ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
November 4, 2015


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 1, 2015, were approved.

Policy on Study Abroad Program Eligibility

Dr. Heyward presented the proposed Policy on Study Abroad Eligibility addressing who can be program directors, assistants to program directors, and student participants. The proposed policy listed by title, faculty who could serve as program directors. Dr. Phillips requested that professors of practice be added to that list. Dr. Heyward made a motion to approve the proposed policy with the requested addition of professors of practice. Dr. Renick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Staff Grievance Policy

Dr. Heyward presented the proposed revision of the Staff Grievance Policy reflecting the anticipated consolidation with Georgia Perimeter College. The policy also changes the number of calendar days to file complaints from 30 days to 10 days. Dr. Heyward made a motion to approve the revised policy. Dr. Kaminshine seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Consolidation

Dr. Lyons reported the USG Council on General Education had approved the proposed general education core for the consolidated institution as approved by the University Senate.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Walker reported the Strategic Plan Update Committee had a number of new and changed initiatives to consider for the 5-year update of the University Strategic Plan. Focus groups, town halls and web site input were providing information for the work of the committee. Meetings would be scheduled with the Enrollment Services leadership team and the deans for discussion of the proposed initiatives. Dr. Morris noted low participation in the on-line survey and requested assistance in reminding faculty and staff to take advantage of that means of input.

Enrollment

Dr. Renick reported more than 15,000 students had already registered for Spring Semester 2016. Transfer applications, admits, and confirmed for Spring Semester 2016 were running ahead of year-to-date counts for the previous year. Freshman applications for Fall Semester 2016 year-to-date were up 96% from the previous year, including a significant increase in the number of Honors College prospects.

The 2014-2015 degrees confirmed count of 7,601 was an all-time record, including among the bachelor's degree graduates 1,829 African Americans, 435 Hispanics, and 2,503 Pell recipients. Graduation rates for African Americans and Hispanics exceeded that for whites, as did the rates
for Pell recipients over non-Pell students and first generation students over non-first generation students. Graduation rates are adversely affected by talented students, who enroll as freshmen with the intention of transferring to another institution, usually Georgia Tech or the University of Georgia.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker noted recent articles in the AJC concerning the process for determining the future of Turner Field area, including the proposal under development by Carter & Associates and Georgia State.

Dr. Becker reported research awards for FY2016 had exceeded $50 million in only 3 months, setting a pace well ahead of the record set in FY2015.

Dr. Becker commented on the successful kickoff for the Burning Bright Campaign with $197 million pledged toward the $300 million goal. SunTrust has given $2 million for establishing of a financial counseling center to apply data analytics to address developing financial issues in the manner of the student success model implemented for academic counseling. One problem to be addressed is the burn rate of using financial aid, which can result in students exhausting financial resources prior to graduation.

Dr. Renick elaborated on the financial counseling and Achieve Atlanta initiatives, in particular regarding efforts to increase the number of Atlanta Public Schools students pursuing postsecondary education and succeeding.

Dr. Becker called attention to ongoing problems with course planning and scheduling that impede degree completion. Dr. Palm noted that 65 courses for Spring Semester 2016 were completely filled after only 4 days of registration. Reallocations from low demand areas to high demand areas will be necessary in order to address the problem.

Announcements

Dr. Berman announced the Honors College Founders Lecturer will be Donna Gambrell speaking on why race and place matter.

Dr. Phillips announced the Robinson College of Business Alumni Awards Celebration on November 5.