Minutes of October 5 were approved.

President’s remarks

Dr. Patton reminded that open enrollment would end November 4 for changes to benefits and that medical and dependent care flexible spending accounts require re-enrollment each year.

Dr. Patton cautioned against conversations with external individuals regarding the science park project because the request for qualifications was on the street.

Presentation on Multicultural Campus

Dr. Scott introduced Dr. Sue from Teacher’s College, Columbia University, for a presentation on the multicultural campus. She noted Dr. Sue had spoken at Georgia State in March 2005 and would be returning in March 2006.

Dr. Sue noted diversity and multiculturalism were not the same, with diversity tied to numerical representation and multiculturalism tied to experience, engagement and a more caring environment. He observed that increased diversity often led to conflict because of differing world views, but that such conflict could indicate a less oppressive environment.

Dr. Sue pointed out that Georgia State was already very diverse, and that unlike most institutions a major problem was low retention and graduation rates for white males. He recommended attention to making white males more comfortable in the environment by helping them become more multicultural rather than by recruiting larger numbers of white males to offset continuing losses.

Dr. Sue emphasized that multiculturalism was not just a student services issue. He called for examination of practices which were mono-cultural or culturally biased. He noted that different treatment was not necessarily preferential treatment. He cautioned against racial micro-aggressions or daily indignities or slights to students, faculty and staff and neglect of multicultural content in classrooms.

Dr. Carson asked about campuses Dr. Sue considered successfully multicultural. He replied that there were none, with institutions being at many different levels and no single template. He offered that Georgia State seemed more multicultural than Columbia, and was at margins of major choice points.

Ms. Hurt commented that Georgia State was unique in having had a large non-white population for a long time. She observed that this history presented an interesting environment. Dr. Sue responded that even so, mono-culturalism was possible because of limiting perspectives in implementing policies.

Dr. Adamson observed that Georgia State was changing demographically with respect to the age of undergraduates as more 18 year olds select Georgia State. She asked about strategies to help 18 year olds become more multicultural. Dr. Sue replied that professors have the greatest opportunity to model multicultural approaches as they deal with difficult dialogues between students of different cultures. He advocated teaching the skills needed to engage in such dialogues.

Dr. Colarusso asked for an example of multiculturally sensitive teaching. Dr. Sue cited case of Nigerian and white classes asked how many birds were left in a tree if one was shot. He noted whites would say one fewer, while Nigerians would say none. He characterized the white response as hypothetical whereas the Nigerian response was real world. He pointed to this as a difference in world view.
Dr. Henry pointed out the challenge of building a sense of community on a commuting campus. Dr. Sue acknowledged the unique difficulties of the urban commuter campus with a high level of diversity, but clustering of racial groups on campus. He cited clustering as a sign of mono-culturalism.

Dr. Carson noted that Georgia State was pursuing a branding initiative and posed the question of the impact of publicizing multicultural dimensions on the recruitment of white students. Dr. Sue urged movement in the direction society is headed with more than 50% of US soon to be people of color.

Ms. McElroy asked about the conflict between pressure to be politically correct and multiculturalism. Dr. Sue replied that honest dialogue was needed even at the risk of racial blunders. He suggested that racial blunders should be treated as learning opportunities. He cautioned that if dialogue is restricted by fear of appearing racist, progress will not be made toward multiculturalism.

Roles and Responsibilities of Employees Engaged in Sponsored Project Management and Oversight

Dr. Henry introduced the revised document, “Roles and Responsibilities of Georgia State University Employees Engaged in Sponsored Project Management and Oversight”. Dr. Kelley made a motion to approve the document. Ms. Hurt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Roth commented that there had been a lot of auditing interest in sponsored programs for which this document would serve the university well.

Security Risk Assessment Policy

Ms. Casto introduced the document, “Security Risk Assessment Policy”. She explained that the policy would formalize current practice of assessing risks as new software applications are deployed. She reported the policy had been endorsed by the University Senate Committee on Information Systems and Technology. Dr. Colarusso asked about the timing of these assessments. Ms. Casto responded that the assessments would precede procurement in order to take steps to mitigate risks.

Dr. Kaminshine made a motion to approve the document. Dr. Henry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Department of Geosciences
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Adamson presented the proposed reorganization of the Department of Anthropology and Geography and the Department of Geology to form the Department of Geosciences and the Department of Anthropology. She noted supportive reviews at the departmental and college levels.

Dr. Kaminshine asked about accommodation of students currently in the affected degree programs. Dr. Henry replied that standard practice was to allow three years for students in the pipeline to complete degrees under the old nomenclature.

Dr. Colarusso asked about budgetary implications. Dr. Adamson answered that the reorganization was cost neutral with the chance of small administrative savings and that the departments were already neighbors location-wise.

Ms. Hurt pointed out that the Anthropology proposal did not address costs specifically. Dr. Romski responded that the costs would be less.

Dr. Colarusso questioned the small size of the resulting Department of Anthropology with six faculty. Dr. Adamson noted faculty recruitment underway, but conceded the department would remain small. Dr. Henry pointed out that the current Department of Geology had only seven faculty. Dr. Adamson added that Anthropology had a viable contingent of students. Dr. Kozaitis stated an action plan was in place for the department.

Dr. Adamson made a motion to approve the reorganization as presented. Dr. Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Announcements

Mr. Lewis announced the release of the legislative priorities list.

Dr. Adamson announced the Natural Disaster Series of presentations in the College of Arts and Sciences stemming from the 2005 hurricanes on the Gulf Coast.

Dr. Kaminshine announced the results of the state bar examination for graduates of the College of Law with 91.5% first-time takers passing and overall 93% passing. He also announced presentations to be made by College of Law candidates for a faculty position linked to the urban health area of focus.

Dr. Henry congratulated Dr. Winkler on selection for a White House presentation concerning the computer-assisted debate program aimed at at-risk public school students. Dr. Winkler noted the participants in the program had a 50% drop in suspensions from school.

Ms. McElroy announced the men’s and women’s cross country teams finished third in the Colonial Athletic Association and volleyball fifth in the first championships since Georgia State joined July 1, 2005. She called attention to upcoming men’s basketball home games with Delaware on November 22 and Kentucky on December 6 (Philips Arena).