Administrative Council
Minutes of August 3, 2016

Attendees:

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of May 11, 2016 were approved.

Policy on University-wide Policies:
Dr. Heyward gave a brief review of the university’s efforts in 2008 to develop a template for use across the university to catalog, maintain and amend GSU policies. To eliminate confusion going forward, the template has been modified. This modified template will assist with continued integration efforts stemming from the Perimeter College consolidation as well as with planning in advance of the next SACS site visit. Dr. Heyward reminded everyone that prior to implementation, policy changes that relate to academic or student matters must receive University Senate approval and administrative policy changes must receive Administrative Council approval.

Dr. Alberto made a motion to approve the updated template as presented. Dr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

FY 2016 Research Awards Portfolio Report:
Dr. Weyhenmeyer reviewed figures relating to FY 2016 research awards and expenditures. Awards totaled $120.15 million in FY 2016, which is a 19.1% increase over FY 2015 awards which totaled $100.9 million. $27.4 million of the $120.15 million resulted from awards that involved collaboration across multiple academic units. $13 million in awards have already been booked in the first month of FY 2017.

Dr. Becker and Dr. Rackliffe explained that there are many driving forces behind the continued rapid growth of research awards. These factors include faculty members pursuing larger dollar grants, deans and chairs supporting collaboration both within GSU and with outside partners, an increase in the F&A rate from 44% to 51.5%, as well as the continued commitment to increase the physical infrastructure of the campus in support of research.

As a result of changing the allocation of IDC revenues several years ago, the university has been able to construct the 2nd Science Park building. Occupants will begin moving into the facility next week. The University will continue this IDC sharing model and will spend the next 12 months designing the 3rd Science Park building, with a goal of having construction complete in time for FY 2019.
Admissions / Enrollment Update:

Dr. Renick distributed reports on undergraduate admissions and enrollments for Fall Semester 2016. Fall Semester 2016 enrollments are approximately 675 students and 10,100 credit hours above the same figures date-to-date versus Fall Semester 2015. The growth is predominantly in graduate students (417). Perimeter College students typically register later than Atlanta campus students. It is anticipated that all campuses will enroll over 50,000 students for Fall Semester 2016, which marks the first fall semester for Perimeter College students to be included in GSU figures.

The number and quality of freshman applicants continues to rise over previous year’s figures. The number of transfer students continues to decline, which is largely attributed to the continued institutional consolidations throughout the University System of Georgia. Dr. Berman profiled the high quality of the incoming class of 250 students into the Honors College.

Dr. Renick highlighted the declining number of credit hours completed by undergraduate students in pursuit of their degrees. For the 2015-2016 academic year, graduating students had completed an average of 133 credit hours, down from an average of 141 credit hours 3 years prior. This decrease is attributed to increased interventions and student counseling efforts to ensure that students are not taking more classes than are necessary to complete their degree programs. HOPE scholarship funds stop at 127 credit hours. Grant funds from the Gates Foundation are being used to track student applications and acceptances that do not result in matriculation at Georgia State.

Dr. Armistead distributed a schedule of graduate applications and acceptances for Fall Semester 2016. For the first time in five years, total graduate applications have increased and it is expected that this will translate into growth in graduate enrollment and credit hours.

Fundraising Update:

Mr. Massey reported that the university raised $30.1 million during FY 2016. For the first time in several years, no gifts greater than $5 million were received. There are a couple of large gift possibilities for the upcoming calendar year, but the focus has been on growing the number of donors who are committed to giving more moderately sized gifts. $17 million in gift proposals have been sent during the first month of FY 2017.

The campaign is currently at $230 million towards the $300 million goal. By December 2016, the Foundation Board will have a formal recommendation regarding extending the campaign beyond the initial $300 million goal.

Staff Council Update:

Ms. Johnson was unable to attend the meeting and this update will be rescheduled for the next meeting.

Athletics Update:

Mr. Cobb reported that 4 of our 11 athletic teams competed in post-season play during the 2015-2016 year. The goal is for 5 of the 11 teams to reach post-season play during the year. The average GPA for student-athletes during the 2015-2016 year was 3.2.
Legislative Update:

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Kerlin reported that they are busy making visits to state officials in advance of the upcoming legislative session. Efforts are being coordinated across all University System of Georgia institutions to inform legislators and other elected leaders on the effects of potential legislation impacting campuses. Georgia State will be hosting members of the Georgia Congressional delegation on October 14, 2016, and the general election is November 8, 2016.

President’s Remarks & Announcements:

Dr. Becker reported that progress continues to be made regarding the Turner Field acquisition and we are hopeful of closing the transaction before the end of 2016.

The upcoming December commencement ceremony will be the last ceremony held in the Georgia Dome. University leaders are finalizing a one-time plan to hold the spring 2017 ceremony at Georgia Tech, likely requiring a ticket limit for guests of the spring 2017 graduates.

Dr. Sara Rosen will join Georgia State as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences beginning August 17, 2016.

Dr. Becker recognized the impending retirement of Dr. Edgar Torbert. In his 29 years of employment at Georgia State, Dr. Torbert has been a true friend to the university through his wit, wisdom and dedication. His colleagues wish him well in his retirement and hope to see him at Georgia State events in the future. Mr. Chip Hill will assume the committee responsibilities previously held by Dr. Torbert.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.