University Administrative Council
January 10, 2001


The minutes of the December 6 meeting were approved as distributed.

Dr. McGinnis introduced Ms. Peterman, Assistant Vice President for Leadership Gifts and Campaigns. He commented on her fund-raising experience at Marist School and Old Dominion University and her focus on the campaign for the science teaching lab building.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Patton reminded the annual legislative event would be held that evening (January 10). He encouraged attendance and conversation with legislators about the science teaching lab building (at $45M in state funds, the highest cost project ever added to the University System capital list) and updating the funding formula. Dr. McGinnis noted the fund-raising campaign beyond state funds for the science teaching lab building would have a goal of $25M rather than $23M due to borrowing costs (for funds needed before pledges are paid in full).

College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Report

Dr. Abdelal presented the second in the series of reports by colleges and vice presidential areas focusing on progress in the last three years.

Dr. Abdelal cited development of PhD programs in communication studies and computer science. The communication studies program is in the areas of public communication and moving images studies. The computer science program is a beneficiary of the Yamacraw funding initiative which enabled doubling the size of the computer science faculty and establishment of a separate department.

Dr. Abdelal reported extramural funding had increased from $12M to $18.5M between FY96 and FY00. He pointed to increased graduate student support and national recognition as major effects. Dr. Abdelal described several high-profile extramural funding items, including (1) 35% share of $40M National Science Foundation funding over 10 years for the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, in conjunction with Emory and Georgia Tech; (2) $1.6M Gates Foundation funding over 4 years for development of novel compounds by chemistry faculty to treat sleeping sickness and opportunistic infections associated with AIDS, in conjunction with the University of North Carolina; (3) $2.4M USAID funding for English proficiency training for Egyptian teachers (with potential for duplicated programs in other nations such as China); and (4) private fund-raising efforts resulting in an increase from $0.55M in FY96 to $2.4M in FY00 resulting in endowments for graduate fellowships and lecture series and current initiatives for a science and computing center, a center for Hellenic studies, and facilities for 3-D arts (sculpture, jewelry, and ceramics).
Dr. Abdelal commented on college involvement in economic development as a result of Georgia Research Alliance funding of $5.8M. These efforts include the infectious disease initiative, the gene discovery initiative, establishment of a drug discovery endowed chair position (also with Gates Foundation support), and digital arts interdisciplinary initiatives with faculty from communication, computer science and art.

Dr. Abdelal outlined community partnership efforts including interactions with public schools in collaboration with the College of Education. He noted the high demand across the state for more BioBuses. He observed the new Jimmy and Rosalind Carter Partnership Award initiated by the college had brought more visibility for the college and university with community leaders.

Dr. Abdelal called attention to another area of progress which had attracted national attention, development of faculty policies, including the integration of faculty workload, reward structure, and post-tenure review. Another development in this area was the replacement of PTIs with full-time visiting lecturers in order to serve traditional students more effectively. He announced the Harvard Project on Faculty Appointments would be featuring the college as a case study as a result of these developments.

Dr. Patton added that the BioBus had been shown to the Board of Regents when they met on-campus as well as to the national committee for the Results Campaign.

**Board of Regents Budget Presentation**

Dr. Henry outlined preparations for the January 11 university budget presentation to Board of Regents staff. He pointed out the presentation was designed to align as closely as possible with the budget requests submitted by the Board of Regents to the Governor and legislature. Tie-ins to the Action Plan for the University Strategic Plan would be incorporated upon approval of the Action Plan that afternoon (January 10).

Dr. Henry sketched the presentation around key areas/issues: reduction of state appropriation and tuition revenue, research and scholarship, student learning, academic programs, ISAT infrastructure, accountability, new facilities, student fees, student technology fee. He noted the combined summer and fall enrollments had not produced an increase in paid credit hours toward the goal of 15,000 additional paid credit hours, but the spring semester had produced an increase of approximately 10,000 credit hours. He added that course loads had increased to 10.3 credit hours per student.

Dr. Griffith asked about the potential for sharing in the tobacco company settlement funds for rural economic development or cancer research. Dr. Patton responded that a cancer research center was being established at Grady Hospital. Dr. Louis responded the rural economic development initiatives might be an opening for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

**Announcements**

Dr. Hudson encouraged e-mail and letters to the Board of Regents regarding changes to the optional retirement plan.