

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
Minutes of
April 4, 2012

Attendees: J.L. Albert, Paul Alberto, Mark Becker, Larry Berman, Chandler Brown, Doug Covey, Michael Eriksen, Linda Goodfellow, Kerry Heyward, DeAnna Hines, Fenwick Huss, Steve Kaminshine, Randy Kamphaus, Julie Kerlin, Marcus Kernizan, Tom Lewis, Jun Liu, William Long, Peter Lyons, Walter Massey, Susan Mondello, Risa Palm, Jerry Rackliffe, Tim Renick, Nan Seamans, Rose Sevcik, Jowanna Tillman, Edgar Torbert, Mary Beth Walker, James Weyhenmeyer

Minutes of March 7, 2012, were approved as distributed.

Dr. Becker introduced Marcus Kernizan, the newly elected 2012-13 President of the Student Government Association.

Legislative wrap-up

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Kerlin reported on the 2012 legislative session. Mr. Lewis commented on increasing scrutiny of University System institutions from various angles. Ms. Kerlin distributed a summary of legislation related to the University System. Dr. Becker commended Sally Wallace, et al. for their contributions to tax reform discussions under difficult circumstances. Dr. Becker announced GSU and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies will host the Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALs) sponsored by the Southern Legislative Conference on September 22-26, 2012. Ms. Hines expressed appreciation to Jason Thomas and Ms. Kerlin for their informative series of weekly legislative newsletters. Dr. Becker commented on compliance with policies concerning political activities in classes in balance with the tenets of academic freedom. Ms. Kerlin thanked participants in the annual GSU Day at the Capitol and praised the GSU students serving as 2012 legislative interns.

Enrollment update

Dr. Renick distributed admissions/enrollment summaries for Summer Sessions 2012 and Fall Semester 2012. He noted that year-to-date headcounts and credit hours for the summer were running ahead by approximately 4%; however, the outlook for the summer was mixed with Pell Grants not available to summer students for the first time. Dr. Renick reported fall registrations had surpassed 12,000, and transfer numbers were improving. He indicated University System-wide concern about freshman applications for the fall with UGA and GT also experiencing drops in in-state applications. He pointed to the need to improve the yield rate in order to offset the decline in the number of applications.

Dr. Renick also called attention to the increase in the average number of credit hours taken by students graduating with bachelor's degrees from 136 in AY2009 to 140 in AY2010 and 142 for the partial year AY2011. He warned that this trend presented a serious problem with HOPE awards capped at 127 credit hours and many students exhausting federal financial aid as well. Dr. Renick cited efforts with academic advisors and the University Senate Committee on Admissions and Standards to address this issue. He observed that very few degree programs require more than 120 credit hours because of Board of Regents approval required to do so.

Dr. Renick reported progress toward achieving a 51% 6-year graduation rate. He attributed significant improvement as the result of hiring additional advisors to focus on 5th and 6th year students close to completing their degree programs. Dr. Becker emphasized the importance of raising graduation rates as the state legislature considers funding mechanisms tied to graduation rates, zero-based budgeting, etc. Dr. Renick added that the current metrics do not take into account students who graduate from another institution. Dr. Becker commented that students are now more likely to attend three institutions in completing a bachelor's degree program than only

one. Dr. Eriksen noted that the 2006 cohort of students had doubled graduation rates from the 4th to the 5th year. Dr. Renick responded that this phenomenon related mainly to economic issues; i.e., that few students could afford to maintain fulltime status for four straight years.

Budget update

Dr. Rackliffe reported that the GSU share of the funding formula enrollment growth dollars was still unknown. He forecasted a two-part allocation from the Board of Regents between targeted and growth dollars in the total range of \$5,000,000-7,000,000. He expressed optimism that the Board of Regents would take into account the unfunded year of the funding formula when GSU stood to benefit from a record increase of 68,000 credit hours, but realized no growth dollars.

Smoke/tobacco free campus policy follow-up

Dr. Alberto reported the proposed smoke/tobacco free campus policy discussed at Administrative Council on March 7, 2012, would be reviewed by the University Senate Committee on Planning and Development on April 23, 2012. Dr. Heyward stated that revisions suggested by Administrative Council would be incorporated in the draft sent to the Senate committee.

Searches

Dr. Palm reported an interim dean for the College of Education in 1-2 weeks. She also thanked Dr. Kamphaus for his successful service as dean of the college. Dr. Palm announced Lynda Brown Wright had accepted an offer to become Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs effective July 1, 2012. Dr. Palm indicated that the search for dean of the School of Public Health had narrowed to three finalists and that searches were going well to hire faculty for the Second Century Initiative.

First-year book selection

Dr. Renick announced the choice of *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore as the First-Year Book for 2012-13.

President's remarks

Dr. Becker commented on rumors that GSU would be invited to join the Sun Belt Conference.

Dr. Becker reported on a trip to China with Mayor Kasim Reed and other Atlanta business and civic leaders to seek Chinese companies that might locate their North American headquarters/operations in Atlanta. Dr. Becker also commented on the potential for attracting large numbers of Chinese students to enroll at GSU, especially the anticipated growth in the number of Chinese coming to the US for undergraduate degrees.

Prepared by Edgar Torbert