The minutes of May 8 were approved as distributed.

Dr. Patton reported encouraging reaction to the presentation to the Board of Regents on the Humanities Building, although the building was not added to the capital projects list this year.

Dr. Fritz distributed enrollment reports for summer and fall. Dr. Henry pointed out summer credit hours were up 15,600, which would be budget relieving since the budget had been based on no increase.

Dr. Fritz reported advance registrations in May and subsequent regular registrations for fall had been successful on the new GoSolar (Banner) system. He noted 1,000 students could register at a time on GoSolar whereas the old system had a limit of 100 students. Dr. Fritz projected growth by 2,000 students for the second year in a row, the equivalent of two Agnes-Scotts each year. He cited an increase of 1,300 in freshman applications and a projected yield of 2,600 freshmen. He stated the opening of Aderhold and more efficient classroom scheduling using Schedule 25 software were keys to accommodating the larger enrollment.

Dr. Patton asked about classroom capacity for future growth. Dr. Henry responded growth would be more controlled. He indicated 300 students in the fall freshman class would be up to 100 points below the Board of Regents standard for the Freshman Index, and meeting the standard would be the next step. Dr. Fritz added when the Board of Regents standard is met, the university could establish its own standard beyond that.

Dr. Fritz commented that transfer enrollments had been most affected by semester conversion, but recovery had been steady for the last 4 years. He showed an increase of 300 in transfer applications for fall.

Dr. Fritz outlined growth in faculty over the last 5 years and the resulting shortage in faculty offices. Dr. Patton noted the need to educate the Board of Regents about the need for offices. He cited their lack of understanding of why 450 offices were requested for the Humanities Building.

Dr. Patton observed there had been fewer complaints from students to his office about enrollment services.

Dr. Henry gave a budget update. He pointed to on-going flux in the budget with ¼ of 1% to be cut per quarter. He indicated the Chancellor anticipates the full 1% cut or $750,000 for the university. Dr. Henry also noted a change in the ORP employer contribution, which would cost the university $250,000. He voiced hope the ORP change would be part of the 1% cut rather than an additional cut. Dr. Henry explained meeting the assumption of an increase of 50,000 credit hours for fall and spring would provide some flexibility to deal with renting faculty offices and other issues.

Dr. Patton commented state officials are planning to take cuts due to tax revenues being only minimally up. Dr. Henry added projections for FY2004 revenues are not bright, but workload increases have historically been funded in lean years. He advised it would be an appropriate year to look at off-budget items to put on-budget; e.g., library acquisitions.

Dr. Patton elaborated on the Board of Regents view of building faculty offices. He reminded that faculty offices did not sell to the Board of Regents for either Aderhold or the Science Teaching Lab Building, but the argument would need to be made more strongly for the Humanities Building. He stated 34 Peachtree Building and University Lofts were immediate options for leasing office space.

Dr. Patton reported the University Lofts had been difficult to fill because competitors discounted deeply, and contractors were still in the building. He pointed out that while this was not directly a university problem, it could impact future bond projects such as the Research Building. He reiterated concern about opening the Lofts to undergraduate students as this would affect future attractiveness for graduate students. He announced a real estate deal to offer 100 students a $1,000 first-year discount and a $750 second-year discount.
Dr. Griffith asked if the discounts were only for new leases. Dr. Patton responded this was the case. Dr. Griffith recommended sending e-mail with this information.

Dr. Wold asked about room rates. Dr. Scott responded the cost was $750 per month per person plus $85 per month for parking. Dr. Patton added that while the market was showing up to 3 free months, competitors were not providing furniture, utilities, etc. He acknowledged the difficulty to sell in this market, and announced a company had been hired to assist.

Dr. Colarusso asked about a Lofts flyer for use by the colleges to advertise the discounts. Dr. Patton replied that presentations had been made to the graduate coordinators, and it was to the advantage of the deans to target students for the discounts. Ms. Hurt asked if the discounts were up front or over the term of the lease. Dr. Patton responded the discounts would be applied monthly. It was noted the no-pets rule was a problem for some.

