Minutes of February 3, 1999, were approved as presented.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Patton commented on efforts to gain legislative approval of key budget items, including Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) funding for a $1.5 million bio-technology incubator project at the university and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) funding for renovation the University Center and expanding the College of Law library. Dr. Patton noted in particular the efforts of AlumNET members in talking with their legislators about the GRA and ADA items and helping lay groundwork for the teaching laboratory building capital request next year. Dr. Patton also commented on the series of presentations of the Master Plan to various constituencies.

Departmental Name Change

Dr. Henry presented a request from the College of Health and Human Sciences to change the name of the Department of Nutrition and Laboratory Technologies to the Department of Nutrition. He explained the termination of the program in medical technology was the reason for making this change. Dr. Henry made a motion to change the name of the department as proposed. Dr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Dr. Henry commented on the process of bringing such organizational changes to the Administrative Council rather than the Academic Programs and Continuing Education (APACE) Senate Committee. He cited the determining factor as whether academic programs are being changed...if there is a program change, then the matter is referred to APACE.

Search Updates

Dr. Henry announced the search for dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences has netted approximately 40 applications with four persons still under consideration.

Dr. Griffith announced the College of Law search for the Ben F. Johnson, Jr. eminent scholar chair had resulted in the hiring of Julian Juergensmeyer from the University of Florida.

Dr. Harris announced the Robinson College of Business searched for associate dean and director of the School of Accountancy were nearing conclusion with three and two persons still under consideration, respectively.

Dr. Bahl announced the hiring of a senior professor in the area of public finance, James Alm fro the University of Colorado.

Dr. Henry announced Dr. Reitzes would be leaving the position of associate vice president for research to become chair of the Department of Sociology. Dr. Henry indicated the search for the associate vice president position would commence shortly.

Dr. Decatur announced the hiring of Ms. Barbara Carroll from Swarthmore University and previously the
University of Missouri-St. Louis as assistant vice president for human resources.

Information Security Policy

Mr. Christenberry presented for adoption the "Georgia State University Information Security Policy", revised February 25, 1999. Mr. Christenberry stated the policy was developed in response to an audit finding, and was applicable to university a departmental data. He stated the draft policy had been reviewed and endorsed by the Dean's Group and the vice presidents.

Dr. Hudson inquired as to whether the Faculty Affairs Senate Committee has reviewed the draft policy. Mr. Christenberry replied that Senate review has been handled through the Information Systems and Technology Senate Committee. Dr. Henry asked about the selection of the information security officer (ISO). Mr. Christenberry responded that Thom Lamb would be the ISO. Dr. Henry made a motion to adopt the policy as presented. Dr. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Data Stewardship and Access Policy

Mr. Christenberry presented for adoption the "Georgia State University Data Stewardship and Access Policy for University Information", draft February 25, 1999. Mr. Christenberry stated that this policy was an outgrowth of the work of the Data Warehouse Committee, and had been reviewed by the Dean's Group, the vice presidents, and the Information Systems and Technology Senate Committee.

Dr. Henry asked about the status of the data dictionary. Mr. Christenberry replied that the Data Warehouse Committee and the Institutional Research Office were preparing the data dictionary under the leadership of Dr. Moore.

Dr. Decatur asked that adoption of the policy be tabled due to insufficient time for feedback from Finance and Administrative units. Dr. Decatur expressed reservations about the statements (lines 44-45) regarding sensitive data and how the Georgia Open Record Act would apply. Dr. Hudson noted the recent change in the Georgia Open Records Act would make raw data public. Mr. Christenberry responded that Mr. Rackliffe had represented Finance and Administration on the Data Warehouse Committee, and that all data would be classified as sensitive until declassified.

Mr. Lewis commented that the intent of Governor Barnes in revising the Georgia Open Records Act was to ensure access to information in three days and to stop numerous delays reported under the previous version. Mr. Christenberry reiterated that the purpose of the proposed policy was to define terms in order to facilitate access. Dr. Patton asked that the policy be further reviewed and brought back to the Administrative Council.

E-Learning

Dr. Patton opened discussion of e-learning noting his experiences on a recent trip to Australia, the widely circulated publication Dancing with the Devil, developing Board of Regents interest, and potential competition with internet-based operations such as Phoenix University and the American International University.

Mr. Christenberry summarized the message of Dancing with the Devil: if academe does not dance with technology, academe will be left out. Mr. Christenberry pointed out that over 90 faculty at the university are using WebCT and over 3,500 students are taking courses with some web-based materials. He added that the Center for Teaching and Learning brown bag lunches on web use are extremely popular and are now being aired over GSAMS. Mr. Christenberry also noted a negative aspect of the technology trend, the potential commoditization of course material.

Dr. Deitz expressed concern the Board of Regents might invest solely in a particular delivery technology
such as GSAMS. He on the other hand applauded faculty entrepreneurship in e-learning.

Dr. Crimmins noted the dual tracks of using electronic means to augment instruction versus using electronic means entirely to deliver instruction. Dr. Crimmins urged encouragement of the former, but sounded the alarm over the latter as in the case of Georgia Southwestern proposing to offer core courses on the web.

Dr. Alberto pointed out that the University of Colorado was already packaging web-based courses to sell on the market. He observed this was a current example of the commoditization.

Mr. Christenberry recommended feedback to the Board of Regents regarding protection of quality interaction between faculty and students. Dr. Jacobs commented that the Australian example cited by Dr. Patton of using technology to augment instruction was excellent, but he did not see any way to do team course activities or to control testing. Mr. Christenberry noted proposals for test administration sites on each campus. Dr. Decatur added that this was the scheme of the Western Governors operation.

Dr. Alberto questioned who the consumers of Phoenix University-type institutions would be. Mr. Lewis suggested the Southern Regional Educational Board (SREB) might have information on internet students. Mr. Christenberry replied that SREB only maintained a database of internet course offerings.

Mr. Christenberry elaborated that much of the internet instruction to date was from a professional training viewpoint. He added that studies were indicating retention problems for traditional students taking "virtual" courses and that the highest dropout rate was among early admission high school students.

Dr. Bahl cautioned the monopoly in higher education for campus-based institutions was becoming a thing of the past and that institutions should be concerned about relevance to the market. He noted price and information mobility were important considerations with many students now willing to make sacrifices. He added that in many ways it was easier for our non-traditional clients to be moved away.

Dr. McGinnis pointed out the Duke University executive MBA program which combines internet and on-campus experiences as an example of new competition.

Dr. Deitz commented on the use of chat rooms for class discussion, and the advantages of anonymity for some students.

Dr. Scott pointed out prospective students are increasingly using technology to access the university, including web-based applications for admission. He also noted some parents and students still want to use paper versions.

Dr. Hudson noted issues of intellectual property with the electronic packaging of classroom presentations.

Dr. Finn mentioned as one advantage of centralization of e-learning endeavors at the University System-level, to avoid duplication of effort, as in the example of averting a second engineering school.

Mr. Christenberry observed the University System was seeking to provide higher education access to every Georgia resident at a distance not farther than 30 miles. Mr. Christenberry stated the key factors for the future of e-learning as convenience, budget, and quality. He added that convenience would probably predominate.

Dr. Bahl commented on the possibility of very fast change with for-profit companies entering a highly competitive market. Dr. Jacobs responded that much would depend on how students graduating from internet-based degree programs were treated in the job market. Mr. Christenberry cautioned about
moves to prohibit marking courses on transcripts as electronic.

Dr. Crimmins recommended the University Strategic Plan address computer-enhanced instruction as a hallmark of the university with accompanying emphasis on the quality element of direct interaction with faculty. Dr. Hurt cautioned that computer-assisted will not answer the threat of computer-delivered. She suggested the university also had the urban advantage of being able to bring people together.

Dr. Decatur spoke of the importance of improving relative to all three key elements of convenience, budget, and quality. Dr. Decatur noted the Detroit automobile industry had failed to do this and suffered the consequences. He added the university should be mindful of its large number of non-traditional students even as enrollments of traditional freshman increase. He reiterated the need for data on students pursuing internet-based degree programs.

Dr. Hurt reported the University of Denver was using computer delivery methods to deal with unmet demand, but with students coming to on-campus computer labs. Mr. Christenberry cited an example of chemistry classes at the University of Georgia with two classroom sessions and one computer lab session per week.

Dr. Henry stated this discussion would continue in the Deans' Group. He spoke of the strategic opportunity aspects and the rising competition, especially for the colleges of Business and Education. He cited the University of Oregon and the University of Wisconsin as examples of institutions making great progress in e-learning. He cautioned that if the university does nothing, it will lose market share.

Announcements

Dr. Scott reported on the improving condition of Dr. Arrington.

Dr. Henry explained Dr. Reitzes will continue as associate vice president for research on a half-time basis through June 30, 1999.