Minutes of June 6 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks

Dr. Patton thanked all who had worked to accomplish a record enrollment for fall semester. He pointed out average hours taken were up, and all colleges had shown growth in total credit hours over last fall semester.

Dr. Patton reported positive signs regarding the lead gift for the teaching laboratory building. He noted contacts with legislators would be kept low key during the special sessions. He indicated contacts were being made through speaking engagements at service club meetings around the state by having AlumNet members bring their legislators to those meetings.

Dr. Patton applauded the increasing attention to Georgia State in the news media. He commented that the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* had a new higher education reporter with whom he would be meeting shortly.

Fall Enrollment

Dr. Fritz presented September 5 figures for enrollment showing 25,506 students and 270,751 credit hours. He pointed to these figures as amazing given the concurrent challenges of semester conversion, higher admission standards, etc. He highlighted the recovery from semester conversion in only 3 years while most institutions undergoing this change have taken 5 years. He called attention to increases of 8% in headcount, 8% in new freshmen, 26% in transfers, 15% in new students overall, 11% in credit hours, and around 20K in paid equivalent credit hours.

Dr. Patton asked how two-year, feeder colleges might react to an increasing number of students transferring prior to completing associate degree programs. Dr. Fritz responded some counter-efforts could be expected, and Georgia State could also regulate this flow by increasing transfer requirements for freshmen and sophomores. Dr. Abdelal urged not tightening these requirements since state funding was directly tied to enrollment growth and Aderhold Learning Center would provide more classroom capacity for lower division courses. Dr. Fritz agreed requirements did not need to be tightened, if capacity was not a problem. Dr. Abdelal added visiting faculty were a cost effective way to increase instructional capacity.

Dr. Harris expressed concern about too much attention on growth instead of quality and retention. Dr. Patton replied retention reports for last year had been more favorable. Dr. Fritz offered as numerical evidence an increase of about a thousand in the number of returning students between last fall and this fall. Dr. Abdelal outlined investments by Arts & Sciences to
increase retention in sciences and mathematics, including a new introductory mathematics course (Mathematical Modeling), discussion sections for introductory science courses, and separation of majors and non-majors in course sections. Dr. Crimmins pointed out other efforts to improve retention, including freshman learning communities and revisions to introductory accounting courses.

Dr. Harris observed there were inevitable limits to growth and suggested adjustments to pricing should be considered. Dr. Patton indicated differential pricing was a possibility and would likely be addressed by the new chancellor.

Dr. Fritz reiterated the effect of increasing average course loads on the total credit hours. Dr. Abdelal spoke similarly regarding the headcount increase. Dr. Harris asked if other University System institutions were experiencing growth as well. Dr. Patton stated early indications were positive for the University System as a whole; for example, a substantial increase for Georgia Perimeter College.

Dr. Fritz presented targets for new students next fall of 2,750 freshmen, 1,950 transfers, and 700 others. Dr. Crimmins advocated renewing the incentive system whereby colleges receive 1/8 dollar from each tuition dollar beyond budgeted credit hours. He suggested the current year in which every college realized enrollment increases would be a good time to sell the idea.

Dr. Harris spoke for increasing transfers and driving up the quality of new freshmen. He emphasized the PR value of comparing more favorably with the University of Georgia on average SAT score. He attributed the rise in the Freshman Index to higher high school grade point averages rather than higher SAT scores. Dr. Fritz countered that the average SAT score for freshman admits was up 20 points. Dr. Patton added the gap between Georgia State and the University of Georgia had narrowed, and high schools were more and more sending their best students to Georgia State.

Dr. Abdelal handed out a table showing university credit hours by course level, which showed increases in upper division undergraduate and graduate credit hours as well as lower division undergraduate credit hours. Dr. Patton said this pattern reflected the rebuilding of the junior and senior classes.

