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

Present were: Janice Byrd, Solomon Fesseha, Sujay Galen, Huanbaio Mo, Bruce Pilling, Andrey Shilnikov, Carla Tanguay, Baozhong Wang, Joann Maria Lee Joyner
Web ex participants: Janice Byrd, Ann Mallard, Kris Niedringhaus
Guest: Charlie Cobb, Dr. Michael Eriksen

Correction made to minutes submitted. Minutes were approved.

Dr. Michael Eriksen addressed the group about the state of research at the university. We have exceeded $200M in research expenditures as a university and have also increased our national ranking. Dr. Eriksen also explained the difference between awards and expenditures: awards are money available to us for research and expenditures are an indication of our investment in research. The expenditure amount is impressive due to passing the $200M threshold. Our research ranking among other similar research institutions went from #158 to #108 over the last few years which is quite impressive. We have also more than doubled our research expenditures over the last 10 years. To date, the biggest year for awards was 2017 which was $147M and this recently concluded fiscal year June 30 was $128M which was our second highest award year. For fiscal year 2020 Georgia State is on track to bring $60M in awards and there is another $25M not yet logged in the research system so we will have another successful year surpassing previous years. Also, the number of submissions has increased which ultimately turn into awards. Faculty are also very active in submitting proposals. Submission proposals are welcome because they can translate into awards. Another value to the University is the indirect cost recovery that comes from grants. Currently, there is $20M used from grants reinvested back into departments, colleges, GSURF and infrastructure. They are substantial in getting buildings complete that otherwise would not be possible or would be delayed if we would have to go to the Board of Regents or secure a loan. We expect to break ground behind Petit Science Center in April 2020 for a new research facility which will primarily be a high containment building. Finally, Dr. Eriksen is working to fund commitments to hires for Georgia State in research that were not expected. Research has invested in infrastructure, brought in talented colleagues and is ready for a successful year in 2020.

Charlie Cobb spoke about the athletics program. There are six men’s sports and ten women’s sports totaling around 425 students who play varsity athletics and approximately 125 full term staff members. The five core beliefs in our department are: academic achievement, competitive success, community engagement, ethical behavior, athlete development. Football is the largest sport with around 105 men on the roster. The one unique women’s sport is beach volleyball and they compete behind the sports arena on a sand court. We have the top academic program in the SunBelt Conference which comprises a total of 12 schools. For the last four out of five years, the average student athlete at Georgia State held a 3.15 GPA. Men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball staff work out of the sports arena and the remainder of the athletics staff work at the football stadium. The stadium is identifiable and can be easily seen from interstate 75. Outside of football games athletics hosts around 15 community events annually in the stadium, such as a marathon and high school football playoffs. Additionally, the goal is to host at least one concert a year in the stadium. The athletic budget is separated in the following areas: salary/benefits, scholarships and operating expenses. The overall budget is comprised of
three funding sources: state funds, which is student fee money, foundation funds, and the GSU Athletic Association, Inc. funds. Students on the downtown campus pay $210 in athletic fees and perimeter students pay $75 to support our student athletes. In total, approximately 85% of the athletic budget is spent back on campus and we are investing in and supporting 325 athletes.

Discussions are still being held regarding ORP vs. TRS and also how improvements can be made to the HR website.

January 22nd meeting will host Provost Hensel. The meeting adjourned at 3:00

Respectfully submitted by Julie Lawson.