Dr. Scott reported 67 out of 460 beds were rented as of July 10. Dr. Patton commented a change to upper division undergraduates and graduate students might be in the future. Dr. Henry observed it was too late to change the program for this year.

Dr. Bahl pointed out the Lofts were too expensive for students with $12,000 stipends for GRAs. He added that graduate students find ways to rent cheaper housing. Dr. Wallace cited cases of graduate students putting 4 in a room if renting elsewhere. Dr. Patton added that many international students were living in crowded housing on Buford Highway, but discounts should allow graduate students to afford the Lofts.

Mr. Sheheane reported some alumni had asked about availability of apartments in the Lofts. Dr. Scott answered that the loan documents specified students, faculty and staff as renters, and thus far 5 faculty and staff were included in the 67 count.

Dr. Fritz suggested consideration of an Honors College unit within the Lofts including support and faculty offices. Dr. Patton noted this might attract students whom the university was currently unable to reach. Dr. Fritz suggested focusing on prospects with a Freshman Index over 3000. He added that these students were being lured away by Georgia, North Carolina and others. Dr. Hudson asked about the size of the program. Dr. Fritz responded 50-100 for the Freshman Index over 3000 approach.

Dr. Bahl asked about lowering the price on Lofts apartments until they fill up. Dr. Patton replied this was being done, and the pro forma was being revised. He characterized the original pro forma as optimistic even before the economy changed.

Dr. Henry reported Ms. Johnston and her staff had worked on numbers for leasing two floors of 34 Peachtree Building with direct connections to the Robinson College of Business Building. Ms. Johnston outlined the rental costs for 10,000 square feet per floor at $16 per square foot, with a 6% escalator clause. She added the university would cover $13.75 per square foot for upfitting and amortize this cost over 5 years. She summarized the cost as $187,500 per floor for the first year or $2,909 per faculty member accommodated plus furniture, PCs, etc. Dr. Hudson asked about the size of the offices. Ms. Johnston replied the offices would be 10 feet by 10 feet. Dr. Henry added the floors would have approximately 40 offices each.

Ms. Johnston reviewed schemes for University Lofts ranging from $6,500 per faculty for generous space to $3,313 for tighter space. Dr. Bahl commented the real cost would be less if the university had to help cover the Lofts anyway. Dr. Wallace asked if it would be better to redirect funds to get more students in the Lofts. Dr. Henry responded the timeline was too short and the office space need too great. He added that a combination of 34 Peachtree and Lofts space seemed the way to go.

Dr. Griffith commented that many students had already made housing plans for the year prior to the opening of the Lofts. Dr. Patton responded that some graduate students were just now coming to Atlanta to look for housing. Dr. Bahl asked about the waiting list at the GSU Village. Dr. Henry answered that the waiting list consisted of freshmen. Dr. Griffith added that the law students at GSU Village did not like the mix of students there. Dr. Henry noted a mailing to all GSU Village residents 21 and older had netted no takers for a move to the Lofts.

Dr. Bahl asked about a separate floor in the Lofts for freshmen. Dr. Patton replied that the consultants had advised
against that approach. Dr. Griffith cited the lack of up-and-running amenities, restaurants, etc. as a factor in students not going to the Lofts. Dr. Scott answered that a telephone survey found cost to be the biggest barrier and convenience the biggest seller.

Dr. Patton observed marketing all-inclusive costs had been a mistake. He indicated this would be rethought for next year.

Ms. Hurt asked about the magnitude of the faculty office shortage. Dr. Henry responded the current target for renting space was 100-120 offices. Dr. Fritz added that Planning & Development had cited a need in the range of 120-140. He also added that the Senate Committee of Chairs viewed this as a very high priority, and there was a need for two floors of 34 Peachtree plus the Lofts. Dr. Henry advised this was preferrable if financial implications could be worked out. He estimated the overall costs including furnishings to be $1 million.

Dr. Henry announced Dr. Adamson would be Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective August 1. He added that a national search would be expedited to conclude by January 1.

Dr. Scott announced Dr. Stout would become Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Services effective August 5.