Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Unil Perera.

Present were: Jaye Atkinson, Perry Binder, Margo Brinton, Ian Campbell, David Cheshier, Daniel Crimmins, Solomon Fesseha, Denise Jenkins, Nancy Kropf, Joann Lee-Joyner, Tony Lemieux, Huanbaio Mo, Eddy Nahmias, Joe Patterson, Jeff Steely, Carla Tanguay, Baozhong Wang
Web ex participants: Janice Byrd, Ann Mallard, Kris Niedringhaus
Guest: Dr. Lisa Armistead

Addition made to minutes submitted. Minutes were approved.

Dr. Lisa Armistead spoke to the group about her new role as Dean of the Graduate School. The committee that formed the school consisted of Senate Faculty Affairs, Senate Budget, Research, Planning and Development committees with various faculty, staff and students. The students will graduate from their academic colleges, not from the graduate school and the money funding graduate school will not come from academic colleges. Marketing the graduate programs to increase the number of applicants is important so a lead generation and multi marketing campaign is being used. An Educational Advisory Board (EAB) partnership uses consumer data and student data to create an infinity profile of someone who would be interested in graduate studies at Georgia State in Georgia Health, Data Science and Business. Initially, the marketing campaign was used only for these programs and 330 applicants were culled as a result. Of these, admission was offered to 94 students and applicants are still being reviewed. We are now sending out a monthly newsletter to keep an open line of communication to those interested in our program.

One focus of the graduate school is to highlight how important our research space is. We will also be adding a predictive modeling component as to what variables will predict whether a student will attend Georgia State. We also want to provide professional development to our graduate students in various areas. Provost dissertation fellows is also offered if doctoral students have up to a year left in their program. Each semester doctoral students can apply for a paid fellowship by submitting a detailed monthly plan of how they will finish their dissertation in 12 months or less. The chosen students will receive $2,000 a month for 12 months or less. They can focus on completing their work and not have to teach. Requirements include monthly group meetings stating their goal and if it was met. Funding can be lost if goals are not met. Students in this program graduate on average two years earlier than students without the fellowship.

CASA – Center for Advancement Student and Alumni. This new center housed in 55 Park Place and directed by Kyle Franz to better prepare and support students as they seek advanced degrees. Fellowships and GRE prep, etc. is available for undergraduate students.

The graduate school also plans to add a mentoring program. Currently, we don’t provide faculty with guidance as to how to mentor graduate students. We plan to offer face to face and webinar tutorials to assist faculty as they begin to work with students. We also hope to take advantage of training grants. Georgia State currently doesn’t have NIH training grants which are provided to universities to pay graduate students stipends.
Graduate student stipends are being researched with the assistance of Bruce Spratt in the Finance and Administration office as the amount of money given needs to be increased. Graduate faculty working with graduate students can also build graduate stipends into their grants.

Graduate Council may be formed to address issues that arise within the Graduate School. This has been recommended by the ad hoc committee and it could sit in Senate or outside Senate. It is up for debate now as to how it should be structured.

Updates on the TRS vs. ORP – The retirement subcommittee met once via webex on October 15th. We collected data on several contribution percentages at other university systems. The group is working on updating the report to indicate the suggestions from Jerry Rackliffe who mentioned to find out what may be lost of faculty that may decide not to come to Georgia State and teach because of the continued increase in contributions to retirement plans and address the standing of GSU in regards to other university systems. Thus far, the % pay contribution from GSU (USG) is 21% for TRS members and 9.24% for ORP members, a large differential, while the % pay contribution remains the same (6%) for both TRS and OPR employees. This may lead to more imbalance in the numbers of faculty choosing the TRS system vs the ORP system.

Sonda Abernathy requested to sit on Senate Budget. Unil Perera will talk to Kerry Heyward to discuss her status on the committee. For now, she can attend the meetings but not vote.

There is still confusion about the surcharge for spouses next year on the health plan if you choose to have them on your plan as opposed to them paying for their own health care costs. Individuals were going to reach out to Human Resources.

November 14th meeting will host Charlie Cobb, the Athletics Director and the Vice President for Research and Economic Development Dr. Eriksen.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00

Respectfully submitted by Julie Lawson.