Administrative Council
Minutes of January 10, 2018


Approval of Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of December 11, 2017.

Enrollment Update: Dr. Renick shared spring semester enrollment figures with the group. Weather-related closures during the first two weeks of the semester at the Perimeter and Atlanta campuses have presented a variety of logistical challenges, but spring undergraduate enrollment is tracking to set a record. Graduate enrollment is down in both headcount and credit hours. Dr. Renick stated that fall undergraduate applications and admissions are increasing when compared to the fall 2017 figures.

Dr. Renick noted that Enrollment Services employees are analyzing data related to D/F/Withdrawal/Incomplete (DFWI) grades for the Fall 2017 semester. Several of the courses that have a high number of DFWI grades are part of programs that are currently undergoing program reviews. Other departments are working with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and utilizing support from the Gates Foundation to develop improved methods of instructional delivery.

Dr. Renick shared several college and university rankings that place less emphasis on entering student data and more emphasis on gains made during and after enrollment. The rankings that measure items such as social mobility, value, and support for military personnel typically recognize the university more favorably than traditional rankings that assign a high weight to incoming student qualifications.

Research Update: Dr. Weyhenmeyer stated that through the first six months of the fiscal year, the university has received $79 million in research grant awards. This figure is slightly behind the awards from the same period in the previous fiscal year. The current federal climate and ongoing budget continuing resolutions have combined to slow the number of awards typically made by federal agencies. Principle investigators (PIs) continue to submit and receive favorable scoring on research proposals. Budget clarity at the federal level is necessary before agencies can resume a normal pace of awards.

Dr. Becker and Dr. Weyhenmeyer reported on the recently released Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey compiled by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Georgia State moved up from 129 to 123 in the national rankings. Based on expenditures for FYs 2017 and 2018, they anticipate that the university will again move up in the rankings. They noted that Georgia State is the only institution in the top 150 that does not have either a medical school or engineering school.

Fundraising Update: Mr. Massey stated that during calendar year 2017 the university experienced an increase in incoming gifts and pledge pre-payments compared to the previous calendar year. The Burning Bright capital campaign has raised $297.6 million towards the stated goal of $300 million.
Legislative Update:  Ms. Kerlin reported that Governor Deal, Lieutenant Governor Cagle and Speaker Ralston shared their legislative priorities earlier in the day. State tax collections continue to show strong growth that is consistent with economic projections. Specific items of interest to Georgia State in the FY 2019 budget request include minor capital funding related to the Library North entrance as well as design money for a convocation center. Legislation from last year’s session can continue forward during this session. University leadership will continue to monitor relevant legislation.

Employees of the university can contact Mr. Jason Thomas in the Office of Government and Community Affairs to receive an email summary of legislative activity each Friday afternoon. Mr. Lewis emphasized the importance of coordination of university communications throughout the legislative session.

President’s Remarks: Dr. Becker reiterated the importance of securing funding for a convocation center during the legislative session. The Georgia Dome has been demolished and is no longer an option for university commencement ceremonies. Georgia Tech has been very accommodating in sharing the use of McCamish Pavilion, but scheduling Georgia State ceremonies around many Georgia Tech functions in the facility has been tremendously challenging. If the university secures design funding for the convocation center, university leadership anticipates a requirement to raise approximately 20% of the total project cost from other sources.

Dr. Becker noted that Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms is a graduate of the College of Law. University leaders have enjoyed a positive working relationship with the new mayor in her prior role at the Fulton County Recreation Authority.

Dr. Becker recognized Mr. Sterling Roth who attended his final Administrative Council meeting prior to his retirement on February 1, 2018. Mr. Roth served the university admirably for 13 years and university leadership will share a transition plan for the Office of Audit and Advisory Services in the near future.

Announcements:

Mr. Cobb noted the football team’s first bowl win in program history.

Mr. Gray stated that the Student Government Association is developing a schedule of constituency days to meet with students at all campuses throughout the semester. Mr. Gray will circulate that schedule to all committee members as soon as possible.

Dr. Heyward stated that the private developer of the student housing adjacent to Georgia State Stadium anticipates a delivery schedule of fall semester in 2020. Another private developer has broken ground on a student housing project at the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue.

Dr. Rackliffe shared that the contractor has scheduled demolition of the Courtland Street bridge in May 2018. Crews are working an accelerated schedule and the current plan calls for project completion by the end of 2018. The Facilities Management team continues to have a dialogue with both the City of Atlanta and the Georgia Department of Transportation to ensure continued access to Georgia State buildings with as little disruption as possible given the complexity of the project.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.