Minutes of the Meeting
The minutes of the February 22, 2011 meeting were approved as distributed.

Report on HOPE changes
Timothy Renick reported on the changes in HOPE and their impact on Georgia State Students. He reported that HOPE currently covers 100% tuition (based on 12 credit hours, $2832), $356 of $814 Mandatory Fees ($458 not currently covered) and $150 for books. If the proposed 90% plan were implemented Spring 2011, the impact would be as follows:

- Hope would cover $2549 of Tuition (12 Hours) not covered $283
- Hope would cover $0 Mandatory Fees not covered $814
- Hope would cover $0 Books not covered $150

Total not covered: $1,247

The gap grows larger for students taking more than 12 credit hours. GSU had 8,550 students on HOPE this Spring, which means students would lose a total of at least $6,745,950 relative to amount actually paid to them Spring 11. The estimated annual loss to students under the 90% plan is $18 to $20 million. The actual number would be higher since many students take more than 12 hours; they would grow higher still if tuition is increased.

Current GSU’s resources cannot fill the gap for students. For the Spring 2011 semester, GSU students received $25 million from HOPE, $23 million from Pell, $77 million in federal loans, and $1.2 million in GSU scholarships.

The rising levels of unmet need impact Georgia State students (distributed via email 3/22/11):
- The total cost of a year at Georgia State (tuition, fees, books, room, board, misc.) for a fulltime undergraduate student, according to federal guidelines, is just under $20,000.
- Even after GSU students are fully packaged by financial aid (HOPE, Pell, other scholarships, grants, loans, work study, and family contributions), over 90% of Georgia State students still have some amount of unmet need. In many cases, the unmet need exceeds $15,000.
- The average amount of unmet need per GSU undergraduate currently stands at over $4,000 per year (after scholarships, loans, work-study, and family contributions are added in). This number will increase significantly with changes to HOPE.
• About one third of GSU undergraduates come from households with annual incomes of $30K or less.
• Students with unmet need compromise their studies by taking on fulltime or extra jobs, cutting back on books, living in situations not conducive to studying, or simply dropping out.
• There is a direct correlation between unmet need and academic performance. 62% of GSU students with no unmet need maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. This number falls to 46% for students with unmet need between $6K-$9K per year and to 27% for students with unmet need of over $15K per year.
• Loss of HOPE is the single most significant predictor of attrition among GSU students. Students who come to GSU on HOPE and maintain it graduate at a 61% rate. Students who come to GSU on HOPE and lose it graduate at a 21% rate.
• The lesson: Rising levels of unmet need hurt academic performance and lower graduation rates.

Reports on 2010 appeals.
Admissions Appeals, Special Talents, and Admissions Discipline was tabled due to Scott Burke’s absence. Allison Calhoun-Brown reported on the 2010 Academic Regulation and Graduation Requirement Appeals (Academic Residency, D Grade Restriction, I Grade Restriction, 2.0 GPA Requirements and other issues). Of the 32 received, 28 were approved and four were denied.

Carol Cohen reported on the Course Load, Scholastic Discipline, Core, and Regents Test Appeals. 279 Policy review and petitions were received, 188 were approved and 91 were denied. 48 University level appeals were reviewed by Carol, of which 36 were approved and 12 denied.

Averil Smith reported on the Add, Drop, Withdrawal Appeals. One hundred and twenty-two (122) Petitions and Appeals were received. 84 were approved, 16 approved with modifications, 18 denied, 2 pending and 2 were forwarded.

Motion Re Spring Break
The Committee approved Option A of the motion to move Spring Break to mid-March with a friendly amendment, effective Spring 2013. The School of Music strongly requested that the change is not effective next year because they already have signed contracts based on the current published dates.