Dr. Fritz advocated a balanced look at retention and transfers for adding upper division credit hours. He stressed the best approach to retention was to bring students in as freshmen. Dr. Abdelal reiterated the latter point saying that numerous major programs had experienced far greater success with students admitted as freshmen and bi-modal distributions when transfers were added to the mix. He added that students who spend all four years at Georgia State are more devoted to the institution after graduation. He favored balancing these considerations with budgetary needs so as not to continue in an impoverished state.

Dr. Crimmins recommended looking at multiple measures regarding enrollments. He observed Georgia State is getting more students at the high-end and should be examining what attracts such students to Georgia State. Dr. Harris stated he would continue to be a voice for increasing quality of students.

Dr. McGinnis reported development prospects frequently mention the role of Georgia State in
educating non-traditional students who are place bound. Mr. Lewis echoed this point with respect to legislators who likewise accessibility to non-traditional students as a major mission of Georgia State. He asked for five admission appointments from each college with the understanding the arrangement would be cancelled if any of his appointees failed.

Ms. Hurt observed the new Recreation Center was having a tremendous impact on campus morale. Dr. Patton added that Presidential Scholars want a real campus and with the improvements of recent years nearly all were now accepting their scholarship offers from Georgia State. Dr. Abdelal called for making the Honors Program university-wide. Mr. Lewis noted many would take credit for the increase in freshmen, and one such factor was the awareness effort which was leading to earlier affinities with Georgia State. He pointed out many legislators were interested specifically in in-state enrollments.

Dr. Fritz hailed the maintenance of student diversity through the admission standard changes. He explained the slight decreases in white and African American counts were offset by the new “other” category of mixed race. He also applauded the increase in minority graduate enrollments.

College of Education Report

Dr. Colarusso presented a status report on the College of Education, incorporating new video media developed in-house. He advised the college was working on a new strategic plan, which would sharpen the college mission focus on teacher education and urban education. He noted the college had very high percentages of women students and faculty as typical in education. He also noted the involvement of the college in the Great Cities Universities urban education initiatives. He outlined the development of the Professional Education Faculty in 1991 as the governing body for teacher education programs at Georgia State. Dr. Colarusso cited several initiatives by the college to offer alternative teacher preparation programs with quality control. He described the Teach for America program in conjunction with the Atlanta Public Schools and the TEEMS program for persons with BS or BA degrees in high-need subject areas. He characterized the special education degree programs offered by the college as the most comprehensive in the state. He emphasized the leadership role of the college in servicing the public school community and the State Department of Education. He stated a goal of doubling external funding with a greater portion for research. He highlighted SCEIS which is providing training for pre-school personnel in addressing special needs of children age 0-2 with disabilities. He noted the services offered by the Principal’s Center to school systems across the state. He reported on expanding international initiatives for the college in Botswana, South Africa, Egypt, and Europe.

Southern Center for Organizational Excellence

By consensus, it was agreed to accept a name change for the Atlanta Quality Resource Center in the Usery Center to Southern Center for Organizational Excellence.

Counseling, Academic and Testing (CAT) Center

Dr. Scott presented a proposal to rename the Counseling Center to Counseling, Academic and Testing (CAT) Center. She stated the intention to reflect the range of programs and services offered by the center and to de-stigmatize use of the center. Ms. Williams suggested
incorporating the word “student” in the name. Dr. Scott responded that the center also served staff and community. Dr. Abdelal questioned the word “academic” alone in the name. Dr. Scott replied that this was to reference a variety of courses, skills workshops, and support programs. Dr. Griffith asked if the offerings were all remedial. Dr. Scott responded that the programs were not exclusively remedial; for example, time management courses. Dr. Crimmins objected to the proposed name as too long. Dr. Colarusso suggested incorporating “study skills” in the name. Dr. Hurt suggested modifying the name to include “academic success”. Dr. Patton recommended postponing action until the next meeting to allow for further discussion.

Pullen Library Bylaws and Standing Rules

Ms. Hurt made a motion to approve mainly editorial changes to the Pullen Library bylaws and standing rules. Dr. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed.