MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
February 13, 2020


Guests: Mary Brassfield

ORDER: The chair, President Mark Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 17, 2019 Senate meeting were approved with a friendly amendment to the wording under the Research Committee’s report per MaryAnn Romski’s request. The sentence was amended to read as follows: “The committee worked with the Huron Consulting Group and are waiting their final report.”

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR: The chair opened his comments by providing the President’s Report. Governor Kemp presented his State of the State and his budget proposal in early January. There was concern that state tax revenues were below expectations which may have led to budget cuts or less funding to the University System of Georgia. The one area of ambiguity was that pay raises were not recommended for state employees in general. There was a recommendation to provide pay raises to those state employees that make less than $40,000/year. The raises will be a fixed amount of $1,000. The current understanding is that this applies to employees that are paid from state funds and not those individuals that are paid through grants and contracts.

Jerry Rackliffe and his team are looking into whether the university may have resources to offer pay raises. They hope to have an answer regarding raises by April.

Georgia State University is currently seeking funding for a small capital project. The project is a Dental Hygiene Facility for the Dunwoody campus.

Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19: Study abroad programs to China have been cancelled through June 2020. U.S. federal laws are currently not allowing individuals from China to come to the U.S. The programs in Taiwan are currently still in process. Dean Leslie Wolf is serving as chair of a committee that is working to gain an understanding of GSU’s responsibility if a student tests positive for COVID-19.

Speaker: Provost Hensel addressed the senate regarding several initiatives that have are now in place during her tenure. The provost discussed the growth and significance of online teaching in the US and current extent of online and hybrid teaching at GSU. Online instruction is already quite extensive at GSU. An audit of how many online and hybrid classes were being taught at GSU revealed almost 500 online courses, 398 additional courses in a hybrid format and almost 1,700 fully online sessions for approximately 50,000 students. Forty percent of the Perimeter students are entirely online. Enrollment in graduate programs has not increased or declined significantly in the last four years. GSU may be losing enrollment by not offering more online courses. There are 65,000 students in the state of Georgia enrolled in out of state online providers that are more expensive than GSU. There is not a dominant USG or private provider in the state. GSU is moving toward an online format in order to provide the broadest access to the greatest number of people.

Provost Hensel also addressed enhancing quality in every modality of instruction and identifying new student support services that are tied to the online environment. The provost discussed the initiative of
issuing a call for certificates. There is a market demand for certificates for work force development. Another initiative is for quality enhancement across the board in teaching. This initiative consists of reviewing a list of courses that are at risk across sections. Professors that teach in those courses/sections may submit proposals to have the opportunity to receive funding to further develop those courses. Other initiatives include a teaching institute for mentorship in teaching that will recognize master teachers, mandatory orientation for students taking online courses, a freshman learning community for online students at Perimeter, and a new leadership position via the Office of the Provost, the Associate Provost for Online Strategies.

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 Admissions and Standards Committee; Elizabeth Lopez, Chair.
      **Motion to Adjust Membership of Special Talents Committee**
      The motion was to revise the membership of the committee to include a voting member to their subcommittee. The question was called. The motion passed.

   2. Motion from the Faculty Affairs Committee; Robert Maxwell, Chair.
      **Revised Policy on Self-Authored Instructional Materials and Compiled Instructional Packets**
      This motion was to review the policy’s appeal and approval process. There was a question from the floor regarding how the proposal had changed from the original. Robert informed the senate that the difference is that faculty members are now able to appeal up to the Dean’s level. The question was called. The motion passed.

Information Item: The addendum to the 4/18/19 Nominations Report was the only information item.

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

Academic Programs (Michelle Brattain, chair): The committee met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee approved twenty proposals for policies, additions, changes and various amendments to existing academic programs. This includes two new graduate faculty policies and five new degree programs. The committee is also in communication with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness regarding revisions to the academic program review process.

Admissions and Standards (Elizabeth Lopez, chair): The committee met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee had a presentation on Student Success and the Impact on Retention and worked on the motion on today’s agenda.

Athletics (Booker Linkhorn for Kris Varjas, chair): The committee met three times since the last Senate meeting. The members attended a Panther Athletic Club (PAC event) and a men’s basketball game. The committee worked with Elizabeth Lopez on the motion she presented today for Admissions and Standards. The committee will continue to monitor Title IX with regards to students and events. GSU athletes have an overall 3.19 gpa for the fall 2019 semester. There is a basketball game tonight against Appalachian State.

Budget (Unil Perera, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee was briefed by Provost Hensel and Ramesh Vakamudi. The committee is continuing to work on contributions to the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP).
Commencement (Mark Becker, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee reviewed honorary degree nominations.

Cultural Diversity (James Ainsworth, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. Michael Galchinsky encouraged the faculty to participate in a climate survey. Ramesh Vakamudi provided the committee with an update on the ongoing effort to have one unisex restroom in each building on campus. He created a census to identify the buildings where the unisex restrooms will be located. James Ainsworth reminded the faculty that Ramadan begins the week before final exams.

Faculty Affairs, (Robert Maxwell, chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee had a presentation about the climate survey. They completed a proposal for an alternate term for principal academic professionals, discussed students publishing course materials to sites such Course Hero and a proposal that will allow faculty to request that students remove any items they think are inappropriately posted. The committee worked on the motion on today’s agenda.

FACP (Wendy Hensel, chair): No report.

IIT (Chris Goode, chair): The committee has met two times since the last Senate meeting. The committee is reviewing proposals for FY 21 student technology fees. The committee is considering a request from Lisa Armistead to allocate a small percentage of the student technology fees to new colleges and schools. Chris will reach out to the leadership in the various academic and administrative units for their input. IIT will likely vote on a recommendation to FACP on this issue in March.

Library (Scott Jacques, chair): The committee has met once since the last Senate meeting. The committee has been working closely with the University Library and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. The committee discussed foundation funds to donate for textbooks, reducing the cost of course materials and they’ve conducted an audit on an open access at GSU. They have determined that there is not an open access policy.

Planning and Development (Jared Poley, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has discussed undergraduate and graduate enrollment, institutional effectiveness, budget forecasts, building and demolition projects, and alumni affairs. Members of the committee have served on major repairs and renovations processes and are looking carefully at what may be done to fix our current buildings.

Research (Rose Sevcik, chair): The committee has met four times since the last Senate meeting. Michael Eriksen spoke to the committee regarding foreign influences and U.S. researchers. The committee has discussed options and offered its feedback about infrastructure support for the upcoming budget and requests with Jerry Rackliffe. Members of the committee have also met with the search firm for the Vice President of Research and Economic Development position. The committee also discussed issues with policies regarding the use of a single IRB, this is when it’s a multisite federal grant. Committee members are also involved in the plans for a university research center.

Student Discipline (Anne Murphy, chair): No report.

Student Life (Kim Ramsey-White, chair): The committee has met two times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has approved six new student organizations on the Perimeter College campus and fifty-four on the Atlanta campus. The committee is schedule to have representatives present to them at upcoming meetings regarding student policy on posting course materials,
student housing, student engagement, the Panther Pantry, and various building projects on the Atlanta campus such as the convocation center, and the Library North green space.

Sustainability (Trish Kanan, co-chair): The committee has met three times since the last Senate meeting. The committee has met with stakeholders from the sciences to discuss current curriculum plans for degree programs in environmental studies, purchasing sustainability products and features and GSU Foundation regarding potential funding opportunities.

University Statutes and Senate Bylaws (Patrick Freer for Todd Hendricks, chair): The committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The committee is preparing a proposal for the April senate meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.
ADJOURNMENT: Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Secretary to the Senate