MINUTES

UNIVERSITY SENATE

February 14, 2019


Guests: Sonda Abernathy, Eric Morton, Claudia Petrescu, Shelly Ann Williams, Ann Williamson

ORDER: The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the November 15, 2018 Senate meeting were approved with no changes.

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: The chair opened his comments by providing the President’s Report. The first item was the governor’s budget which proposed 2% pay raises for faculty and staff. Capital Projects recommendations from the governor were discussed. Governor Kemp included the $48 million dollars for the GSU Convocation Center in his budget. It is the single largest capital project in the United System of Georgia for construction. We should know in April if the pay raises for the fiscal year will be granted and if GSU will receive the funds for the convocation center.

Stadium Neighborhoods will be built at the north end of the stadium property. Phase Two of the stadium renovations is underway. This will house all facets of football operations. The project will culminate in the spring. The area on MLK in downtown where football currently is today will be retro fitted to support men and women soccer. Soccer is currently out in Panthersville.

Major Capital Projects underway: Science Part Phase Three on the Downtown campus, Infectious Disease Research Building, is in design. GSU hopes to get that under construction this calendar year. Last summer, the Regents included the recommendation of the design of Phase Four to the legislature. This information was provided to former Governor Deal was forwarded to Governor Kemp. This will be another research building for the downtown campus. This is significant as GSU has never had two major projects in a capital recommendation from the Regents before.

Perimeter College Summary Report Post Consolidation: We are three years into consolidation. The priority is to continue to make progress in improving student outcomes, retention rates have increased substantially, and the graduation rate for Perimeter College students has more than doubled. It is the highest in the history for Perimeter College. The achievement gap between minority students and white students have been nearly eliminated. The commitment of an additional 30 academic advisors to the Perimeter campus, the piloted freshmen learning communities on the Decatur campus, and the scaled learning communities to the Perimeter campus were all instrumental in this achievement. Students that participated in learning communities had higher grade point averages and attempted and earned more credit hours. Their retention was also several percentage points higher than the students that did not participate.

National Recognition: GSU is the #1 military friendly university in the nation. GSU has a larger student body of veterans at the downtown and Perimeter campuses. The Chronicle of Higher Education had an insert on Programs for Student Success. There was a single page insert on GSU. It was the only university that had a story dedicated to it. The title is “Georgia State University is a National Model, but
Difficult to Duplicate”.

**SACSCOC Reaccreditation and Site Visit**, Dr. Tim Renick, Senior Vice President for Student Success, provided a Power Point presentation on SACSCOC Reaccreditation. The title of the presentation was “SACSCOC Reaffirmation/College to Career QEP”. He was reporting for Michael Galchinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness. SACS Reaffirmation site visit will take place across all GSU instructional sites on February 25th through February 28th. SACS will confirm that GSU is compliant with all policies, requirements, and best practices as defined by SACSCOC for accreditation. GSU has identified and is implementing an appropriate Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to enhance students learning and/or student success. The QEP presentation will take place on Tuesday, February 26th at 1:00 p.m. at the Center for Creative Media Industries Institute. The presentation is open to the public. Successful reaffirmation means students can receive federal aid and transfer GSU credits and faculty can receive federal grants. Dr. Jonathan Alger, President of James Madison University, is serving as the chair of the SACS visiting team.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. The following motions are being presented for consideration by the Senate.

The Executive Committee recommends a “do pass” on the following agenda items:

1. Motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee; Dr. Elizabeth West, Chair.
   **Revise the Current Faculty Hiring Policy**
   The motion was to revise the existing Faculty Hiring Policy dated January 7, 1998. A revised hiring policy was proposed. The question was called. The motion passed.

2. Motion from the Admissions and Standards Committee; Dr. Elizabeth Lopez, Chair.
   **Amend Honors College Recognitions and Requirements**
   This motion was to replace the current categories and language to create a better developed Honors Recognition College. Currently students may work towards Honors Recognition in: Honors, Advanced Honors and Research Honors. These would be replaced by Honors Laureate and Research Laureate. The question was called. The motion passed.

3. Motion from the Admissions and Standards Committee; Dr. Elizabeth Lopez, Chair.
   **Count C- Grades towards Graduation Requirements**
   C minus grades will be used to satisfy graduation requirements if the student’s overall institutional GPA and major GPA are both 2.0. This motion was presented to standardize graduate requirements across the university. The question was called. The motion passed.

4. Motion from the Admissions & Standards Committee; Elizabeth Lopez, Chair.
   **Grant Priority Registration for Panther Band Members**
   This motion was to achieve priority registration for the participating cohort in the Georgia State University Panther Band in the Fall and Spring terms. These students support the athletic teams and deserve the same access to building their academic schedules around team competition schedules as the athletes. The question was called. The motion passed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive Committee (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee met one time and reviewed the motions for today’s Senate meeting.

Academic Programs (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee met twice since the last Senate meeting.

The committee approved two certificates, additions and changes to concentrations of four degree
programs, a new course prefix for Applied Linguistics and ESL, two degree deactivations and one termination at the request of the unit offering the programs, changes to the Business A.S. and B.B.A. degrees and a new astronomy course entitled, "Life in the Universe".

