ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
January 14, 2015


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 2, 2014, were approved.

Enrollment

Dr. Renick presented preliminary figures for Spring Semester 2015 enrollments, which showed year-to-year gains in overall and undergraduate headcounts and overall credit hours and year-to-year drops in graduate, new freshman, new transfer, and new graduate headcounts. These comparisons were less meaningful than in previous years because of weather-related anomalies in early 2014, and in any case, subject to change with add-drop processes, late registration, etc. The decline in new freshmen was attributed to the Summer Success Academy alternative to delayed admission. The decline in transfers was attributed to reduced enrollment at the top feeder, Georgia Perimeter, two years ago and the effect of the consolidation of another feeder, Gainesville, with North Georgia.

Dr. Renick cited promising figures for Fall Semester 2015 enrollments, most notably gains in overall freshman applications, freshman early action admissions, and various early action cohort measures including HSGPA, freshman index, above 1400 SAT, above 1600 SAT, above 3000 freshman index, and out-of-state admissions. The gains in out-of-state admissions were linked to the Common Application and admission counselors sent to targeted urban areas. The most heavily represented states were not the usual neighboring states, but instead states with similar urban areas. Early action offers are not binding so yield from these applicants will await the national deadline of May 1, 2015. The Honors College was a major beneficiary of early action admissions, and these prospective students help to expand the pool of President Scholar candidates.

Dr. Armistead commented on the drop in graduate student enrollments. Graduate enrollment trends vary across colleges and within colleges by program. In many cases these trends reflect national trends in the fields of study. Yield rates for acceptance-to-enrollment are also down and increase the problem for GSU. The solution will have to be multi-faceted as there is not one answer.

Legislature

Ms. Kerlin reported the legislative session began January 12, 2015. The State of the State address focused primarily on transportation and K-12 education. The higher education committees will have new leadership in this session. The $4.9 million Classroom South expansion project was not on the capital projects list submitted by Governor Deal; however, the project could be funded by non-earmarked funds for capital projects left for legislative determination.

Ms. Kerlin also noted the start-up of the new Congress and efforts to work with new and returning members of the Georgia delegation. A weekly newsletter will be sent out by the GSU Government and Community Affairs Office with updates for both the legislature and Congress.
Dr. Becker added that the Classroom South expansion project is critical to decommissioning Kell Hall. The project addresses the resulting need for teaching laboratories as well as the shortage of teaching labs identified in the latest update of the campus master plan.

Consolidation

Dr. Becker reported feedback about the consolidation of GSU and GPC had been predominantly positive from a variety of constituencies. A consolidation implementation steering committee of approximately 20 members from both institutions will form shortly. Administrative Council members were invited to submit nominations for the steering committee to Dr. Palm for faculty and students and to Dr. Becker for administrators. Other research universities with two-year, associate degree campuses, such as Penn State, South Carolina, Cincinnati, Houston and Kent State, will provide models for consideration in shaping the configuration of the two-year college within the university. The process will be monitored by change management software used by the Board of Regents for previous consolidations and paced to meet the deadline for submission of the consolidation plan to SACS.

Mr. Lewis commented that reactions at the Capitol had been complimentary. Dr. Renick added that only one fourth of GSU students start at GSU, and that GPC transfers have graduated at approximately the same rate as students who started at GSU as new freshmen. Dr. Renick also noted that IPEDS data used for various national institutional comparisons would be separated for the downtown campus.

Athletics

Mr. Cobb announced that 14 football recruits enrolled for Spring Semester 2015, including five players from the discontinued UAB program, plus 3 “gray shirt” recruits delayed from Fall Semester 2014 to Spring Semester 2015.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker mentioned an article in the Chronicle of Education pointing to the brain effects of diminished, blood flow-stimulating exercise with the abandonment of physical education requirements.

Dr. Becker reported July 1-December 31, 2014 fundraising totaled $29.6 million or 93% of the original fiscal year goal. The public announcement of the capital campaign is now scheduled for October 2015 with approximately $175 million realized thus far during the silent phase.

Dr. Becker noted a planning meeting for the next residence hall construction project was scheduled following the Administrative Council meeting. The new hall will have 1,100 beds and a 24-hour dining hall to serve students at all of the Piedmont Avenue residence halls after hours.

Dr. Becker announced construction has begun on the next phase of the Science Park.