Administrative Council
Minutes of March 7, 2018


Approval of Minutes: The committee approved the minutes of February 7, 2018.

Information Item - OneUSG Update: Mr. Elmore provided an update to the group regarding the university’s migration to the OneUSG system. This system will replace ADP as the university’s system for Human Resources (HR) functions. The implementation is part of an initiative led by the University System of Georgia (USG) to standardize HR transaction processing and reporting across all system institutions. Georgia State is in the second cohort of schools to migrate to the OneUSG platform, with a scheduled date of March 25, 2018 to go live. Employees from central HR offices will continue to offer training sessions, regular meetings and electronic job resources for all employees in advance of as well as after March 25.

Action Item - International Travel Policy: Dr. Schlor and Dr. Burnett presented a revised set of proposed changes to the university policy on international travel. Dr. Burnett reminded everyone that the changes are necessary due to recent revisions to the international travel advisory system managed by the U.S. Department of State. Dr. Schlor and Dr. Burnett worked with deans and other senior administrators around the university to ensure that the revised policy includes appropriate involvement of chairs and deans prior to international travel by faculty. The revisions also include the requirement for university personnel traveling to a country or region with a Level 3 or Level 4 warning to work with the university’s export control officer. The committee approved the policy revisions.

Action Item – Conflict of Interest Policy: Dr. Lombard presented proposed revisions to the university policy on conflicts of interest. The changes would bring university policy into alignment with USG policy. Proposed changes include simplified language regarding committee composition as well as a broader definition of the types of employee relationships that constitute a conflict.

Dr. Becker noted the importance of including language in the policy to address the appearance of a conflict as well as an actual conflict. Dr. Heyward noted that such language exists in the appendices of the policy.

The committee approved the policy revisions.

Legislative Update: Ms. Kerlin stated that today is Day 31 of the 40-day legislative session. Sine Die for the current session will be March 29. The amended budget for fiscal year 2018 has passed both the House and the Senate. Both bodies are likely to vote on fiscal year 2019 budgets in the next several days. Governor Deal has signed significant legislation regarding revisions to the state tax code.
Ms. Kerlin also noted that today is the second day of qualifying for statewide elections in November. Primary elections are May 22, 2018 with any required runoff elections occurring in July before the general election in early November. University and USG personnel continue to monitor any pending legislation relevant to higher education.

Dr. Alberto inquired about merit raises in the fiscal year 2019 budget. Dr. Becker responded that Governor Deal did not include any merit raises in his budget request for fiscal year 2019.

President’s Remarks: Dr. Becker recognized that Ms. Sonda Abernathy is attending her final meeting in her capacity as Chair of Staff Council. Mr. Eric Cuevas is the incoming Chair of Staff Council and next month will assume the committee position that Ms. Abernathy will vacate.

Dr. Becker noted the recent opening of LaunchGSU, which is incubator space to support student start-up companies. The space currently houses 70 students working in a variety of industries. Students have access to maker spaces, courses, and professional expertise to help develop their fledgling companies. The university also recently opened additional science lab space at the Alpharetta campus. Dr. Lyons complimented the university’s Facilities Management unit for leading the effort that has resulted in state of the art lab facilities for Georgia State students at the Alpharetta campus.

Dr. Becker shared that an announcement is imminent from the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding an allocation of federal funds to MARTA for bus rapid transit. This funding will help to develop improved mass transportation from the neighborhoods around Georgia State Stadium to the Midtown / Arts Center district.

Announcements:

Dr. Palm stated that all four of the finalists in the search for the Dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies have been to campus. University leadership hopes to select the next dean very soon and will share the news as soon as possible.

Dr. Rackliffe shared that the Board of Regents has made changes in the accounting for course fee revenues and associated expenses. Mr. Bruce Spratt from Accounting Services and Ms. Denise Floyd from Budget and Planning have explained these changes to the college financial and administrative officers. The university is awaiting a response from the Board of Regents regarding the effective date of these changes.

Dr. Rackliffe also stated that starting with the Fall 2018 semester, the Regents have mandated that online tuition rates will be reduced to in-state tuition rates. University leadership is evaluating the financial impact of this rate change on future budgets.

Dr. Phillips noted students from Georgia State recently competed in an entrepreneurship competition among Georgia colleges and universities. Georgia State sent seven teams to the competition, with three teams advancing to the semi-finals.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.