ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
February 5, 2015


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 14, 2015, were approved.

Mid-year Research Report

Dr. Weyhenmeyer reported a record first-half-of-the-year research report with awards totaling $52.7 million, approximately 30% ahead of the prior year. Arts & Sciences ($15.4 million), Education ($13.1 million) and Public Health ($10.2 million) were the top three recipients. National Institutes of Health ($14.4 million), Department of Education ($6.5 million) and National Science Foundation ($4.6 million) were the top three sponsors. With the first and fourth quarters historically the strongest quarters for awards, the $52.7 million total after the first and second quarters points to a record portfolio for the entire year. The increase has been more attributable to the size of proposals and awards rather than the number of proposals and awards.

Dr. Weyhenmeyer announced Dr. Ming-hui Zou and his group will arrive March 3, 2015 with nine R01 awards totaling $27 million. Only four PI’s in the nation have six or more R01 awards. The Georgia Research Alliance provided funding for this eminent scholar appointment as part of the heart disease focus.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Renick reported Spring Semester 2015 enrollments were up slightly in headcounts and more significantly in credit hours with final drop/adds still to be recorded. Fall Semester 2015 admission numbers continued to run ahead of Fall Semester 2014 in applications, admissions and confirmations. Honors College admissions were up 41%, and the pool of Presidential Scholar candidates was exceptionally strong.

Dr. Renick shared new graphs plotting (1) graduation rates versus terms taken to complete undergraduate degrees by department, and (2) grade point averages versus terms taken to graduate for the 2008 freshman cohort.

Dr. Berman encouraged participation in the March 6, 2015 luncheon for Presidential Scholar candidates in order to help boost the yield rate.

Legislative Report

Ms. Kerlin reported GSU Day at the Capitol reaped many compliments from legislators and staff. GSU was lauded for RPG achievements by Chancellor Huckaby in his budget presentation. The GSU legislative interns have again been well received. Medical marijuana and transportation legislation had dominated attention during the first ten days of the session. Groundwork continues on building legislative support for the $4.9 million Classroom South expansion project, which was not on the capital projects list submitted by Governor Deal.

P3 Update
Dr. Rackliffe reported the P3 student housing project will be rapidly moving forward with demolition of two buildings on the Piedmont Avenue side of the block. The project will provide 1,142 beds and a 15,000 square foot dining hall, which will be the largest of the dining facilities along the Piedmont Avenue student housing corridor. The new dining hall will become the weekday overnight dining option.

Dr. Rackliffe pointed out that Corvias, the private developer partner, had made contributions to the foundations of each institution involved in P3 projects. GSUF received $170,000 for student scholarships.

Dr. Covey added that demand for student housing continues to be strong with housing applications from freshman applicants up 150 year-to-date. Dr. Covey also commented on the gender inclusive housing options in the news recently. The greatest interest in mixed gender accommodations has come from siblings. The separate bedroom and bath configurations of the GSU residence halls make the gender inclusive options easier to implement.

Consolidation Update

Dr. Becker announced the implementation committee for the consolidation of GSU and GPC had formed with the two presidents and 20 members from each institution on the committee. Chancellor Huckaby gave the committee its charge at its first meeting on January 30, 2015, and functional area groups were already meeting regularly to address details. The consolidation of student academic records (Banner) will be the most complicated process, as borne out in previous consolidations. Mapping of student data fields is hampered by differing definitions of those data fields between institutions. Registration of students, financial aid processing and employee payroll are critical elements of the consolidation systems migration plan.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker and Dr. Morris commented on the Student Start-up Madness Tournament in Austin, Texas for student entrepreneurs with GSU among eight invitees (also Bucknell, Cornell, Michigan State, Washington-St. Louis, Chicago, Michigan, and Washington-Tacoma).

Dr. Becker announced 80 representatives from the other 10 members of the University Innovation Alliance would be on campus February 9-10, 2015 for the first of a series of member campus visits.

Dr. Becker reiterated the importance of the Classroom South expansion project to moving forward with the demolition of Kell Hall and the master plan update.

Dr. Becker noted the news coverage of the student art project suspected as a roadside explosive device. Dr. Long reported good meetings of the police with the faculty member and the student regarding the matter and measures to avoid a recurrence.