ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
May 2, 2001


The minutes of April 4 were approved as circulated.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Patton gave an update on the University Lofts project for which ground had been broken. The Lofts will open for occupancy in August 2002 with 300 units for graduate, married, and international students. This project is in sync with the Master Plan objective of building 2,000 housing units in the vicinity of the campus. Georgia State will control design and will share in profits when construction bonds are paid off. Colleges interested in the Lofts from a student recruitment standpoint were instructed to contact Dr. Scott. Dr. Patton thanked Dr. McGinnis and the GSU Foundation for financing the project. Dr. McGinnis responded the GSU Foundation looked forward to participating in many more projects of this kind in the future. Dr. Abdelal asked for summary information about accommodations, rates, etc. Dr. Patton replied University Housing will publish this information shortly. Ms. Hurt asked about retail space at street level. Dr. Patton responded finding suitable retailers would be a challenge.

Dr. Patton commented on the hiring slowdown anticipated shortly. The importance of hiring faculty, advisers, admissions counselors, financial aid counselors, and others critical to credit hour production had been communicated by the Board of Regents to Office of Planning & Budget (OPB). Official notice of the hiring slowdown had not yet been received. Mr. Lewis added the Governor’s action was intended to protect the supplemental budget for allocation during the 2002 legislative session in the face of a slowing economy. Dr. Patton reiterated the importance of the supplemental budget to the University System since continuing dollars had been stripped from the FY2002 budget as a result of the semester conversion-related enrollment drop. Mr. Lewis noted revision of the funding formula was a possibility for addressing the problem on a long-term basis. Dr. Griffith asked about the Georgia State share of supplemental budget funds. Dr. Patton replied the projected share would be approximately $7 million. Dr. Abdelal spoke for increasing undergraduate and graduate enrollments to grow out of the deficit with internal tuition revenues and Board of Regents productivity dollars from approximately 50,000 additional credit hours needed to offset the deficit. Dr. Abdelal noted this could be accomplished with 3-4 years of 15,000 credit hour increases or only 2-3 years of 20,000 credit hour increases. Dr. Patton pointed out the problem required increasing the number of credit hours taken per student as well as attracting more students. Dr. Griffith spoke for looking at programs as well as credit hours, in particular to eliminate frills and reduce non-credit hour producing public service programs such as the BioBus. Mr. Lewis defended the BioBus program as one of the most talked about Georgia State programs among legislators. Dr. McGinnis advocated careful consideration of balance of image in the community. Dr. Abdelal pointed out NSF funding of $4 million for 2 BioBuses to operate for the next 3 years in 6 school districts.

Dr. Patton urged all employees to use vacation time.
Affirmative Action Plan

Ms. Nelson and Ms. Kracja presented an overview of the Affirmative Action Plan, which includes names of persons responsible for implementation; analysis of workforce composition by job groups, by race and gender; potential labor workforce from census data; goals to address underutilization; and policies regarding ADA and veterans. Ms. Nelson noted Affirmative Action is a requirement from the Office of Federal Contracts and Compliance Programs based on statistical evidence of good faith effort. She emphasized Affirmative Action is goal based and not a quota system or reverse discrimination. Progress was noted with Minority Hiring Incentives for faculty and hiring of non-black minorities. New racial categories will be implemented next year which will complicate comparisons with prior years. Availability factors will also change with respect to percentage of women and minorities with skills and percentage promotable. A web site is being developed to provide information about utilization analyses and goals. Attention will be given to sharing best practices across units.

Faculty/Staff Campaign

Dr. McGinnis reported the annual faculty/staff campaign was still short of the goal of 75% participation with 67% at that time. He urged encouragement through June 30 although the publicized closing date was April 30.