**MINUTES**

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**

April 15, 2021

Approved October 14, 2021


**Guests:** Charlie Cobb, Carol Cohen

**ORDER:** The Chair, Dr. Becker, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. via WebEx.

**MINUTES:** There was a motion to approve the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes and there was a second. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** The President opened his comments by sharing that the legislative session has concluded. The budget proposed by the governor and approved by the General Assembly is very positive for higher education. Last year there were budget cuts. This year Georgia’s economy has improved. He expects to approve many of the funding requests proposed by Deans and Vice Presidents during GSU’s annual budgeting process due to a strong budget.

GSU has now received funding to furnish the convocation center with equipment, tables, chairs, and audio-visual equipment. The center is on schedule to be completed by August 2022.

General pay raises were not in the budget for state or USG employees. Provisions will only be made for promotions, reclassifications, and other normal adjustments. Higher education has been included in all three stimulus payments. There were three categories of funding from the stimulus payments. Those categories were student financial aid, revenue loss by the Depart of Housing due to vacant beds in the residence halls (slightly over 50% occupancy in residence halls), and technology upgrades for education and online courses.

Research funding continues to be on pace with last year. Dr. Becker thanked the faculty, staff, and students involved in the research enterprise of GSU.

The May commencement ceremonies will be held outdoors in Center Parc Stadium adhering to social
distancing protocol. Over 300 faculty/staff/students have been vaccinated per day at GSU. We will continue to ask all GSU faculty/staff/students to continue to wear masks through fall semester. There is a plan for a more normal fall semester with events, student organizations, Senate meetings, and in-person instruction. GSU will use a phased approach to returning faculty, staff, and students to campus for fall semester.

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 & Standards Committee, Patrick Freer, Chair
      Motion to Revise Background and Transcript Requirements for Applicants to Graduate Programs-the motion proposes to expand the requirements beyond a baccalaureate degree to accommodate non-traditional applicants, including domestic applications with three years of undergraduate study and a Pharm.D., international applicants with a Doctor of Medicine or applicants with an associate degree and a R.N. There was a motion, the question was called, voting took place electronically, the results were posted in the chat by IT Support staff (the motion passed).

   2. Motion from the University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee, Todd Hendricks, Chair
      Motion for the University Attorney to Become a Permanent Member of the Senate-
      This motion proposes to make the University Attorney a permanent member of the GSU Senate. There was a motion, the question was called, voting took place electronically, the results were posted in the chat by IT Support staff (the motion passed).

   3. Motion from the Nominations Committee, Shelby Frost, Chair
      Nominations Report for the 2021-22 Senate Year
      This report contains a detailed list of all University Senate Committees and the 2021-2022 senators/staff, administrators and presidential appointees that comprise each committee. Dr. Frost received a request from the Colleges of Arts & Sciences that she considers a friendly amendment to the Nominations Report. The friendly amendment is to move Senator Sebastian Rand from the Athletics Committee to the University Statutes and Bylaws Committee. Dr. Frost made a motion that this amendment be accepted to the Nominations Report to the Senate. There was no discussion on the amendment, the question was called voting took place electronically; the results were posted in the chat by IT Support staff (the motion passed).

B. Election of the 2021-22 Senate Executive Committee. President Becker opened the floor for nominations (via chat and by speaking the name to the group). The names were recorded and displayed via a shared screen as nominated:
   Gerry Gay, Robinson College of Business
   Rose Sevcik, College of Arts and Sciences
   Shelby Frost, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
   Catherine Perkins, College of Education and Human Development
   Patrick Freer, College of the Arts
   JoAnn Lee Joyner, Perimeter College
   Michelle Brattain, College of Arts and Sciences
   Todd Hendricks, Perimeter College
   Michelle Nelson, Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions
   Kimberly Bennekin, Perimeter College
   John Redmond, Perimeter College

Nominations were closed and the slate was accepted. Dr. Michelle Brattain shared that the voting would
take place via a Qualtrics poll. Damon Lynch will set up the poll and send it to the Senators via email this afternoon. We will not have the results of the Senate Executive Committee today. The ballot will close on April 19th at 5:30 pm. Dionne Polite will email the results of the election to the members on or before Wednesday, April 21st.

Information Items: A. **2021-22 Senate Committee Information Items**
   1. List of 2021-2022 Faculty Senators
   2. 2021-2022 Senate Committee Organizational Meeting Dates and Full Senate Meeting Dates

   B. **Administrator Evaluation**
      Report on the Evaluation of Wolfgang Schloer, Associate Provost for International Initiatives

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Becker introduced Mr. Charlie Cobb, Director of Athletics. Director Cobb gave his annual report to the Senate via a PowerPoint presentation. The Athletics Department tries to adhere to five operational components to ensure a Culture of Success. Those components are academic achievement, competitive greatness, ethical behavior (GSU has never been through an NCAA investigation or sanctioned), social responsibility, and community engagement. He addressed the 2020-21 Covid challenges such as 12,468 PCR tests (10,000 students), schedules reduced by 10-20%, travel restrictions (division-only play), stadium and arena capacity reductions, additional season of eligibility for Spring 2020 and Fall and Winter 2021 student athletes. There were 163 positive covid test out of the 12,000 PCR tests. The athletic teams that usually utilize one bus during travel are using two or more buses for social distancing. Director Cobb also shared current/future NCAA issues. President Becker mentioned that he has called for candidates for the Faculty Athletics’ Representative (FAR) role due to the retirement of Professor George Pierce from the Department of Biology. Director Cobb explained the importance of the FAR. The spring football game is tomorrow night at Center Parc Stadium.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Dionne Polite, Assistant to the Senate