GSU Senate Committee on Planning and Development
November 9, 2020 | 2:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:
Jaye Atkinson, Michael Black, Xiaojun Cao, Jennifer Chiovaro, James Engstrom, Gina Flowers, Michael Galchinsky, Sujay Galen, Jade Gross, Kathryn Hartgrove, Jay Kahn, Yuan Liu, Victoria Mariani, Richard Milligan, Martin Norgaard, Jared Poley, Vjollca Sadiraj, Nancy Schafer, Kim Siegenthaler, Jeff Steely, Ramesh Vakamudi, Brett Wong, Christina Zamon

Committee Members Absent:
Jocelyn Aguirre, Allison Calhoun-Brown, Jessie Cino, Michael Eriksen, Michael Harker, Wendy Hensel, Kenneth Long, Kenneth McNamara, Bonté Mitchell, Michelle Nelson, Ike Okosun, Joe Patterson, Jerry Rackliffe, Peter Roessle, Andrew Sumner, Phil Ventimigilia, Noey Watson, Alex Zelikovsky

Others Present:
Lisa Armistead (Graduate School Dean), 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 October 26, 2020:
Jaye Atkinson moved to approve the minutes without correction. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Hartgrove 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:
CPSAC is scheduled to meet the week of November 19. If the subcommittee meeting occurs, Poley will give an update at the next Planning and Development committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4
Graduate School Report (Lisa Armistead):
Dean Lisa Armistead gave an overview of functions within the Graduate School: Marketing & Admissions; Graduate Student Professional Development; Policy & Procedure; Center for the Advancement of Students & Alumni (CASA); and two new initiatives – Inclusive Mentorship and Holistic Application Review Workshops, and Support for Pursuit of Training Grants.
She reported that new fall enrollment numbers increased, as well as the number of spring applications were trending up; some of those numbers are due to international students who deferred enrollment because of the COVID situation. Total enrollment for the Graduate School includes 478 more students this fall – the largest number and growth for GSU, exceeding the national average. These increases are due largely to a marketing campaign targeting potential students through emails, social media, etc. In addition, a “virtual visitation” was held in October with 168 attendees to aid them in preparing to apply for graduate school, including a virtual tour, admissions and funding discussions, and a breakout session for questions.

Dean Armistead highlighted several methods utilized to support graduate students, all moved to an online format. She announced the winners of the Three-Minute Thesis Contest and congratulated the College of Arts & Sciences, at which all three winners study. She also reviewed the mission and purpose of CASA, the Center for Advancement of Students & Alumni into Graduate and Professional Programs.

Armistead responded to questions regarding international students and policy changes that may be anticipated under a new U.S. presidential administration. She announced a tuition waiver would be offered to international students who would have otherwise had a graduate internship opportunity in the spring semester. With potential difficulties during the pandemic for taking the GRE, some programs have eliminated this admission requirement – either temporarily or permanently.

AGENDA ITEM #5
Office of Institutional Effectiveness Report (Associate Provost Michael Galchinsky):

Associate Provost Michael Galchinsky presented an overview of the mission of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, breaking down the scope into various focuses under his office’s responsibilities. He shared the status of external and internal surveys for students and reviewed a list of the self-studies and action plans of several academic programs OIE is employing. He also shared a new policy process which will be available online, collecting university-wide policies on the administrative side. He reported on several other projects being revised or started, including two special projects, COACHE and Faculty Pay Equity, which he further explained.

Galchinsky reported on a new USG process wherein proposed programs are submitted to the University System at a maximum rate of four per year. He explained the process from forecast, proposal and approval to post-approval monitoring, review and modification. He also announced a new data governance process promulgated by the Board of Regents, reviewing the hierarchy of responsibilities throughout the university for ensuring data stewardship as well as functional and technical data governance and creating a long-term strategy for data governance. In addition, he shared new survey workflows available through his office.

Due to the voluntary separation plan recently deployed, several transitions are occurring within OIE as elsewhere throughout the university. Galchinsky reviewed highlights of the
personnel, work spaces and website changes in his office.

He responded to questions regarding cybersecurity threats and access control issues, explaining his office has responsibility over classification of all data within the university.

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Nichols