Minutes of August 4 were approved.

President's remarks

Budget

Dr. Patton thanked vice presidents, deans and others for their efforts to address the budget issues faced by the university. He presented an overview of the “talking points” about the budget circulated prior to the meeting. He stressed reminding internal and external constituencies that the cuts and layoffs resulting from previous rounds of budget reductions were real. He noted the Governor had proceeded with the shift of the June 30, 2005 payroll to July 1, 2005 to balance the overall state budget, against advice from the University System, and in reversing his decision had penalized the University System disproportionately to its share of the state budget (38% to 11%). Dr. Patton pointed to lessening commitment to higher education from the Governor and legislature and the danger of losing the competitive advantage Georgia has had in attracting business and industry because of the quality of higher education. He added that this edge contrasted to the quality of K-12 education in the state.

Dr. Patton emphasized that statements about the tuition increase should make it clear that it was not the case of the University System taking advantage of the students, but rather the direct result of the Governor and legislature cutting support for higher education. He commented that pricing for tuition and fees had been set to keep the HOPE scholarship program solvent rather than to meet the actual cost of quality higher education.

Dr. Patton reported the Governor had met with a delegation from University System student governments to discuss the budget situation. Dr. Patton indicated the meeting scheduled for one hour had gone three hours, and the students did a good job of presenting their views. He added that the student leaders were planning a march on the capitol building for October 8. Dr. Winkler asked if assistance was needed in building turnout for the march. Dr. Scott answered that the Student Government Association was coordinating promotion of the march.

Mr. Lewis commented that the Governor was unhappy about the first meeting with the students and that he accused the Chancellor of orchestrating the meeting. Mr. Lewis expressed concern that the students had promised 100,000 signatures, but might come up short. Mr. Lewis observed that the Lieutenant Governor was making higher education his number one campaign issue. Dr. Patton noted that the Lieutenant Governor had not been supportive of University System capital projects in the past.
Dr. Henry cautioned that the current year efforts to reduce the budget cuts might result in winning a battle but losing the war. He projected that the Governor would suggest the adjustment could be made through the supplemental budget. He added that the University System would be far better off with $60M annually through the tuition increase than $25M up front through the supplemental budget.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Chancellor wanted efforts to influence the Governor to be low key until the Board of Regents meeting on October 12-13. Mr. Lewis predicted the Board of Regents would approve a mid-year tuition increase. He also predicted there would be no reserve in the supplemental budget to offset the budget cuts imposed by undoing the June 30, 2005 payroll shift.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about a fallback position on the tuition increase (eg 5%) if the Governor acts to portray himself as saving the students from the 10% mid-year tuition increase. Mr. Lewis replied that it was not an all-or-nothing situation. He added that the Board of Regents might not be unanimously in favor of the 10% increase given the number of appointees by the current Governor. Dr. Henry commented that this did not necessarily mean they were split on support of the Chancellor.

Dr. Adamson pointed out that even with a 10% tuition increase there would be a need to take some budgetary actions. Dr. Patton elaborated that even when the economy recovers, higher education will not recover its share of the state budget. He urged a closer look at program quality to determine where funds should be reallocated to advance as a research university.

Dr. Adamson noted a hiring freeze as one of the talking points and concern as tenure-track faculty hiring is in full gear. Dr. Patton responded that the hiring freeze was just one option, and Dr. Henry would give notice if such was deemed necessary at some point.

Campaign Celebration

Dr. Patton called attention to the celebration of the successful conclusion of the $125M comprehensive fund-raising campaign on November 5, 2004. He encouraged use of this occasion to celebrate other accomplishments across the university. As an example, he announced that an exhibition men’s basketball game scheduled for later than evening had been moved up to 2:00 p.m. He commented that the next campaign would be starting soon and would have some portion of $1B as its goal. Dr. Patton urged support for the state charitable campaign as well given that many of the major donor prospects for university campaigns are linked to various charitable agencies and look at the participation rate of university faculty and staff in the state charitable campaign.

Dr. Henry announced there would be a town hall meeting in November for faculty and staff to hear from him and Dr. Patton regarding the budget.

Center for Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies

Dr. Adamson presented the proposal for the Center for Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies. She noted deep roots in the College of Arts and Sciences for this center and the impetus to organize urban interests within the college.
Dr. Henry asked about plans to involve other colleges in the center and the impact of constrained costs given limited funds to allocate at the university level. Dr. Adamson replied that by formalizing the center, the college could invest a little money and leverage it significantly. She added that the center would involve the College of Law and others, and collaborations were part of the plan. Dr. Kaminshine noted that the College of Law already had a center with the words “metropolitan growth” in its name.

Dr. Moore commented that the center had great potential, but questioned presenting the proposal without more discussion with other colleges about collaborations. He also questioned creating a new unit given the overall budget climate and using college funds which had not been on the table for areas of focus. Dr. Adamson responded that only $15,000 would be invested at start-up and that the scope was not comparable to an area of focus. She remarked that 6 or 7 very diverse departments would be engaged in the center. Dr. Morris added that a draft proposal had been shared with all deans in March 2003. He pointed out that the College of Arts and Sciences had a track record of funding its centers primarily through external funds, which was not the case for all colleges.

Dr. Huss suggested adding language to the proposal to indicate the intent to seek external funds. He asked if there were lead departments for the center. Dr. Adamson mentioned sociology, history, anthropology, and (community) psychology. Dr. Kelley expressed interest in linking criminal justice and social work to the center.

Dr. Huss asked about existing strengths on which the center would be built. Dr. Adamson pointed to the list of faculty included in the proposal and mentioned such existing programs as the sociology PhD program, the historical preservation program, the study abroad program on urban problems in Egypt, and undergraduate courses focusing on urban issues.

