ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
October 8, 2014


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 2, 2014, were approved as distributed.

Creative Industries Institute

Dr. Long presented the proposed Creative Industries Institute in the College of Arts & Sciences, which will enable GSU to become a leader in the education of students for professional positions in new creative industries. The Creative Industries Institute will be the hub for GSU engagement and leadership in the creative industries initiatives of state government and the University System of Georgia. While based in the College of Arts & Sciences, the Creative Industries Institute will also draw on expertise in the Robinson College of Business and the College of Law related to entrepreneurship, intellectual property law, etc. The Creative Industries Institute will leverage partnerships with production companies, news organizations, etc. in Metro Atlanta and other parts of the state and pursue establishment of an on-campus, state-of-the-art production facility. Dr. Cheshier added that GSU is already in the middle of the action in this field with local creative industry leaders turning to GSU for assistance and Governor Deal hosting an event at GSU with creative industry leaders from across the state.

Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to approve the establishment of the Creative Industries Institute. Dr. Long seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Tobacco & Smoke-Free Campus Policy

Dr. Heyward presented the proposed, revised Tobacco & Smoke-Free Campus Policy, which complies with the new University System policy. The revised policy is more explicit in defining tobacco and smoking products covered, including electronic cigarettes. Signage and health promotion programming in keeping with the new University System policy is already in place.

Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to approve the revised Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy. Dr. Berman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Fundraising Report

Mr. Massey reported the third year of $30 million plus fundraising results, with $30.4 million for FY2014. The GSU endowment stands at $127M. The next comprehensive campaign is scheduled for launch in October 2015 with a goal of $300 million. Each dean will submit a statement of need this year for use during the campaign. Pre-launch efforts are expected to yield approximately 50% of the goal. Among recent notable gifts, Ken Lewis has given $5 million for faculty support in the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing & Health Professions.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Becker reported 2014 fall semester enrollments topped 32,550 for the first time with credit hours also up by 10,000. These numbers were reached in spite of a decline in high school
graduates in Georgia from the previous year. GSU received fewer freshman applications than the previous year, but the yield rate was substantially higher, an indication of more students having GSU as a first choice institution. Housing demand remained strong with over 800 on the waiting list in spite of the opening and apparently full occupancy of the One 12 private venture student housing at the corner of Courtland Street and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. GSU will pursue additional on-campus housing for fall semester 2016 in the range of 750-1,000 additional beds.

Mr. Rackliffe added that overall graduate enrollments had stabilized year-to-year. The College of Education achieved a gain in graduate enrollments.

Research Report

Dr. Becker reported first quarter FY2015 research grants were up 15% over the preceding, record setting year. Federal grants, most notably NIH grants, continued to rise with the federal portion of the total portfolio surpassing 70%. The growth in the federal grants has largely occurred since the opening of the Petit Science Center, and the indirect cost recoveries have enabled plans to proceed for construction of another tower in the Petit Science Center Park with groundbreaking in December 2014. The initial approved budget of $25 million would not allow build-out of all floors; however, the Board of Regents may entertain an amended budget to complete the building.

President’s Remarks

In addition to the enrollment and research reports, Dr. Becker noted national recognition of GSU for its leadership role in the new University Innovation Alliance announced in Washington, DC in September 2014. The first major project for the alliance will concern predictive analytics as implemented by GSU in tracking academic progress of students and now targeted for student financial assistance monitoring as well.

Dr. Becker called attention to new entrepreneurship initiatives under leadership of Drs. Morris and Phillips. Dr. Morris commented on entrepreneurship workshops for students to be offered at CURVE by the Robinson College of Business and culminating with a business plan competition, and the prospect of providing incubator space for entrepreneurs. Dr. Phillips added that discussions among the deans were underway for creating an entrepreneurship minor that could accompany undergraduate majors across the university.

Dr. Becker reported on his visit to the Guangzhou Overseas High School staffed by three PhD students from the GSU College of Education. Classes are taught in English with 10 Chinese students enrolled plus one American student, the child of one of the GSU teachers. Dr. Alberto indicated the College of Education would also seek to place undergraduate student teachers at Guangzhou in future years. All costs are covered by tuition paid by the Chinese student families.

Dr. Becker reminded that Homecoming would be October 10-11, 2014. Mr. Massey reported good response to invitations to Homecoming events.

Dr. Becker stated that the Atlanta Braves had broken ground on their new stadium complex in Marietta; however, the Georgia State Supreme Court was hearing a case pertaining to the public bonds essential to the project in early 2015. A firm date for Turner Field repurposing proposals cannot be set until the court rules on the bonds issue.

Dr. Becker reported that Atlanta Streetcar test runs have begun and will continue toward a start of public operation in November-December 2014. Rides will initially be free. Economic activity along the Auburn Avenue corridor is already showing signs of improvement.

Announcements
Dr. Kaminshine announced creation of the GSU Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans, a collaboration of the GSU ROTC, the State Bar of Georgia, and the College of Law.

Dr. Morris announced the campus presentation on diversity and inclusiveness by Dr. John Gates on October 8, 2014.

Dr. Alberto announced a revised teacher education grant in the amount of $8 million.

Ms. Kerlin announced elections on November 4, 2014, including a ballot item for tax exempt status for public-private partnerships for student housing. Runoffs for state offices will be December 2, 2014. Runoffs for federal offices (US Senate) will be January 6, 2015.

Dr. Liu announced International Education Week for November 17-21, 2014, featuring all five GSU task force-designated nations.

Dr. Phillips announced the Robinson College of Business team in the prestigious National Black MBA Case Competition won first place.