MINUTES

University Senate Budget Committee 1:30 P.M. October 19, 2017

After some technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Unil Perera.

Present were: Jerry Rackliffe, Sara Rosen, Richard Phillips, Sally Wallace, Ramesh Vakamudi, Laura Fredrick, Niklas Vollmer, Josh Hinkle, Jennifer Jones, Joanne Lee-Joyner, Saeid Belkasim, Nadine Kabengi, Tony Lemieux, Tameka Lester, Unil Perera, Rose Sevcik, and Diane Belcher.

Webex attendees included: Eddy Nahmias, Erin Ruel, Michael Harker, Kari Miller and Eric T. Morton

Planned on the agenda was approval of the 8/24 minutes, USG and GSU budget, and Facilities update. If time permitted, Sub Committee updates and any Old/New business were to also be discussed.

The September meeting had been previously cancelled, leaving the 8/24 to be the most recent minutes to approve. Minutes of the 8/24/17 meeting were approved by acclamation.

A presentation was held by Dr. Jerry Rackliffe, Senior VP for Finance and Administration concerning the USG funding formula and the GSU budget.

Using a predetermined template from some years ago, the equation was broken down to explain how many academic positions and the how much money is estimated each year for the budget. The amount of academic positions needed within the University were determined by adding semester credit hours with instructional productivity. Academic Salaries are determined by multiplying the academic positions with the average salary rate. Instructional Support Positions and Salaries are found by adding academic positions with position ratio, and then multiplying by the salary rate of each group. Instructional Operating Expenses are then finally found by multiplying semester credit hours by expense per hour (12.66). After each of these equations, there are final estimated costs for each of the 5 determined groups.

The final total number has to then be added into the entire Fiscal Year's Budget formula which is broken down into 7 parts. Instruction and Research, Academic Support, Student Services and Institutional Support, Operation and Maintenance of Plant, Fringe Benefits, Public Service and Community Education and Technology Enhancement Program.

The state preemptively reduces the budget in order to let the University know how much money the State is willing to give versus not. The State sometimes won’t grant all estimated money through the budget but through another allocated fund.

For FY19, both the reduction and the requested amount of money won’t be finalized by the Board of Regents until April.

Next, FY18 budget factors were looked over. Graduate hours increased while Undergrad decreased. Graduate hours are weighed more heavily due to other finance factors such as tuition not being relevant to Graduate students. For Fall semester, the Undergraduate total hours went from 316,939.5 to 323,569.0. Graduate hours went down from 92,061.5 to 90,946.5.

While Graduate hours are weighed more, it’s still important to get both undergrad and graduate numbers up because the overall income of graduate students is always less due to tuition waivers. The goal to increase the summer numbers is to push for 60% more credit hours.
The next item on the agenda was Ramesh Vakamudi’s presentation catching everyone up to date on the status of ongoing projects.

The projects given before and after photos were: the new GSU Stadium with 5 levels, the GSU stadium’s locker room, 55 Park Place’s 12th floor renovation along with its new stairwell connecting to the 11th floor, 55 Park Place’s 5th floor renovation and move of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, the 58 Edgewood Building with its new lobby for informal meetings and student hangouts.

The Park Place Plaza project is set to activate soon, with permits being submitted this week. The intent is to activate the space for social gatherings and more student activity by utilizing seating and plants/greenery. Planter beds and small scale trees are proposed to be added along with lights to keep the area lit past sundown.

The Creative Media Studio that was officially opened by Becker that day has been made with an LED banner, state of the art lobby, furnished with tech and equipment, and many multipurpose rooms. There is also a terrace balcony. The building will predominately be used for TV/Film/Video/Game development.

A large auditorium add on is in the final stages, attached to Classroom South. It was fiscally advantageous because being added on to an existing building negated the need to construct more elevators, stairwells, etc. The project should be completed by March 2018 in time for Summer classes.

25 Park Place updated many of its floor’s including 3, 13/14 and 25/26 and given new stairwell connections and more space for student cubicles and small seminar rooms.

Science Annex Addition was also done to create a few new labs in the dead space between Science Annex and the parking deck. On the Alpharetta Campus, 2 Chemistry labs and 2 Biology labs have also been created. There is not an ongoing project of looking at updated old and falling apart window panes and infrastructure to make them more energy efficient.

Other finished projects include East Coast Wings, Highland Bakery, the new Chick-fil-a, a new ramp and handrails in 100 Auburn Ave.

The Courtland Street bridge is planned to come down in the time between May and November. This project is considered a City of Atlanta project, not a State funded project. GSU is technically not the client, but simply one of those affected by the construction. Marta, Atlanta’s government buildings, the transit train and other businesses will also be impacted.

Subcommittee on the Retirement committee will be meeting with the Benefits committee on Nov. 3rd so more in-depth updates can be presented in the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2.33 p.m. The next budget meeting will be held in Dahlberg 350 Nov 7th at 1:30 p.m. with a presentation on GSU Research Funding by Dr. James Weyhenmeyer.

Respectfully submitted by Sydney Cunningham.