Dr. Huss asked about the comfort level of the College of Arts and Sciences with adding language about external funding. Dr. Adamson affirmed that the college was accustomed to “virtual centers” which did not have physical locations and separate budgets, but fostered collaborations leading to external funding. She noted that some like the Center for Ethics could develop to another level.

Dr. Hurt recommended changing the language about potential funding agencies to include agencies outside of Atlanta. She asked about the steps following approval by Administrative Council. Dr. Henry replied that the center would be listed on the Provost web site immediately and included in the annual reporting of centers and institutes to the Board of Regents. He reminded that centers are reviewed by the University Senate Committee on Research in the manner of cyclical academic program review by the University Senate Committee on Academic Programs and Continuing Education (APACE). He reiterated that approval of the center did not carry university commitment for funding, which would need to come to the Fiscal Advisory Committee to the President (FACP). Dr. Henry commented that the proposal was for a strong center with a considerable investment of time as well as dollars from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Adamson made a motion to approve the Center for Neighborhood and Metropolitan Studies.
Dr. Colarusso asked for clarification of the statements in the proposal regarding funding. Dr. Patton summarized that the proposal would indicate intent to seek external funding and not limit efforts to Atlanta agencies.

Dr. Winkler seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Legislative Event

Mr. Lewis announced the annual legislative event would be 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2006, in the Capitol Rotunda. He explained the change from the Freight Depot location was prompted by the budget situation even though the event is paid by the GSU Foundation and the Alumni Association. Mr. Sheheane added that he would be meeting with college representatives to discuss informational materials to be distributed at the event. Dr. Winkler suggested the information fit a particular theme, such as community outreach. Dr. Patton suggested the theme of “serving all of Georgia”. Mr. Sheheane responded that a map would be prepared showing the home counties of Georgia State students from Georgia. Dr. Patton commented on the political power of rural Georgia.

Announcements

Ms. Hurt reported Georgia State was the biggest supplier of materials for the GIL Express program delivering books to students at colleges and universities across the state.

Dr. Henry announced the appointment of Dr. Morris as Vice President for Research.

Dr. Kelley announced the launch of the Master of Public Health degree program.

Dr. Huss reported an average GMAT of 620 and an average GMAT for the top 20% of 680, which was equivalent to Emory, Georgia, and Georgia Tech on a larger student base.

Dr. Kaminshine reported the largest class admitted to the College of Law and the highest LSAT average at 159. He also noted 40 student volunteers for the Fulton County jail project.

Dr. Colarusso highlighted a $5.8M federal grant to focus on urban education and partner schools.

Mr. Rackliffe reported on a meeting of the downtown security task force and the opening of clubs at Underground Atlanta with open containers allowed in Kenny’s Alley. He also reported the closing of Woodruff Park for 2-3 months for improvements. Dr. Patton cautioned this might result in homeless persons migrating to Hurt Park and surrounding buildings.

Mr. Sheheane reported the AlumNet team had been supplied information about the budget situation and would be meeting with legislators in their home districts to plead our case.

Mr. Lewis announced efforts underway with the congressional delegation to secure additional funds for the science buildings. He added that Dr. Patton and he were also meeting with new members of the Board of Regents to promote the humanities building project.

Dr. Moore reported on the move to the new building for the Andrew Young School of Policy
Studies and apprehension of persons breaking in by the GSU Police. He also noted the completion of the Jamaican tax reform project.

Dr. Scott reported on a meeting of the Student Mandatory Fee Committee concerning the proposed increase of the athletics fee from $82 to $112 to cover additional expenses associated with the move to the Colonial Athletic Conference.

Mr. Simpson announced an upcoming meeting of student leaders with Governor Perdue.

Mr. Roth reminded that quarterly reports of audit findings required responses from cited units.

Ms. Hawkins announced the Results comprehensive campaign celebration slated for Friday, November 5, and thanked all contributors to this $125M success.

Ms. Hurt asked for referral to her of any complaints from faculty about databases dropped by Gallileo. She stated the cost of the databases to be $30K.

Dr. Adamson commented on developments in fine arts including several faculty awards and renovations to the Arts and Humanities Building. She noted stress caused by rapid growth in enrollment in the last 5 years and reliance on enrollment management to ascertain where students are heading. She announced 3 National Merit Scholars among the freshmen admitted this fall. Dr. Adamson pointed out 49 of 50 posted tenure-track positions were filled this fall. She reported start-up of a pilot project to provide $500 toward health insurance for graduate teaching assistants. She announced a new lecture series related to the Brains and Behavior area of focus.

Dr. Fritz reported the highest average SAT ever for new freshmen at 1094. He indicated the enrollment management task force would be looking further at a minimum SAT of 900 and high school grade point average of 2.8. He added that the average transfer grade point average topped 3.0 for the first time. Dr. Fritz commented that the drop in enrollment of 800 students resulted largely from fewer new graduate students, fewer returning juniors and seniors, and fewer international students. He cited the number of students eligible to enroll any given semester as 50K.

Mr. Albert reported on expansion of bandwidth for research needs and implementation of the Symantec desktop management project. He also noted purchase of additional disk storage for students with student technology fee funds.

Dr. Morris announced the new university web page would be coming out soon. He noted grant proposals submitted for $100M yielded $60M with a 50% award rate. He stated the key to get more proposals submitted, but noted the need for more administrative support to accomplish this growth.

Mr. Simpson asked about cutting the computer center printing allowance for students. Mr. Albert replied that the Student Technology Fee Committee voted to take this action. Dr. Kaminshine elaborated that the committee did not feel that this was a technology matter.