Administrative Council
Minutes of December 11, 2017


Approval of Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of November 2, 2017.

Action Item - Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct: Dr. Covey presented a request to amend to the Student Code of Conduct to integrate policy changes required by the Board of Regents. The changes relate to the level of review by the University System of Georgia for students who are in an interim status, such as suspension. The changes also update processes related to sexual misconduct hearings. Dr. Heyward noted that the university must adopt the sexual misconduct policy of the Board of Regents in its entirety. The committee unanimously approved the request.

Action Item – Arts & Sciences Proposal for Center for Research on Interpersonal Violence: Dr. Rosen submitted a request to create a college-level research center. Dr. Dominic Parrott will direct the center, which will bring together research communities working to treat and prevent domestic violence. Dr. Kropf and Dr. Wallace supported the proposal in anticipation of faculty from the College of Nursing & Health Professions and the School of Policy studies working with the new center. The center has secured funding for an inaugural speaker series. Dr. Rosen did not request any university funds for this center. The committee unanimously approved the request.

Action Item – Education & Human Development Program Reorganization: Dr. Alberto presented a request to reorganize the two existing departments of (1) Learning Technologies and (2) Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Communication Disorders into the departments of (A) Communication Sciences and Disorders, and (B) Learning Sciences. The new department of Learning Science will include Educational Psychology, Special Education, and Learning Technologies. This reorganization more effectively position the units for enrollment growth and external funding in the coming years. Other leading Colleges of Education around the nation have moved to a similar model. The proposal is budget neutral and requires no additional university resources. The committee unanimously approved the request.

Enrollment Update: Dr. Renick shared application and spring enrollment figures with the group. Compared to the prior year (Spring 2017) Atlanta campus enrollment shows an increase for undergraduate students and a decrease for graduate students while Perimeter College enrollment is up substantially. Dr. Armistead stated that Dr. Palm has recently approved a plan that utilizes outside resources to market graduate programs more effectively to potential students.

Dr. Renick stated that university recruitment efforts continue to focus on reentry students and the Atlanta campus has experienced an increase in applications from transfer students. Fall 2018
applications and admissions are ahead of 2017 numbers. These increases are largely a function of the United States Department of Education making the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available earlier than in previous years. Finally, Dr. Renick reported that in the most recent cycle, 78% of seniors who received a Panther Retention Grant completed a degree. By comparison, only about 30% of students nationally who leave school return to finish later.

Legislative Update: Ms. Kerlin reported that the race for mayor of the City of Atlanta is being contested. State tax collections show a slight increase over the prior year. Governor Deal will present his budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 to the General Assembly during early January at the beginning of the upcoming legislative session.

President’s Remarks: Dr. Becker and Dr. Weyhenmeyer addressed the recent continuing resolution passed to keep the federal government operating through late December. In the current federal budget climate of uncertainty, program officers at federal agencies have been hesitant to make awards for sponsored grants. As a result, all universities including Georgia State have seen a slowing of grant awards during the fourth quarter of calendar year 2017. Dr. Weyhenmeyer projects that as of December 31, 2017, Georgia State will reach $80 million in sponsored awards for the current fiscal year. Once the federal budget situation is resolved, federal agencies should be in a better position to move forward making awards.

At the request of Dr. Becker, Mr. Massey stated that the Burning Bright campaign is currently at $293 million towards the goal of $300 million. In light of the strong momentum associated with the campaign, leadership at the University and the Foundation are evaluating opportunities to extend the campaign. Mr. Massey will share more information as it is available.

Dr. Becker stated that the university expects to confer approximately 3,200 degrees at the upcoming commencement ceremonies for fall semester. Georgia State will conduct ceremonies this semester at McCamish Pavilion.

Announcements: Mr. Cobb shared that the football team has accepted an invitation to participate in the Cure Bowl, marking on the second time in program history that the team received an invitation for post-season play. Student-athlete Chandon Sullivan was one of 18 players selected at all levels of college football to receive a prestigious post-graduate scholarship from the National Football Foundation.

Dr. Palm reported on a recent visit by Georgia State leaders to Hong Kong. The trip was in conjunction with partner institutions in Hong Kong and South Africa as part of the cities initiative. Housing density and crowding was a common theme throughout the week.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am.