ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
April 6, 2016


Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 3, 2016, were approved.

College of the Arts

Dr. Weast presented a video on the new College of the Arts outlining its mission, structure and connectivity. The July 1, 2016 launch of the college will be only the beginning of implementation. Among a number of decisions not yet made is the relationship of the Creative Media Industries Institute to the new college. Dr. Berman noted positive impact on recruitment of some Honors College students. Dr. Becker commented on the goal to join USC and NYU as frontrunners among colleges in urban settings.

Consolidation

Dr. Lyons reported on efforts to correct an issue with consolidation of Banner records, which was impacting registration for Perimeter College students. Searches are underway for 13 disciplinary area chairs. State Farm, which is located close to the Dunwoody campus, is initiating a program to pay tuition and fees for employees pursuing an associate degree at Perimeter College. The transition of the Alpharetta campus wholly to Perimeter College is progressing, and the state has funded the necessary science laboratory additions on that campus. Jamie Fernandes was named chief administrative officer for Perimeter College.

Admissions

Dr. Renick distributed a report on Fall Semester 2016 admissions. Freshman applications were up 28% year-to-date over last year. Freshman admits were up 39%. In-state freshman admits were up 35%, and out-of-state freshman admits were up 58%. The admission office has been more aggressive in getting admits processed and delivered. Quality of admits has held steady in spite of the increasing numbers of admits.

Transfer applications were up 3%, and Perimeter College transitions were up 13% over the corresponding transfers of last year. Transfer admits were up 15%. The impact of consolidation on transfer/transition numbers has not yet shown significant effect.

Dr. Berman added information concerning incoming Honors College students, including a 50-60 point increase in the average SAT score and acceptance of offers thus far by over half of Presidential Scholar finalists.

Dr. Palm distributed a report on graduate student recruitment, showing Summer Semester 2016 applications, admits and enrollments relatively flat compared to last year and modest increases for same for Fall Semester 2016. These numbers are being tracked day-to-day given their importance for meeting the university budget in Fiscal Year 2017.

Budget
Dr. Rackliffe reported the FY2016 budget was in good shape pending the first half of Summer Semester 2016 revenues. The FY2017 budget hinges on an increase of 400 undergraduate students and maintaining the FY2016 number of graduate students. Any increase in graduate students would be helpful in moving forward with various university initiatives. Redirection for balancing the FY2017 budget was set at 1.47%. The short turnaround for preparation of the university budget after receiving the official allocation from the Board of Regents will entail parking new funds for reallocation on budget amendment #1. The merit raise pool was based on an average raise of 3% with the allowable range of raises 0% to 5%. Compression adjustments were permitted outside the range.

Legislature

Ms. Kerlin reported on the outcomes of the 2016 legislative session. Although Kell Hall demolition was not funded, the Alpharetta campus science laboratory project received $5.2 million. Governor Deal vetoed RFRA legislation passed by both houses, but had not yet acted on the campus carry and taser legislation which also passed. The carryforward bill passed allowing certain categories of university funding exemptions from lapsed funding returns for the next five years. Changes in the HOPE scholarship program were passed, including weighting of STEM courses in computing high school grade point averages for HOPE eligibility and expanding eligibility of home-schooled students.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Becker noted on-going news media coverage on campus safety with a few high profile events overshadowing generally positive crime statistics for the campus and downtown. Emphasis on preventive policing is continuing with doubling of the university police force, greater collaboration with APD on video monitoring, and implementation of the Crimestoppers program, which pays for tips identifying potential criminals who later commit crimes.

Dr. Becker thanked the University Strategic Plan Update Committee chaired by Drs. Fredrick and Walker for their work in drafting the strategic plan five-year update. The Senate Executive Committee will act on the draft and on approval forward it to the University Senate for action at the April 14, 2016 meeting.

Dr. Becker reported the Turner Field project was proceeding slowly, but in a positive direction, as various constituencies weigh in on the plans.

Dr. Becker cautioned that the new Fair Labor Standards Act rules likely to be enacted by executive order of President Obama in August or September 2016 would have very serious consequences for higher education relating to classification of exempt versus non-exempt employees and requirements for overtime compensation. Various higher education groups are making concerted efforts to remove or lessen requirements for universities.

Dr. Becker announced there will be a one-day Administrative Council retreat on May 16, 2016.

Dr. Becker cited numerous Georgia State student success stories in the national media as well as campus visits by the US Secretary of Education and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. SunTrust has contributed $2 million to the establishment of the Financial Management Center and will provide volunteers to assist students in meeting financial objectives for completion of their degrees. Dr. Renick described features of the analytics software package, which will help students manage dual school and work obligations as well as spend their education dollars wisely.

Dr. Heyward reported the copyright appeal had gone well for Georgia State with designation as the prevailing party and accompanying rights to seek attorney fees.
Announcements

Dr. Berman announced the Georgia State Undergraduate Research Conference would be April 13, 2016.

Dr. Berman announced a Georgia State student was one of only five selected from Georgia institutions as a Goldwater Fellow.

Dr. Palm announced Dr. Pandit was developing a leadership program for deans, associate deans, department chairs, directors, etc., which would be discussed at upcoming meetings of the Deans Group.

Dr. Kaminshine announced the College of Law had been invited to join the prestigious National Honor Society for Legal Education.