The minutes of January 12, 2000 were approved.

President's Remarks

Dr. Patton reported positive response to the legislative event, in particularly to the electronic kiosk featuring Georgia State students from legislators' home districts and the map showing Georgia State students from every county in the state. Dr. Patton expressed gratitude for the excellent exhibits presented by the colleges and other units. He commented that legislators often recall things they saw at the legislative event in the conversations months later with him and Mr. Lewis.

Dr. Patton outlined on-going contacts with legislators, Regents, the Chancellor, and University System staff concerning a number of critical issues for Georgia State, including capital project funding and consideration of full year credit hours rather than fall semester only in computing the university's share of enrollment shortfalls. Dr. Patton added he would be making presentations to the Board of Regents on the PeopleSoft financial software system and the GSU Village-Techwood Drive sewer project.

Budget Update

Dr. Henry reported on FACP discussions of the FY2000 budget. He noted: (1) the $3.16M carryforward from FY2000 to FY2001 to cover increased medical insurance costs; (2) the annual structural deficit for library acquisitions and dependence on the end-of-year sweep to make the acquisitions budget whole; (3) the tuition revenue shortfall of approximately $7M for FY2000; and (4) the use of unallocated tuition plateau funds, the Quality Improvement fund program, the instructional technology fund, the additional interest income beyond the budgeted amount, in order to accomplish the carryforward and to balance the FY2000 budget in spite of the revenue shortfall. He added FACP would begin discussions of the FY2000 budget at its next meeting.

Dr. Patton asked how the carryforward would be executed. Mr. Kelley indicated the FY2000 funds would be deposited in the medical insurance reserve, and applied directly to medical insurance costs in FY2001 without billing the institution for the same. Dr. Henry noted the FY2001 budget would be reduced by $3.16M with the carryforward in effect reducing the base budget continuing from FY2000 to FY2001. He added that FY2001 medical insurance costs over-and-beyond the $3.16M carryforward amount would be billed to the university. He stated the amount to be billed to the university was unknown, as was the amount of supplemental funds to be passed on to the university from the University System to help cover these additional costs. He explained the FY2001 supplemental funds would be part of a systemwide $24M package proposed by the Governor to match the systemwide $24M carryforward, but the exact amount and how it would be distributed among University System institutions were uncertain.

Dr. Patton commented the Chancellor was hoping for a funding formula change, but such was unlikely. Mr. Lewis reiterated the $24M FY2001 supplement funds were not matching the carryforward funds on an institution by institution basis, and were not continuing funds.

Dr. Bahl commented it appeared state government was disinvesting in higher education. Dr. Patton responded that from the state government perspective the University System was receiving unearned funds as a result of credit hour drops following semester conversion. Dr. Marshall injected it was matter of calling the Chancellor's bluff on no-cost semester conversion. Dr. Patton emphasized sparring with the Governor about the situation would not be productive. Dr. Abdelal reacted that people across the state need to know funding for higher education is in effect being cut. Dr. Henry responded the problem was the $48M increase in medical insurance costs which the University System was having to absorb. Mr. Lewis added the state was providing the same overall support per student as in the past. He noted the Legislative Budget Office was aware of the semester conversion effects on enrollments and generated
Dr. Abdelal characterized the dual tracks of improving K-12 education and cutting higher education as not making sense and bad strategy.

Dr. Patton noted on-going discussions with the Governor and legislators about the teaching lab building and the College of Law library/University Center renovation project. Dr. Griffith asked for a written statement concerning these projects. Mr. Lewis replied none exists due to ever-changing parameters.

Dr. Bahl urged continued efforts to repackage the case for the university to cover K-12, rural development, air-water quality, etc. issues, which are the priorities of the Governor and legislative and to make higher education inseparable form such initiatives. Dr. Patton cautioned that agency heads other than higher education see this as "their turn." Dr. Crimmins reiterated the point to tying K-12 reform to higher education. Dr. Henry noted University Strategic Plan linkages of P-16, economic development through the Georgia Research Alliance and Yamacraw Initiatives, e-commerce, etc.

Dr. Deitz commented on the possibility of working with the new Office of School Accountability in addressing "failing schools." He added RESAs were positioning themselves to preempt colleges of education in this effort. Dr. Henry called attention to a Title II grant of $3.7M which would provide funding for the Principals' Academy at Georgia State. Dr. Hudson cautioned the Office of School Accountability would also be empowered to align the curriculum among P-16, technical schools and University System institutions.

Dr. Griffith spoke of opportunities for the university to gain legislative attention in urban environmental matters. She observed Georgia Tech had captured most of the attention to this point. Dr. Patton replied that work must be continuous to get and stay on the state government radar screen in this regard.

Mission Statements for Affirmative Action, Legal Affairs, and Ombuds

Dr. Henry explained the administrative and support unit assessments an the administrative organization review by PriceWaterhouse Coopers had pointed to the need to establish mission statements for the Affirmative Action, Legal Affairs, and Ombuds offices and to define how these offices could work more effectively together.

Dr. Marshall characterized Legal Affairs as "fire fighters" and reactive. He noted a replacement lawyer for Ms. Vignery would be hired within 60 days.

Ms. Williams characterized Ombuds as a problem-solving unit. She stated objectives of encouraging informal and less-adversarial processes for dealing with conflicts. Dr. Patton noted the importance of confidentiality for Ombuds.

Ms. Nelson noted ties to the University Strategic Plan in the Affirmative Action mission statement. She explained involvement in hiring audits, data collection, staff training, contact with federal agencies, etc. Dr. Abdelal stated the Affirmative Action mission statement needed to be tightened up, and recommended it be sent to the Dean's Group and Vice Presidents' Group for feedback prior to further review by the Administrative Council. Dr. Deitz commented on the need to distinguish between duties and mission in the statements.

Dr. Deitz asked about the status of Affirmative action in the state. Dr. Marshall responded that federal funding entails legal obligations of Affirmative Action. He said that goals and aspiration of Affirmative Action were in good standing, but quota were under attack. Dr. Deitz suggested consideration of a name change for the Affirmation Action Office. Ms. Nelson responded that a name change to Office of Opportunity Development/Affirmative Action was under consideration.

Announcements

Dr. Griffith reported HVAC problems in Urban Life. Mr. Kelley responded that these problems were being addressed, but the systems were not designed for stopping and starting as had occurred during the winter storm outages.

Dr. McGinnis reported briefly on the capital campaign. He pointed out that the feasibility study had pointed to possible difficulties in raising funds for endowments for professorships and scholarships, the latter in reaction to misconceptions about the HOPE scholarship program. He stated these fund raising efforts had in fact lagged.
Dr. Patton added that efforts were on-going to court donors in these areas. Dr. McGinnis noted the Kresge Foundation had extended its deadline for the Aderhold Learning Center project. He added that major gift initiatives continued in Atlanta and other regional cities. Dr. Patton asked about the end date of the campaign. Dr. McGinnis stated the end date would be December 31, 2000.