ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
March 5, 2015


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 5, 2015, were approved.

Consolidation

Dr. Lyons reported 43 committees with GSU and GPC representation, plus several subcommittees, received charges on March 26, 2015, to proceed with planning for GSU-GPC consolidation. Four areas to be addressed apart from the committee process were space, finances, personnel, and organizational structure. GSU policy will supersede GPC policy, except in cases of no corresponding GSU policy. The GSU vice presidential level organizational structure will absorb the respective GPC units. The committees will work Spring 2015 and Summer 2015 to meet the September 2015 deadline for submission of the consolidated institution documents to SACS for approval December 2015. Board of Regents approval would then come in January 2016.

Center for Intellectual Property

Dr. Kaminshine and Dr. Heled presented the proposed Center for Intellectual Policy in the College of Law, which will provide a formal structure for a variety of existing College of Law intellectual property and entrepreneurship initiatives and facilitate expansion of those endeavors in collaboration with other colleges. Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to approve the new center. Dr. Palm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

USG Retiree Health Benefits

Dr. Rackliffe distributed information concerning changes in USG retiree healthcare coverage. Supplemental healthcare coverage for Medicare eligible retirees will be available through a private healthcare exchange rather than through the USG BC/BS plan. This approach will provide cost savings for the USG and potentially for retirees because of larger insured groups and selective personalized coverages.

Department of World Languages and Cultures

Dr. Long and Dr. Nicholls presented the proposed name change of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages to the Department of World Languages and Cultures. The name change is consistent with the national trend and reflects connections to the broader world community beyond Europe as portrayed in the University Strategic Plan. Dr. Long made a motion to approve the name change. Dr. Eriksen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Renick distributed admissions data for Fall Semester 2015 showing gains in numbers and quality year-to-date for new freshmen compared to Fall Semester 2014. Freshman applications were on a pace to set a new record. Transfer applications trailed the previous year, but transfer
admits were slightly ahead. Forty-two Presidential Scholarship finalists were to be on campus March 6. The finalist pool is the strongest in the history of the program. Dr. Berman urged participation in the finalist luncheon to encourage these outstanding students to enroll at GSU.

Dr. Renick also distributed new tables plotting one-year retention and six-year graduation rates by unmet demand bands for cohorts. Unmet demand remains the strongest indicator of academic performance, even as retention and graduation rates continue to climb. Diminishing percentages of costs covered by HOPE and Pell Grants are aggravating the unmet demand problems for students.

Budget Report

Dr. Rackliffe reminded that the summer tuition revenues are no longer booked in one fiscal year, but rather across both fiscal years intersecting the summer, so that final revenue figures are unknown going into the traditional June end-of-year sweep month. While tuition revenues to date are sufficient, it is important that aggressive encouragement of summer enrollments be pursued.

Legislative Report

Mr. Lewis reported the $4.9 million Classroom South expansion project for teaching laboratories was added to the budget by the House of Representatives and on-going efforts to secure support by the Senate remained a top priority. Legislators have spoken very positively about the GSU-GPC consolidation.

Mr. Lewis requested that the deans remind faculty members that the name of GSU should not be used in any way in advocating personal causes with legislators including the use of GSU email, addresses/titles with their signatures, computers, etc. Instances of such have created difficult situations with legislators whose support of GSU-related legislation is crucial.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker noted accomplishments in student entrepreneurship competitions, including 3 of 4 GSU student teams entered in a 22-team Georgia Tech competition making the 6-team finals.

Dr. Becker pointed out that GSU research expenditures grew 30% between FY2009 and FY2013 versus national growth of 13%. This growth rate was surpassed only by a few elite private research universities.

Dr. Becker and Dr. Rackliffe commented on the high demand for student housing and the likelihood that the new housing adjacent to Centennial Hall will be filled upon completion. The sculpture studio at the corner of Edgewood Ave. and Piedmont Ave. is being moved to make way for the next housing capital project of a similar scale to Patton Hall.

Dr. Becker reported visits to all of the campuses of GPC as consolidation processes continue. The GPC on-line course delivery assets have great potential for expansion including GSU courses. Merging data systems will be the greatest challenge for meeting the deadlines for Fall Semester 2016.

Announcements

Dr. Berman commented on his experience with the Anthem data breech and associated ID fraud.

Mr. Massey announced Pete Petit will chair the upcoming university fundraising campaign, and Brad Ferrer and Cathy Henson will be co-chairs.