ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
February 10, 2016


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 11, 2016, were approved.

Cyber Security Charter

Mr. Flot reported the draft Cyber Security Charter presented at the January 11, 2016 meeting of Administrative Council had been reviewed by the Senate Research Committee and Senate Information Systems and Technology Committee with favorable comments from both. Non-substantive wording and formatting change suggestions were received and would be incorporated.

Mr. Ventimiglia made a motion to approve the Cyber Security Charter with the wording and formatting changes as mentioned. Dr. Palm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Research Misconduct Policy

Dr. Weyhenmeyer presented the draft revised Research Misconduct Policy necessitated by changes in federal guidelines. The revised policy will address misconduct by staff and others as well as faculty and will outline more completely disciplinary and reporting actions. Dr. Lombard also noted attention to timing issues, recordkeeping, and inquiry panels. Dr. Heyward reported the Senate Research Committee had reviewed and endorsed the draft policy.

Dr. Weyhenmeyer made a motion to approve the Research Misconduct Policy as presented. Dr. Alberto seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Weyhenmeyer stated his office would distribute the revised policy campus-wide.

Center for Access to Justice

Dr. Lucas presented an overview of the proposed Center for Access to Justice in the College of Law. The center will address access to legal counsel for low income persons, especially in civil suits given the lack of a right to attorney for such suits. The center will have a three-prong mission: collaborations of academics, policy makers, etc. to address the needs; research on the issues; and education of students pursuing related careers. The center will be the only one of its kind in the Southeast and will take advantage of its location in Atlanta.

Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to approve the Center for Access to Justice as presented. Dr. Palm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Walker reported the Strategic Plan Update Committee was nearing a final draft of the updated University Strategic Plan. The committee will meet with Dr. Becker to receive feedback on the
draft and will also meet with the deans and associate deans for the same purpose. Following those meetings the final draft will be uploaded to the strategic planning web site for comments. Dr. Fredrick added that the proposed update would then go to the Senate Executive Committee and then to the University Senate at its April meeting. Dr. Morris stated that a brochure describing the accomplished during the first five years of the existing University Strategic Plan would be released concurrently with the release of the proposed updated plan.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Renick distributed reports of Spring Semester 2016 enrollments and Fall Semester 2016 admissions. Spring Semester 2016 headcounts were down approximately 300 from Spring Semester 2015, while Spring Semester 2016 credit hours were up approximately 300. Spring semester credit hours have increased annually for 11 years. The drop in headcounts was entirely due to a drop in graduate students, a multi-year trend of great concern. Spring Semester 2016 Perimeter College headcounts were approximately 20,300, bringing total headcounts for the newly consolidated institution to approximately 50,800.

Dr. Renick noted exceptionally encouraging numbers for Fall Semester 2016 admissions. Freshman applications for Fall Semester 2016 are up approximately 3,300 (35%) over Fall Semester 2015, which is the current all-time record. Freshman admits for Fall Semester 2016 are up approximately 900 (25%) over Fall Semester 2015, also the current record. Both in-state and out-of-state freshman admits were up approximately 25%. The freshman quality indices were also up in high school GPA, SAT, ACT and Freshman Index. Honors College freshman admits were up approximately 100 (15%).

Dr. Berman reminded that the Presidential Scholars Day will be March 11, 2016, with 40 students vying for 9 Presidential Scholarships. The quality of the 2016 finalists exceeds all prior years with average high school GPA 3.97, SAT 1417, ACT 33, and Freshman Index 3434. Only 2 of the 2015 finalists would have projected as finalists for 2016. The deans, associate deans, department chairs, etc. were urged to engage all of the finalists during their day on campus in order to maximize the yield from this outstanding pool of candidates.

Dr. Renick reported Fall Semester 2016 transfer applications were slightly up, including 274 transition applications from students at Perimeter College. Transfer applications are usually received later in the preceding academic year by comparison with freshman applications.

Dr. Renick reviewed trends with unmet need for undergraduate and graduate students. Unmet need for graduate students was down approximately $300 in Fall Semester 2015 from Fall Semester 2016, probably reflecting the improving job market. Unmet need for undergraduates was up approximately $200, but the increase was less than in recent years. Out-of-state students because of higher tuition and seniors having exhausted Pell Grant awards account in part for the higher unmet needs among undergraduate students.

Dr. Renick presented information concerning initiatives to prepare students for careers better from a professional standpoint. A new portal has been developed for educating majors about career opportunities. An ePortfolio platform branded for Georgia State and with a LinkedIn connection is being launched for students to build their resumés for experiential/service learning, leadership, etc. This ePortfolio service will also be made available to Georgia State alumni. Faculty training will be offered for those wishing to engage their students in this program.

Legislative Update

Ms. Kerlin reported on the legislative session, which would be at the midway point February 12, 2016. Cross-over day will be February 29, 2016, and the projected sine die day will be March 24, 2016. FY2017 budget hearings were underway. Examples of legislation in process pertaining to higher education included the carryforward bill, the campus gun carry bill, and several HOPE
scholarship bills. Project funding proposals pertaining to Georgia State included the demolition of Kell Hall and a renovation project at the Alpharetta Center. Mr. Lewis commented on voiced concerns about due process policies and procedures for campus disciplinary cases. Mr. Parra reported the Student Government Association had passed a resolution opposing campus gun carry bills largely out of concern about exacerbating the existing problem of student suicides.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker announced Governor Deal had proposed funding of 3% merit-based raises for University System faculty and staff. University System institutions will likely not have tuition increases for FY2017 [since confirmed].

Dr. Becker commented on steps taken to heighten security in the University Library, including additional police presence, more thorough checking of IDs of patrons, plans to install biometric scanning devices at entrances, upgrading of the ID system to remove persons no longer affiliated with Georgia State more quickly and consistently, additional surveillance cameras, etc.

Dr. Lyon reported Perimeter College enrollments were down for Spring Semester 2016. Reorganization efforts were unfolding with reclassification or elimination of approximately one-third of department chair positions and similar reductions in the number of deans. Fifteen RIFs had been completed with 8 of those on the downtown campus and 7 at Perimeter College campuses. University Senate action will be needed on a number of policies relating to consolidation prior to the SACS site visit in Fall Semester 2016 regarding the required SACS substantive change report.

Dr. Palm announced the status of searches including the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness [Jonathan Gayles subsequently appointed], Associate Provost for International Initiatives, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Assistant Provost for Administrative Operations.

Dr. Becker commented on the undocumented student controversy noting that the policy excluding undocumented students from in-state tuition eligibility was a Board of Regents policy, which the Georgia State Supreme Court had refused to overturn on the basis of sovereign immunity of the board as a whole. The ruling had opened the door for suits against individual members of the board, which were being pursued by the plaintiffs.

Announcements

Dr. Kaminshine announced the Miller Lecture Series would focus on US Supreme Court transparency from a journalist perspective with a panel of journalists rather than a single speaker.