The minutes of February 2, 2000 were approved.

President's Remarks

Dr. Patton praised Mr. Lewis and Mr. Sheheane for their extraordinary efforts to secure legislative support of $4.4M supplement funding for renovation of University Center and College of Law library.

Dr. Patton reported approval by the Board of Regents of the Alpharetta Center lease. He noted pressure from other University System institutions to offer them access to the center at no cost or to offer competing programs. He emphasized the importance of maximizing use of the center by Georgia State.

Affirmative Action Plan


Ms. Nelson noted the Affirmative Action Plan had been developed through collaborative efforts with unites across Georgia State. She indicated a condensed version of the document would be supplied to departments.

Ms. Nelson characterized the Affirmative Action Plan as: (1) mandated by the federal government; (2) plan specific and program oriented; (3) designed to correct statistical disparities; (4) policies and practices aimed at achieving equal opportunity; (5) a tool to ensure fair and consistent employment opportunities for all persons. She noted the plan was not: (1) a quota system; (2) reverse discrimination; (3) a preference based program; (4) a policy for unqualified individuals; or (5) an attempt to take employment decision making from hiring units. Ms. Nelson presented an overview of the document, including contents, terminology, methodology, and findings.

Dr. Abdelal asked about the five ethnic classifications utilized in the Affirmative Action Plan. Ms. Nelson replied these were set by the federal government. She added that the 2000 census was collecting more detailed ethnic data with 64 ethnic classifications designed to identify heritages more specifically. Dr. Abdelal pointed out that only five classifications did not adequately reflect diversity at Georgia State.

Dr. Abdelal voiced concern about the availability data for the various academic disciplines. Ms. Nelson responded that the national data was pooled in broad categories and not particularly useful in specialized searches. Dr. Henry added that the weighting associated with the availability data in the Affirmative Action Plan took this into consideration. He pointed to known problems with the physical and social sciences figures. Dr. Abdelal cited problems with the data within fields; for example, geneticists within the group of biological scientists. Ms. Nelson responded that the Urban 13 group of institutions were cooperating to gather availability data by academic discipline. She added that departments were encouraged to use alternate sets of availability data as accessible for their disciplines.

Dr. Hudson questioned the omission of the Senate-passed policy statement on sexual orientation issues from the policies in the appendix of the Affirmative Action Plan. Ms. Nelson replied that sexual orientation was not included because federal laws did not recognize sexual orientation as an Affirmative Action issue. Dr. Hudson observed that some of the other policies included in the appendix were also not related to Affirmative Action in this sense. He requested that the Senate policy be added.

Professional Education Faculty Bylaws

Dr. Henry presented on behalf of Dr. Deitz changes to the bylaws of the Professional Education Faculty which would be
inclusive of P-12 representatives from the partnership school districts as well as faculty of the colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences. Dr. Henry made a motion to accept the bylaw changes as presented. Dr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Mr. Lewis encouraged members of the Administrative Council to write notes of appreciation to Governor Barnes for his key intervention and support of the $4.4M supplemental funding item for Georgia State. Mr. Lewis acknowledged that the FY2001 budget was geared toward K-12 education and not higher education. He expressed optimism that higher education would fare better in future years.

Board of Regents Meeting at Georgia State

Mr. Lewis announced that the Board of Regents would meet for the first time in many years at Georgia State on April 18-19. He stated this would be an excellent opportunity to inform them about the need for the new teaching lab building and a tour of Kell Hall would be one means of doing this. Dr. Patton commented that many of the Regents of relatively unfamiliar with Georgia State, and that the visit should be designed to tell them about the quality points of the university as well as our needs. He suggested application of the "80-20" rule in this regard. Mr. Lewis suggested the deans be prepared to tell the Regents something about their colleges which they would ordinarily not know. Dr. Patton emphasized that in speaking of our greatest need everyone should mention the teaching lab building as the top priority for the entire university. Dr. Kelley suggested it would be helpful to the deans to have some biographical information about each of the Regents so to address their conversations with them in a more targeted way. Dr. Patton also mentioned the consideration of full-year enrollments, rather that fall semester only, as a key issue for Georgia State as the Regents address semester conversation recovery and related funding decision.

Governor's Reform Bill

Dr. Hudson called attention to the Governor's reform bill as pertaining to a coordinating council for curriculum which include the vocational-technical schools along with the University System in articulation of curriculum for transfers. He cautioned this would be counter to rights of faculty and institutions in the University System.