Dr. Patton welcomed the members to the first Administrative Council meeting of 2003-2004. He thanked all who had contributed to the record enrollment and excellent start of the year. He noted ongoing visits with members of the Board of Regents and key legislators regarding capital projects and budgetary issues. He commented that Georgia State was in a better position than most institutions to manage the FY2004 budget situation. He urged that the deans and vice presidents communicate clearly with faculty and staff about the budget cuts, etc. as the year unfolds. He cautioned that there could be 4-5 years of flat budgets in spite of the gradual recovery from the post September 11 economic downturn. He reported the GSU Village and Lofts were full for fall semester, and a presentation would be made to the Board of Regents concerning additional housing on the old Beaudry Ford property. He applauded the gains in quality and numbers of students and the overall good news for Georgia State.

Enrollment & Budget

Dr. Henry stated the enrollment picture looked bleak three weeks earlier, but a late surge in registrations by students classified as seniors resulted in the record enrollment exceeding 28,000 students and 310,000 credit hours.

Dr. Henry handed out copies of a memo from Chancellor Meredith (August 21) listing University System budget management principles. Dr. Henry noted the announced 2.5% cut for FY2004 would total $4.3M and the combined 2.5% and 5% cuts anticipated for FY2005 would total $12.6M. He added that previous enrollment increases would offset the cuts with workload funds, but leave little or no new funds. He cautioned that this balancing did not take into account inflation. He stated this situation called for a heightened focus on what Georgia State does well.

Dr. Fritz handed out copies of an overview of fall 2003 enrollments. He highlighted increases in headcount, credit hours, average SAT scores and the average freshman index (FI) over fall 1997, the enrollment highpoint prior to semester conversion. He pointed out the stability of diversity through this period. Dr. Fritz noted the number of freshmen and sophomores was down, with fewer freshman transfers and part-time freshmen. He suggested this drop was due to the economy and the tuition differential between Georgia State and other institutions in the metropolitan area. He pointed to the very large increase in the number of seniors as the offsetting factor in the overall headcount, again possibly related to the economy and the scarcity of jobs. Dr. Fritz heralded the remarkable drop in freshmen with FIs below 2500, from nearly 60% to nearly 0%. He also noted a slight increase in freshmen with FIs above 3200.
Dr. Henry pointed out that the yield from freshman applications had dropped to 43% from the high 40’s. Dr. Fritz responded that the deadline for applications was March 1, and perhaps as many as 2,000 late applications were returned. He added there were insufficient numbers of staff to process late applications.

Dr. Henry noted the steady influx of transfers in spite of the higher criteria for admission, including the consideration of all credit hours instead of only the last 30 and the 2.295 gpa cutoff. He reminded that the gpa requirement would rise to 2.5 in FY2005.

Dr. Adamson called attention to an increase of 9% in upper division credit hours in the College of Arts and Sciences. She suggested this case be documented for legislators and the Board of Regents as a need for unmet demand funds. She expressed concern that unmet demand was no longer being documented. Dr. Fritz answered that unlike the legacy system, Banner did not allow students to attempt to enroll for sections already full. He suggested looking at the time it took sections to fill as an alternative gauge.

Dr. Adamson expressed dismay that seniors would wait until so late to register given the press to get in courses needed to graduate. Dr. Henry added that transfers came very late, which resulted in substantial collection of late fees. Dr. Fritz commented that the late fee was intended to get students to register early rather than as a revenue source.

Dr. Patton characterized the changing enrollment patterns as a learning experience. He pointed out that the number of students signing up for commencement turned out to be a reflection of the market for resales of commencement tickets. He noted the number of forfeited deposits in the Lofts turned out to be a result of students pocketing payments from their parents when Post Properties offered free months.

Dr. Henry recommended focus groups of students to determine how registration processes could be improved. He noted the steady diversity profile for admissions was also the case for graduation rates.

Dr. Louis asked about availability of data on freshmen who did not enroll. Dr. Fritz cited difficulty in reaching these applicants once they opted not to attend Georgia State.

**ISAT Policies**

Ms. Casto presented “Email Directory Policy” and “Policy on Network Connection for Surveillance System Cameras and Digital Video Recorders”, which had already been reviewed by the Senate ISAT Committee and the Deans’ Group. She explained the email policy would result in a single, official campus email directory. Ms. Peterman asked about the possibility of students retaining their Georgia State email addresses after graduation. Dr. Fritz echoed the desire to allow graduates to keep their email addresses. Ms. Casto replied that there had been discussion of this option, which raised concern about doing so with state funds. Dr. Griffith commented this might be a gratuity law violation. Ms. Casto agreed to look further into this matter. Dr. Adamson suggested the email addresses for alumni should be changed to include the parameter “alumnus” rather than “student”. Ms. Casto explained the surveillance system policy concerned protection from intruders via web interfaces with digital cameras. She announced a
demonstration of the system planned for September 25. The Administrative Council recommended adoption of both policies.

Announcements

Dr. Griffith introduced Mr. Prigge.

Dr. Patton welcomed Ms. Bradley and Mr. Roth to Administrative Council.

Dr. Henry announced the completion of the multi-year GSUNet2 campus networking project.