new institute. Dr. Renick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

1913 Society

Mr. Brown invited nominations for the 1913 Society for 2014-15. The goal is to have representation from all colleges, athletics, and other areas. More than 180 students attending an open house event submitted applications; however some units were not represented or were under-represented from the voluntary stage of membership selection.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Renick reported Spring Semester 2014 enrollments were down approximately 100 students in headcounts, but up approximately 1,800 credit hours due to increased average course loads. The drop in enrollment was attributed largely to a drop in the number of students classified as students because of graduation (a good outcome), and a drop in the number of new students due to the increased use of the Success Academy in the summer to work with students, who previously would have been delayed for Spring Semester admission. Transfers were also down reflecting the loss of enrollment at Georgia Perimeter College, the top source of transfers to GSU, and the merger of Gainesville College with University of North Georgia allowing continuous enrollment to four-year degree completion. Other factors were the ice storms intersecting the drop date deadlines and re-registration.

Dr. Renick reported GSU was accepted as a participating institution in the Common Application group of institutions with implementation effective for Fall Semester 2015 applicants.

Dr. Renick noted the productivity of the new University Advisement Center with more than 34,000 visits to date. Students changing majors are not required to have a face-to-face with an adviser.

Budget Report

Dr. Rackliffe reported Spring Semester 2014 tuition revenues met the budget although by a different way than originally projected. As noted in the enrollment report, the number of students taking full course loads increased while the number of students taking partial course loads decreased, with a favorable net effect.

Legislative Report

Ms. Kerlin reported on various pieces of legislation affecting the University System of Georgia, including property tax exemptions for public-private partnerships for student housing, which had passed the House. The ORP-to-TRS conversion bill was tabled and not in a favorable status. The gun bill was in the Senate with campus possession with a permit modified from a felony to a misdemeanor subject to a \$100 fine. Equipment funding for College of Law project was still in the budget. A budget reduction of \$15.5M for the University System was under consideration based on \$7.5M in projected savings from mergers of institutions and \$8M for out-of-state waivers in excess of the approved amount for the University System.

President's Remarks

Dr. Becker commented on the status of the public-private partnerships for student housing noting the crucial property tax exemption would still be subject to a public vote, even if the legislation was passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor. Demand for student housing indicates 1,000 additional beds could be filled immediately. Off-loading of existing debt on student housing could enable construction of additional residence halls to help meet this need.

Dr. Becker stated that the FY2015 budget would include pay raise dollars for the University System, but for the first time at a lower rate than the K-12 sector of public education. Institutional

funds would be required on top of the state appropriation for this purpose. The average merit raise and allowable range of raises were not known pending decisions by the Board of Regents.

Dr. Becker reported on a White House summit he attended concerning higher education accessibility and affordability, noting concern about advising students in middle and high schools about preparation for college, the complexity of the FASPA financial aid process, etc. The Gates Foundation and other prominent foundations have been focusing on such issues. GSU has been at the forefront of the discussion as one of a small number of institutions identified as Next Generation Universities.

Announcements

Ms. Levick announced that the men's and women's basketball seniors would be honored at their last home games on March 8.