University Senate Budget Committee Meeting
January 31, 2019 at 12:30

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Andrew Butler.

Present were: Andrew Butler, Jessica Seimer, Kinsuk Maitra, Carroll Freeman, Jerry Rackliffe, Andrey Shilnikov, Dajun Dai, Ian Campbell, Ben Coletta, Sara Rosen, Daniel Crimmins, James Weyhenmeyer, Erin Ruel, Laura Carscaddon, Janice Byrd, Eddy Nahmias, Dennis Gilbride, Murad Sarsour, Denise Jenkins, Saeid Belkasim, David Cheshier, and Joann Lee-Joyner.

Webx attendees included: Susan Snyder, Bala Ramesh, Gangi Wang, Jeffery Steely, Leszek Ignatowicz, Ciara Glover, and Wade Weast.

Planned on the agenda was approval of the November 29, 2018 minutes, postponement of salary equity discussion, update of subcommittee Report on Faculty Retirement, continue discussion of 2020 presented by Jerry Rackliffe, other strategic needs and priorities, and old/new business.

The Committee approved the November 29, 2018 minutes.

The salary equity discussion was postponed. Mary Beth Walker was promoted to the Interim President of Gwinnett College, therefore, she is in search of someone to present in her absence.

Dr. Butler asked the Sub-committee on Faculty Retirement to continue to work on possible options for a one time ORP and TRS switch. The exploratory Sub-committee planned to write a Report on Faculty Retirement that included an outline of possible options for the switch. When completed, the report will be shared with Michelle Brittan, Chair of the University Senate. Dr. Butler will discuss with Michelle Brittan how to present the report to the full Senate. Dr. Butler will revisit this plan with the Sub-committee and obtain the status of the report. The email received from Robert Elmore about advances and changes to the ORP have only a small impact on the Sub-Committee’s efforts.
Jerry Rackliffe presented the rendering of the new Convocation Center and discussed the 2020 budget. The Convocation Center is on the budget request from the Regents and the Governor to the Legislature. Construction could begin in November. There was a discussion about funds received from renting the Convocation Center and other GSU facilities.

Jerry advised the Committee that Dr. Becker wants the Committee to provide input on what they would like to see funded in addition to things already identified. Things talked about previously were the merit pool, Next Generation, police ramp-up, College of Arts and Sciences unmet demands, unmet demands of other departments, Occupational Therapy ramp-up, college tuition revenue sharing, faculty promotion pool, research initiation grants, and infrastructure. Jerry opened up the floor for ideas to add to the list. Items the Senate Committee added to the list were $350,000 library acquisition annually, graduate student healthcare increase from $300,000 to $500,000, dissertation grants increase to $40,000, summer faculty teaching and summer faculty research 2%-4% increase, and infrastructure grant writers increase to $250,000. Dr. Butler informed the Senate Committee members to send additional ideas to him or Jerry Rackliffe. The President, Provost, and others will meet early February to discuss the budget process. There was a discussion about current and future resources.

Dr. Butler informed the Senate Committee that the next meeting will be February 28, 2019 and Associate Provost Dr. Lisa Armistead will provide updates on the Graduate School.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Rhodes.