Motion:
Effective Spring 2012 2013  Deletions  Additions

First day of class 2nd Mon in Jan = 1st Mon
MLK Day No classes
Mid-point 7th Fri (The last W day.) 8th Tues (The last W day.)
Spring Break 8th Mon to 8th Sun 10th Mon to 10th Sun
Last day of class 16th Mon
Finals 16th Tues to the 17th Tues
Minimester 1        Minimester 2
First day of class  2nd Mon in Jan = 1st Mon  9th Mon
MLK Day            No classes
Last Day of Classes 7th Wed 15th Tues
Finals            7th Thur to 7th Sat 15th Wed to the 15th Fri

Rationale for spring break change:
Option A
Move spring break to mid-March. (The option indicated above.)
GSU’s spring break is earlier than most other universities and it would be good for GSU’s spring break to match those of other universities. The undergraduate student representative on Admissions and Standards indicated that undergraduate students support this option because it offers a rest period after intensive study for midterms and allows students to regroup for the rest of the semester. An April break would replicate problems with flagging end-of-term energy and academic achievement associated with the late date of Thanksgiving break in fall semester.

Option B
Have spring break the first week of April.
A large majority of public elementary and secondary schools have their spring break the first week in April. For those students, faculty, and staff with children, it would save money and be more family-friendly if our spring break matched these schools. For students and faculty whose teaching or research takes place in these schools, (e.g., in the College of Education), the lack of match between GSU’s spring break and the public elementary and secondary school spring break means that they have to work both during GSU’s spring break and during these schools’ spring break.

Option C
Keep spring break where it is.
The current calendar puts the spring break at the mid-point. This allows for a break between Minimester 1 and Minimester 2.

Rationale for mid-point change:
Moving the mid-point back four days will mean that Monday classes have the same number of meetings before the midpoint as other classes. On the current calendar, they have one less due to Labor/MLK Day. A parallel change would be made to the Fall calendar.

Motion Re Repeat to Replace Courses Policy
The motion regarding the Repeat To Replace Courses Policy was approved.

Motion:
Effective Fall 2011  Deletion
Under the conditions outlined below, undergraduate students who have retaken courses and earned a higher grade may request to have the first grade excluded from their institutional GPA. If the request is approved, the Office of the Registrar will make appropriate notations next to the original course and the retaken course on the student’s official transcript. Grades for all attempts at the course will appear on the student’s official transcript regardless of whether or not the grade
has been excluded from the student’s GPA. This policy has no effect on any GPA requirements set by state or federal laws/regulations (such as the GPA requirements set by the HOPE scholarship program). A copy of the request and approval will become part of the student’s permanent record file. This policy will take effect for courses that are repeated Fall 2011 or thereafter. Students who have repeated courses prior to this date will not be allowed to delete earlier attempts from their GPA calculation. This policy does not override the Senate policy that allows units to prohibit students from repeating courses.

An undergraduate student may request to have a grade excluded from GPA computation under the following conditions:

1. Before requesting to apply the repeat-to-replace policy, a student must have retaken the same undergraduate course (or the renumbered substitute for that course) in the same department at GSU and earned a higher grade in the course retaken.
2. No more than a total of four course grades (from four different courses) may be replaced and excluded from the student’s GPA.
3. Requests must be submitted before the beginning of the term of graduation.
4. Once a request has been approved, the request cannot be revoked or reversed.
5. This policy applies only to the first recorded grade in a course that a student has repeated. For example, suppose that a student took a course three times. The student may use the second or third grade to replace the first grade. The student may not use the third grade to replace the second grade.
6. This policy does not apply if the original grade was assigned as a result of a violation of the Academic Honesty policy. (The University maintains internal records of violations of the Academic Honesty policy. In addition, in some cases, violations of the Academic Honesty policy are noted on the transcript. Whether the violation is recorded internally or on the transcript, a student may not replace a grade that was awarded as a result of a violation of the Academic Honesty policy.)
7. The Repeat-to-Replace applies only to degree-seeking students pursuing their first undergraduate degree at GSU.

Rationale:
The deadline for R-to-R requests may have to move in light of the number of requests. Removing this sentence allows the Office of the Registrar to move this deadline without Senate Action.

Report from the Subcommittee on the USG Lawful Presence Requirement
David Cheshire presented a draft resolution expressing the opposition of Georgia State University to the passage of legislation (specifically a version of HB 59) that would bar access to Georgia public higher education for undocumented students. Any comments should be email to Dr. Cheshire.

Recorded by: Wanda F. Taylor