Admissions and Standards (Elizabeth Lopez, chair): The committee met once. The committee worked on the three motions on today’s agenda.

Athletics (Catherine Perkins for Kris Varjas, chair): The committee met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee is heavily involved in issues related to student athlete’s mental health. The NCAA put forth some concerns and recommendations regarding student athletes and mental health a few years ago. The committee is working with the Athletics Department to identify on campus resources to support student athletes and be preventative around mental health issues. There are a few departments on campus that train counselors and they have been in contact with them to identify available resources for GSU athletes. The subcommittee is working to determine athletes’ pathways of learning and majors to determine if the student athletes tend to cluster in one department or major. The committee encourages all faculty and staff to support the students by attending the games and becoming season ticket holders in various sports.

Budget (Andrew Butler, chair): The committee has met once. Jerry Rackliffe was a guest speaker and he discussed priorities for budgeting with committee. The discussion included information regarding more budget for research infrastructure, and allocation of resources for graduate student insurance and other items. There is also a subcommittee, Major Repairs and Renovation Fund, the committee meets and prioritizes all the major repairs and renovations to buildings. The committee ranks the repairs and renovations and presents that information to the Deans and Vice Presidents, provide them a period to respond, and then the repairs and renovations will go to Ramesh.

Commencement (Mark Becker, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee has been working with the students to determine the best time of day to hold May commencement. The issue at the commencement last year, which was held in the GSU stadium, was contending with the sun and/or the rain. The students were polled for their opinion to have a morning or evening ceremony in May. 50% of the students preferred a morning ceremony and 50% of the students preferred an evening ceremony. The Commencement Committee concluded that the May ceremony will be held in the morning.

Cultural Diversity (James Ainsworth, chair): The committee and its four subcommittees have met twice since the last Senate meeting. The university in its increasing support for the LGBTQ communication has a dedicated staff member to service this population. There is also a dedicated space in the Multicultural Center. Ramesh Vakamudi came to the meeting and provided a presentation on the goal of having one unisex restroom in each building on campus. A subcommittee is working on beginning to examine a Cultural Diversity Academic Certificate at the associate and bachelor’s levels. Another subcommittee is looking at gender pay equity issues. Michael Galchinsky, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, was appointed by Provost Palm to complete a study on gender pay equity issues.

Faculty Affairs (Elizabeth West, chair): The committee has met twice. The committee hopes that the motion for the adoption of the revised Student Evaluation Instrument (SEI) that was sent to the Senate Executive Committee will be on the senate floor for a vote in April. The committee is still reviewing and considering recommendations regarding class recordings and options for the inclusion of sexual harassment and assault statements on the syllabi.

FACP (Dr. Becker for Risa Palm, chair): No report.
IIT (Chris Goode, chair): The committee has met one time since the last Senate meeting. A new task of the committee is to review proposals for student technology fees. The proposals were due February 1st and are now being reviewed by the committees of the various academic and administrative units. Those committees are made up of at least 50% students. Each committees’ recommendations are due by March 1st. Their recommendations will be reviewed by IIT & Facilities, and adjustments will be reviewed by unit coordinators. The final review will be conducted by the IIT Committee when they meet the second week in April. IIT Committees recommendations will then go to FACP.

Library (Jeff Steely, Dean of Libraries, for Joseph Hacker, chair): The committee is scheduled to hold its first meeting on February 25th.

Planning and Development (Jared Poley, chair): The committee has met one time since the last Senate meeting. The committee heard a report from Jerry Rackliffe and discussed a projected budget. Several committee members are working on the Ad Hoc Committee of Graduate School. The committee has also participated in the major repairs and renovations meeting that Andy Butler, Budget Committee, spoke of earlier.

Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met two times. The committee is working to assist Dr. Weyhenmeyer with research. The research subcommittee has designed a survey to solicit faculty input on needed research support. This information will be coming to the Senate soon. The committee reviewed with UTSA new federal changes needed that are required for IRBs. Jerry Rackliffe discussed the university budget considering research demands with the committee. The committee is working with Jerry to identify some specific research needs.

Student Discipline (Will Simson for Anne Murphy, chair): The committee has held at least 12 hearings since the beginning of the academic year. This is not for one-time events but patterns of infractions that may range from cheating on exams to plagiarism. Most cases are students reported by faculty to Anne’s office. Anne goes through the documentation to ensure that the faculty and student have met prior to the student coming to the hearing. Depending on the infraction, and the student’s ability to fully understand the severity, the committee may give future recommendations to deter a recurrence of the circumstance. If the student is not apologetic, they may receive temporary or permanent notation on their record, expulsion or suspension (although rare). All reports are forwarded to Provost Palm. If the student appeals the Provost’s decision, the appeal would then go to President Becker.

Student Life and Development (Chester Phillips, chair): The committee has met one time. The committee has approved 14 new student charters.

Sustainability (Valarie Koonce, co-chair): The committee has met two times. The committee is exploring ways to increase GSU’s waste aversion rate to recycling instead of the land fill. The committee is also working to encourage carpooling specifically on the Perimeter campus.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Todd Hendricks, chair): The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.
ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Secretary to the Senate