Administrative Council
Minutes of April 4, 2018


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

Action Item – Reorganization of the School of Public Health: Dr. Eriksen presented a proposal to reorganize the academic units within the School of Public Health. The reorganization will move faculty from four divisions into two departments of approximately 25 faculty members per department. This new structure more accurately reflects the current state of the unit and will provide better consistency with other academic units at Georgia State in the future. The committee approved the proposal.

Fundraising Update: Mr. Massey shared an update on university fundraising efforts. The university has eclipsed the campaign goal of raising $300 million ahead of schedule. University leaders will continue the momentum of the current campaign and soon begin planning efforts for the next campaign. During the Burning Bright campaign, the university received 51 separate gifts of $1 million or more. Many of the gifts are pledges that will be paid over several years.

Mr. Massey informed the group that in 2008, total annual funds raised exceeded $20 million for the first time. Over the past couple of years, the university has raised over $40 million per year. In the past eight years, the value of the university’s endowment has doubled, growing from $81 million in 2010 to $159 million in early 2018.

Legislative Update: Ms. Kerlin noted that the 2018 legislative session ended last week with the passage of a $26.2 billion budget for FY 2019 for the State of Georgia, including funding of $2.4 billion for the University System of Georgia. Items of relevance to Georgia State include $60 million Major Repair and Rehabilitation Funds (MRRF) for the University System, $5 million in design funding for a convocation center, and $5 million for work associated with Library North. Governor Deal is currently reviewing the budget and has 40 days to exercise line item veto power before signing the budget into law. Throughout the summer and fall, Governor Deal will develop the FY 2020 budget request that the new governor will deliver when the next legislative session begins in January 2019. University leaders will continue to work with Governor Deal’s team to pursue legislative and financial priorities for the university for the upcoming session.

Ms. Kerlin summarized many of the new laws that are also awaiting Governor Deal’s review. Finally, Ms. Kerlin noted that primary elections in Georgia occur during May with the general election in early November.

President’s Remarks: Dr. Becker recognized the efforts of Mr. Lewis, Ms. Kerlin, and the rest of the university team during the recently concluded legislative session.
Dr. Becker noted that recent clarity regarding the federal budget should result in federal agencies beginning to move through a sizeable volume of funding proposals. Since the federal fiscal year runs through September 30, it is quite likely that proposals will not be funded until the fourth quarter of the federal fiscal year, which would be the first quarter of FY 2019 at Georgia State.

Dr. Becker stated that the university’s presence in the neighborhood surrounding Georgia State Stadium has been positive during the inaugural year of owning the facility. The university has experienced an increase in the number of people from the neighborhood enrolling as students at Georgia State and the number of reported crimes in the neighborhood has decreased by approximately 30%. Chief Spillane has drawn on his previous role in the neighborhood with the Atlanta Police Department to establish effective partnerships to enhance safety within the community.

Dr. Becker informed the group that the inaugural conference held by the University Innovation Alliance is currently convening in Atlanta. Georgia State is a founding member of the alliance with ten other institutions around the nation. Collectively, the alliance aims to increase the number of college graduates by 90,000 students in the upcoming decade by eliminating barriers to education, particularly for low-income and/or first generation students. Approximately 400 people are attending the conference.

Finally, Dr. Becker stated that the FY 2019 budget that was approved by the General Assembly did not include money for merit raises for employees. The Board of Regents meets in the middle of April and is exploring options for merit increases. Any decisions will be communicated by the Board and consistent across all institutions within the University System of Georgia. University budget staff will share any relevant information regarding merit increases upon action by the Regents.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 am.