

## University Senate Budget Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

315 Dalhberg Hall

3:00 PM

Members Present: JoAnn Bacon, Pam Barr, Diane Belcher, Margo Britton, Jennifer Chiovaro, Irene Duhaime, Peggy Gallagher, Hugh Hudson, Joe Hurley, Tyler Lewis, Unil Perera, Jerry Rackliffe, Lesley Reid, Cherian Thachenkary, Jowanna Tillman, Mary Beth Walker, Margaret Wilmoth

1. Lesley Reid called meeting to order
2. Approval of the minutes.
3. BOR Updates – Hugh Hudson

Hugh Hudson reported on the dramatic changes to retiree health benefits approved by the Board. As of January 2015 all retirees will be required to use Medicare as their primary coverage provider, with USG plans to be used only as secondary coverage. For those retirees who had never enrolled in Medicare, the USG will pay their late enrollment penalties. In 2016, the USG will only support secondary coverage through a defined contribution health care investment account that retirees can use to purchase secondary coverage outside of the USG healthcare plan. There was significant concern expressed about this plan by committee members and Lesley Reid will follow up with the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Senate Executive Committee regarding possible actions.

4. Update on CBSAC & FACP – Jerry Rackliffe and Lesley Reid

Jerry Rackliffe reported that the faculty/staff morale funds have been released to the colleges and other units. Per state regulations, these funds cannot be used for bonuses, raises, or other gratuities. Lesley Reid reported that FACP recommended to approve the student fee allocation after much discussion and some dissent over the use of the expiring \$35 library fee. Instead of lowering the student fees, the savings were reallocated to other units. This discussion led to questions about the relationship between FACP and the Senate Budget Committee. Lesley Reid reported that she would bring up this issue at the next Senate Committee of Chairs meeting.

5. Update on Enrollment Management Committee – Margo Britton

Margo Britton reported that GSU had a nine percent increase in freshman enrollment this year that was paired with an increase in student quality. By contrast, we experienced a decrease in transfer student enrollment. There is concern that this may be related to the relative expense of GSU versus regional schools such as Georgia Perimeter and Clayton State. Also, there is concern about future growth with the high school graduation rate in Georgia stagnating. The university is experimenting with different recruitment strategies, including recruitment of more

out of state students. At the other end of the educational pipeline, GSU's graduation rates have continued to climb, increasing from 32% in 2003 to 53% in 2013. Beyond undergraduate enrollment issues, graduate enrollment continues to be a concern. With improvements in the economy, fewer students are choosing to attend graduate school nationally. As we continue to grow to a projected 40,000 students, attention will need to be given to the growth of graduate programs.

6. Overview of Subcommittee Work – Lesley Reid

Lesley Reid provided brief updates on behalf of the subcommittee chairs. The Graduate Student Fees committee has met with a few deans and with the graduate student advocacy group. The committee has explored the package fee waiver in place at UGA and is assessing what the impact of a similar policy would be at GSU. The Graduate Enrollment Committee is collecting data on trends in enrollment over past 10 years to compare to other universities and fields. And the Faculty Salary committee is still in data collection and analysis stage.

7. New Business – Lesley Reid

The committee evaluated spring meeting dates. The May date was changed from May 21<sup>st</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Staff Council Meetings and Lesley will check for any overlap with CAP meeting dates. For spring speakers, the committee requested more input late in the semester from HR on the impact of the ACA on Fall 2014 hires.

8. Meeting adjourned.