Attending: Lauren Adamson, Ron Colarusso, Rashida Davis, Bill Fritz, Nicole Gaines, Janice Griffith, Ron Henry, Charlene Hurt, Fred Jacobs, Susan Kelley, Tom Lewis, Charles Louis, John Marshall, Maisah McClain, Chazia Merriweather, Robert Moore, Jeff Owens, Carl Patton, Nancy Peterman, George Pierce, Jerry Rackliffe, Hazel Scott, Jamie Sparks, Corey Thompson, Edgar Torbert

The minutes of April 4 were approved as distributed.

President's Remarks

Dr. Patton thanked Mr. Lewis and Mr. Sheheane for their extraordinary efforts with the 2003 legislature. He noted in particular the restoration of project funding of $3.5 million for the Arts & Humanities Building and avoidance of further cuts to the budget. He cautioned that a special session might be convened in the event revenues continue to lag or the Governor might call on the Office of Planning and Budget to manage the budget.

Dr. Patton reported a number of inquiries about measures to be taken due to the SARS epidemic in Asia. He advised the official response to such questions would be that the university would follow CDC guidelines. He recommended travelers check the web site maintained by the International Affairs Office for any travel advisories. He emphasized there were no plans to ban entry of Asian students.

Dr. Patton urged use of vacation time during the summer months.

New SGA Officers

Dr. Scott introduced the new SGA officers for 2003-2004: President Corey Thompson, Executive Vice President Chazia Merriweather, Vice President for Student Life Rashida Davis, Vice President for Public Relations Nicole Gaines, and Vice President for Budget and Finance Jamie Sparks.

Budget Update

Dr. Henry reported no news about the budget. He pointed out the Board of Regents would set tuition rates and approve the budget May 20-21.

Dr. Patton added that the tuition surcharge or surtax idea had been dropped, and the Board of Regents would likely approve differential percentage increases for the research, regional and two-year institutions. He predicted some revision of the HOPE scholarship program due to the tuition increases and the resulting exhaustion of lottery funds for that purpose. He linked the defeat of the library fee to the negative feelings of students about the surcharge idea. He observed students are generally willing to pay higher fees if they know what they are getting for the increase.

Dr. Scott suggested using actual dollar amounts of increases rather than percentages, which
students perceive as having greater financial impact.

Mr. Lewis stated the budget was based on revenue growth, which was doubtful. He commented that the Governor could either call a special session of the legislature to make cuts or institute cuts on his own.

Dr. Griffith asked about differential tuition for graduate and professional programs. Dr. Henry replied that the percentage increase would apply to all. Dr. Griffith asked if any increase would go to the general fund of the university rather than the college. Dr. Henry answered this was the case.

Dr. Adamson asked about the projected increased revenues from the tuition increase. Mr. Rackliffe responded that a 15% increase would yield approximately $9 million. Dr. Henry warned the increase could be offset by a $9 million cut relating to state revenue shortfalls. Dr. Huss characterized the cut as the difference between projected and realistic state revenues. Dr. Patton advised that cuts will almost certainly occur. Dr. Henry expressed relief that such cuts would not be in the original budget.

Dr. Patton urged caution in developing budgets for next year, and Mr. Rackliffe reminded of the opportunity to flip-flop funds between fiscal years.

Homeland Security

Dr. Louis introduced Dr. Pierce and Mr. Owens, who presented information about the campus ad hoc homeland security committee and efforts to comply with federal regulations regarding biosafety, etc. Dr. Pierce indicated Georgia State had only one select agent, and that its status on the list was tentative. He emphasized the need for further work on emergency planning and preparedness. Mr. Owens outlined efforts at the Board of Regents level.

Announcements

Dr. Kelley announced a naming gift for the School of Nursing would be revealed shortly and thanked Dr. Patton and Ms. Peterman for their assistance.

Dr. Henry announced the naming of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design.