

GSU Senate Committee on Planning and Development

October 26, 2020 | 2:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Jaye Atkinson, Michael Black, Allison Calhoun-Brown, Xiaojun Cao, Jennifer Chiovaro, James Engstrom, Gina Flowers, Sujay Galen, Jade Gross, Kathryn Hartgrove, Wendy Hensel, Jay Kahn, Yuan Liu, Victoria Mariani, Michelle Nelson, Martin Norgaard, Joe Patterson, Jared Poley, Peter Roessle, Nancy Schafer, Kim Siegenthaler, Jeff Steely, Ramesh Vakamudi, Noey Watson, Brett Wong, Christina Zamon, Alex Zeilovsky

Committee Members Absent:

Jocelyn Aguirre, Jessie Cino, Michael Eriksen, Michael Galchinsky, Michael Harker, Kenneth Long, Kenneth McNamara, Richard Milligan, Bonté Mitchell, Ike Okosun, Jerry Rackliffe, Vjollca Sadiraj, Andrew Sumner, Phil Ventimiglia

Others Present:

Timothy Renick (SVP Student Success), Donna Nichols (to take minutes)

Committee Chair Jared Poley called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #1

Approval of the Minutes of September 28, 2020:

Kathryn Hartgrove moved to approve the minutes without correction. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Chiovaro and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #2

FACP Report:

No report was given as the subcommittee has not met. Next meeting is TBD.

AGENDA ITEM #3

CPSAC Report:

The next meeting of CPSAC is scheduled for Nov. 19. If the subcommittee meeting occurs, Poley will give an update at the next Planning and Development committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4

Overview of Strategic Planning Process (Provost Wendy Hensel):

Provost Wendy Hensel gave an update on recent happenings that have created an impact on the strategic planning process. COVID-19 has certainly presented a challenge, she shared, but President Becker's notice of leaving the role at the end of the current academic year has presented a more immediate hurdle to strategic planning. She noted other areas that have seen recent changes that have bearing on the strategic planning process, such as students, research, and internationals. She added that the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative

should perhaps be included in the whole planning process rather than as a separate segment. She believes planning groups of administrators, faculty and staff should be put together in the next few weeks.

Provost Hensel responded to several questions asked by various committee members regarding the process and components within the strategic plans.

Poley suggested committee members be thinking of those who should be involved in the process and asked that they forward names to him or to Provost Hensel for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM #5

Fall Undergraduate Enrollment Report (Senior Vice President for Student Success Tim Renick):

Dr. Renick thanked the faculty for all their efforts for the fall semester. He shared a summary of the enrollment records, noting the Atlanta campus had a 4% increase to over 36,000 enrolled. In comparison to national numbers, GSU's enrollments are solid. A record number of freshmen enrolled, and a record diverse population were part of those enrollment numbers. However, he noted that fewer enrollments have occurred between August 25 and October 5 than previously, and freshmen in particular have dropped out in higher numbers during this period from the same timeframe last year. However, the reasons seem to have not been financial, as COVID-related financial assistance with the CARES Act direct grants and the Emergency Assistance Fund have aided many students in their fiscal challenges.

Withdrawal numbers show that courses taught online-only have experienced the highest percentage of change, Renick noted; however, those changes were not unexpected with a much greater number of online classes taught this semester. Renick admits that students are struggling, with only 18% of students responding to the chatbot that their experience/classes were "good." Amid the pandemic, however, a record number of degrees were awarded over the past academic year. Graduation rates were impacted for 5- and 6-year students mostly by those leery of graduating and facing repayment of student loans. Perimeter College graduation rates have continued to make incredible progress, with an overall rate of 22%, regardless of race (White and African American), and the Hispanic graduation rate was 25%.

Lastly, Renick shared an update on the "college to career" initiative, showing a dramatic increase in the metric of students using the University Career Services. He noted that modules are now included in all orientation courses as well as English 1101 courses.

Renick responded to questions asked by various committee members and agreed to share the information on SteppingBlocks with the faculty for use in their classes.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Nichols