SENATE COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND STANDARDS
April 26, 2017 Meeting

Attendance: Lisa Armistead, Michelle Brattain, Maureen Burkart, Scott Burke, Allison Calhoun-Brown, Daniel Cox, Sara Cushing, Lindsey Cohen, Debra Denzer, Carrie Freeman, Patrick Freer, Gerald Gay, Darryl Holloman, Brad Horton, Lixin Huang, Jacqueline Lauresgore, Elizabeth Lopez, Tarrah Mirus, John Medlock, Kris Niedringhaus, Felisha Norrington, Alice Pierce, Deborah Shapiro, Karen Simmons, Winnie Tsang-Kosma, Gangli Wang, Shelly-Ann Williams Marc Zayac

The meeting began with introductions.

Minutes of the meeting of March 31, 2017
The minutes of the March 31 meeting were approved as amended to add missing members omitted who participated in the on-line voting poll.

Election of the chair for 2017-2018
Elizabeth Lopez was unanimously elected Chair of the 2017-18 Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards.

Honors College Atlanta Campus Transfer and Perimeter College Transition Student Admission Standards
The motion to approved the Honors College Atlanta Campus, transfer and Perimeter College Transition student admissions standards as revised by the Executive Committee was approved.

Effective Fall 2017
Section 1700 of the Undergraduate Catalog is modified as follows:

Additions

Deletions

Admission

Admission to the Honors College (Atlanta campus) is competitive. Criteria for admission depend upon student status at the time of application.

Entering Freshmen (Atlanta campus): Admission to the Honors College upon admission to the university is typically limited to the top 5-8% of the bachelor degree-seeking fall freshman class. Entering freshmen should have an outstanding high school grade-point average combined with excellent SAT or ACT score; and Honors students usually have a record of meaningful community service, leadership, and/or extra-curricular activity. High school students who are jointly enrolled will also be considered. Currently enrolled and Perimeter College transition students must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 based on a minimum of 12-
credit hours completed at Georgia State University to be considered for admission to the Honors College.

**Continuing students:** Students who were admitted to the Atlanta campus as freshmen but were not admitted to the Honors College at the time of admission may apply to the Honors College once they have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours and have a cumulative institutional GPA of at least 3.5. All applicants are required to obtain a recommendation from a faculty member or staff who can speak to the applicant’s academic performance. Applicants who have completed more than 60 hours will be required to provide additional information and may be required to interview with the dean or associate dean.

**Perimeter College Honors students:** Perimeter College Honors students transitioning to the Atlanta campus may enter the Atlanta campus Honors College if they are in good standing for the Honors College (i.e., have a cumulative institutional GPA of at least 3.3) and have at least 12 hours of Honors credit.

**Other Perimeter College transition students and transfer students:** Perimeter College transition students not already in the Honors College and transfer students must have 30 hours completed with a GPA of 3.5 to be considered for admission to the Honors College.

Applications for spring semester will open in mid-December with the release of fall semester grades, and will close on February 1. Applications for fall semester will open in early May with the release of spring semester grades, and will close on July 1. Applications to the Honors College by students from other institutions will also be evaluated during these application periods. Students who do not meet these academic requirements in full but wish to pursue honors work should contact the Honors College staff.

The application for admission to the Honors College will open for submissions on March 1 and close on May 1 each year; applicants will be evaluated based on their completed credit hours and cumulative institutional grade point averages as of the completion of the spring semester. Admission to the Honors College is for the fall semester and is offered on a space-available basis to the most highly qualified applicants. Students who do not meet the minimum academic requirements for admission consideration but wish to pursue Honors course work should contact the Honors College staff.

**Rationale:** This proposal addresses three challenges facing the Honors College:

1.) Applications for admission to the Honors College from transfer and enrolled GSU students now outpaces the College’s resources to serve students with curricular and co-curricular opportunities.

Solution: Change the minimum number of credits required from 12 to 24 (GPA requirement of 3.5 remains) for currently enrolled students. We believe that a GPA based on 24 credits is a stronger predictor of later success than a GPA based on 12 credit hours. With a 24-credit hour standard, we find that approximately 10% of
students admitted in one semester do not maintain a 3.5 or above, and about 8% drop below the GPA required for good standing (3.3). Based on the average number of applications in each academic year (N=300) this proposal reduces the number of applications reviewed by 30 and admits a more stable pool of high-achieving students.

Currently, the Honors College admits students above, at, and near the minimum required 3.5 GPA. In cases where students’ GPAs are just below the minimum GPA, the admissions committee heavily considers the faculty recommendation and student statements of interest.

The first semester students may register for Honors courses is the fall semester after application approval.

2.) The Honors College needs an admission process for Perimeter College transition students that is parallel to the admission for Atlanta campus students.

Solution: The requirement for Honors College students in Perimeter College who are directly transitioning from a Perimeter College campus to the Atlanta campus will be the GPA for good standing on the Atlanta campus (3.3) based on 24 credit hours, 12 of which must be Perimeter Honors College courses. As transition students are already Honor College students within Perimeter College, they are held to the same standard for good academic standing as enrolled Atlanta campus Honors College students. They are also required to have earned the same number of credits before transitioning as Atlanta campus students who make application. These requirements are parallel to those for Atlanta campus students applying to the Honors College. The transition process from Perimeter College Honors to Atlanta Honors is a benefit of Perimeter College Honors participation. Students who participate in Perimeter College Honors curriculum and achieve a GPA of 3.3 are considered Honors students in good standing and are not required to complete the enrolled student application (with 500-word statement and recommendation form).

Perimeter College Honors students who do not directly transition in their first semester may use the enrolled student application in a subsequent semester.

3.) We propose no changes to the standards for transfer students. These students enter GSU from a variety of institutions. Because we have no control over the rigor of their prior academic program, we have historically required 30 credit hours and a GPA of 3.5, and found this to be commensurate with the degree of achievement needed to succeed in the Honors College.

4.) The Honors College wants to align admission process with best practices at peer and aspirational institution.

The change in required hours will also bring the Honors College’s process in line with best practices at peer and aspirational institutions. At present, we aim to admit a
minimum of 250 enrolled students each academic year, which matches our number of first-semester freshmen each fall, and actually admit slightly more than 250 (to fill spaces vacated by the first-semester students who do not maintain GPA eligibility). We encourage all eligible students to apply for admission to the Honors College; every December/January we email every student with GPA 3.5+ (more than 1300 who are not already Honors) after their first semesters to encourage them to apply.

5.) The current motion is substantively identical to the motion that was approved by Admissions & Standards in February 2017 but the language has been clarified at the request of the Senate Executive Committee. The flowchart below summarizes the process for admission to the Honors College at both the Atlanta Campus and Perimeter College.

Review of Admission & Standards subcommittees
Much of the work of the committee is done in ad hoc subcommittees devoted to an issue. These are all open to all members of Admissions and Standards. Other committees are set up by Senate policy with restrictions on membership. The list of committees, including those set up by Senate policy with restrictions on membership, was distributed and discussed.

Recorder:
Wanda F. Taylor