Members present: Carl Patton (presiding), Ahmed Abdelal, Paul Alberto, Roy Bahl, Tim Crimmins, Bill Decatur, Sam Deitz, Mary Finn, Janice Griffith, Sid Harris, Ron Henry, Hugh Hudson, Charlene Hurt, Fred Jacobs, Susan Kelley, Tom Lewis, Bob McGinnis, John Marshall, Libby Martinez, John Newman, Jim Scott, Carol Winkler, Carol Whitcomb

Members absent: Cleon Arrington, Reid Christenberry

Others present: Mary Jane Casto (for Mr. Christenberry), Frances Stone, Edgar Torbert (secretary)

The minutes of December 2 were approved as circulated.

President's Remarks

Dr. Patton thanked all who had worked to make the capital campaign kickoff events very successful. He commented on contacts with legislators and noted that the University System did not stand to have a good year from a budgetary standpoint as in recent years. He stated that he and Mr. Lewis were laying groundwork for the teaching lab building with the next session. He reported briefly on acquisition of the jail site, adoption of Woodruff Park, and the condition of Dr. Arrington.

Department of Computer Science

Dr. Abdelal stated the case for splitting the present Department of Mathematics and Computer Science into two departments, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Departments of Computer Science. He noted the successful build-up of the biomedical research area and its 58 of 350 ranking by the National Institutes of Health, and projected a similar goal in the computer science area. He pointed out ties to the Yamacraw Project, growth in the number of majors, links to media technology and computational neurobiology, potential Georgia Research Alliance funding for labs, and collaboration with the Department of Computer Information Systems in the Robinson College of Business. Dr. Henry voiced support for the proposal. Dr. Patton predicted strong interest in the Yamacraw Project during the remainder of the Barnes administration. Dr. Abdelal made a motion to create the two departments from the current one. Dr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Enrollment/Budget

Dr. Henry commented on the increase in headcount and student credit hours form fall semester to spring semester in contrast to the usual drop from fall semester to spring semester. He added that the other University System institutions for which he had information all showed drops form fall semester to spring semester. He cautioned that the credit hours per student figure for spring semester was lower than the previous year, and there was still work to do in this regard.

Dr. Scott noted signs that faculty were being more realistic in expectations of students under the semester system. Ms. Martinez indicated students were perceiving this change. Dr. Scott added that students had gotten the message concerning the number credit hours needed per semester to graduate and in many cases would make up hours in the summer.

Mr. Lewis indicated the Chancellor was communicating to legislators that the University System was down in credit hours, but not more that expected, and would be recovering rapidly. Mr. Lewis added that
the foremost concern was that the University System be held harmless in next year's application of the
funding formula.

Dr. Henry added the deans to report on enrollment developments in their respective colleges.

Dr. Harris pointed out that the state budget situation would necessitate managing enrollments more
closely. He noted some success in communicating with students regarding course loads. He cited
unmet demand in core business courses, and stated the Robinson College of Business would continue
to be in an aggressive posture with respect to increasing enrollment. He stated that the summer
enrollment situation was uncertain, but the overall picture was encouraging.

Dr. Abdelal expressed optimism that enrollments would rebound completely. He pointed out that spring
semester credit hours were only 6% below those for the spring quarter 1997. He emphasized the focus
on recruiting more undergraduate students. He noted discussion in college faculty meetings about
course expectations, etc. and improvement in the student recruitment process to make it more
seamless. He commended use of e-mail to Dr. Scott to address specific problems with recruitment and
reported very effective results. He also noted improvements in the college advisement process,
including a friendlier advisement office and greater involvement of faculty.

Dr. Henry commented on the need to improve retention. He cited the decline in numbers of new
students over each of the preceding five years. He predicted a reverse in this trend in new freshman as
the quality of the university is better known, but cautioned that the transfer situation did not look good
given the sharp decline in enrollment at Georgia Perimeter College. Dr. Patton also cautioned that
legislators would see any decline in enrollment as an opportunity to review how the University System
was using its "extra" money.

Dr. Kelley reported the College of Health and Human Sciences realized an increase in credit hours per
student over the fall semester. She noted unmet demand for criminal justice courses, and an increase
in the number of students admitted to the School of Nursing. She pointed out that the master's
programs in physical therapy and social work had not met expectations for admissions.

Dr. Deitz acknowledge the College of Education had suffered the largest decline in the fall semester, but
he was encouraged by the upturn for spring semester. He indicated the college was closely examining
its schedule of classes. He cautioned that the college drew heavily from part-time graduate students
who had a history of taking only one course per term. He reported that the mini-semester approach had
failed to attract any students. He commented that the spring semester schedule was working much
better for their students, and the college would incorporate further improvements in the next fall
semester. He noted the Department of Early Childhood Education was the only department with a drop
in spring semester enrollment, but that this trend would reverse with admissions for fall semester. He
reported ads in the newspaper had produced responses. He also cautioned that summer enrollments
was an uncertainty.

Dr. Deitz pointed out that school systems pay for continuing education and staff development courses
offered within the systems but not those at colleges and universities. Dr. Patton indicated that Governor
Barnes would be focusing attention on underperforming schools in the year ahead. Dr. Deitz
commented that staff development in schools was poor statewide. Dr. Abdelal suggested that
reasoning would not lead to change in this area, but strong political leadership at the state level would.
Dr. Patton commented that the universities would be in a position to assist the Governor in this effort.

Dr. Bahl reported enrollment in the School of Policy Studies had rebounded to a slightly higher level
than in spring quarter 1997. He pointed to listening to students and the market, lengthening the hours of
the academic assistance office, attention to timing and size of sections, more friendly offices, faculty
changing work requirements in semester courses, posters and brochures, web site information, follow-
up letters to students doing well in related classes, an early morning "wake-up" section of
Macroeconomics, a popular new course on the city, visits to government offices regarding the MPA program, international student recruitment initiatives, and visits to high school economics classes.

Dr. Henry noted interest of the ACE Fellow, Thomas Haynes, in student recruitment efforts and suggested conversations with him. Dr. Crimmins pointed out advances by Institutional Research and ISAT in making unmet demand data available to deans and department chairs.

Redirection

Dr. Henry reported the university redirection figure would be $1.617M or 1% of the state appropriation with intended targets being administration and support. He also reported that FACP had recommended approximately 0.5% redirection targets for the colleges and approximately 1% redirection targets for all other units to meet the $1.617M to be returned to the University System and in turn the state. He added there would also be 4% of internal redirection required by the University System, but would not be returned to the University System.

Budget Presentation

Dr. Henry reported the university would be making its budget presentation to the University System staff immediately following the meeting of the Administrative Council. He noted that the presentation would be closely tied to the University Strategic Plan and that copies of the presentation would be sent to the Administrative Council.