Minutes of May 4 were approved.

President’s remarks

Dr. Patton encouraged use of vacation hours with a comment that almost no one ultimately regrets having not spent more time at work.

Dr. Patton noted the hiring of Mary McElroy as Director of Athletics effective July 18.

Dr. Patton requested that thank you notes be sent to Regents for inclusion of the Humanities Building on the new Board of Regents capital projects list. He indicated efforts were underway to urge legislators to invest more in capital projects on an annual basis to boost the economy of the state and to quicken the funding of the Humanities Building project, which began its journey on the list at #23.

Budget strategies

Dr. Patton opened discussion of budget strategies for FY2006 and beyond. He commented that the current growth in the economy of the state was uncertain to continue given the types of jobs being created. He pointed out that Georgia State would likely lose ground in formula-based funding in FY2007 because of enrollment drops last year and the one-time nature of the protection afforded by the Chancellor for FY2006. He observed that summer terms would continue to offer opportunities to attract students from other institutions returning to Atlanta for the summer. He suggested that additional locations, even some outside Metro Atlanta, could be the key to future enrollment growth and would fit the statewide role of a major research university.

Mr. Rackliffe reviewed trends in enrollment relative to budgeted enrollments. He reminded that total credit hours had dropped from 709K in FY2004 to 693K in FY2005, but fortunately from the funding formula perspective with an increase in the percentage of graduate hours. He added that the FY2006 had been based on recovering the lost credit hours and adding 20K credit hours for a total of 729K credit hours. He warned that 2005 summer term had turned in the wrong direction with a drop of 7K credit hours, which would need to be made up in the fall and spring semesters. He noted that again this drop was softened by a higher percentage of graduate hours.

Mr. Rackliffe outlined cushion funds for a shortfall in FY2006 enrollments such as the annual fringe benefit savings in the range of $3M. He cautioned that moves and renovations funds were already committed, and the set-aside funds for the science research building and SOLID needed to be spent on the design of those facilities to maximize use of the bond funds for construction.

Mr. Rackliffe cited a potential annual savings of $1M by implementing a payment gateway to avoid losing the 1.8% due the credit card companies for tuition and fee payments made by credit card. He explained that under this arrangement students would pay a 2% convenience fee for using credit cards. He reported Georgia Tech had implemented such a plan successfully without losing credit hours, and 70-80% of students had opted to use on-line checking instead.

Dr. Fritz expressed concern about the number of students who had not yet paid summer tuition and fees in full and were facing disenrollment because of state audit findings regarding long-standing business practices of allowing payments after published deadlines. He projected possible losses of 8K credit hours from the 102K credit hours booked as of July 6. He explained the submittal of SIRS enrollment data to the Board of Regents would effectively cut off further efforts to collect tuition and fees at some point.

Dr. Adamson questioned whether the list of students owing tuition and fees, which had been received by the college,
was a list of students already dropped as understood by the college. Dr. Fritz answered that these were students to be dropped. Dr. Adamson replied that it was essential to clarify this point for faculty teaching these students. Mr. Rackliffe emphasized that such leniency in dealing with students not paying tuition and fees on time would not be allowed in the fall semester in order to avoid another audit finding. Dr. Patton commented that such audit findings were not student friendly. Dr. Adamson stressed the need to define the process for the fall semester. She pointed out that students were turned away from high-demand classes, only to have slots opened by disenrollment of other students for failure to pay tuition and fees, but too late for backfilling. She stated that this double loss of credit hours had even occurred in the summer term. Dr. Fritz added that part of the problem was students with pending financial aid, who should not be dropped too early.

Dr. Adamson stated waiting lists for core courses were a reality. She spoke in favor of an early drop process for non-payers in order to maximize credit hours by backfill registrants. Mr. Rackliffe asked if there was substantiated unmet demand. Dr. Adamson replied that Banner did not provide unmet demand data in the same way that the legacy system had done. Dr. Patton observed that changing behavior of students with regard to paying tuition and fees on time was the challenge. Dr. Fritz noted the disenrollment process had not been implemented early for summer term because it was new process. He indicated the fall semester process would trigger on August 7, but again students with pending financial aid or owing small amounts would be continued. He echoed concern about unmet demand for core courses with 2,400-2,500 new freshmen expected for fall semester as well as 1,800 transfers. He expressed alarm that some department chairs were already canceling courses sections based on the summer enrollment patterns. Dr. Huss inquired about data on intended majors of transfers. Dr. Fritz replied that this had not been required for fall 2005 transfers, but would be for fall 2006 by action of the Enrollment Management Group.

Mr. Rackliffe asked about the possibility of emergency loans from the GSU Foundation to reduce the disenrollment problem. Dr. Fritz answered that he and Dr. Marshall had discussed this possibility. He suggested the program might be modeled after a 30-day loan program employed by Housing with interest rates set to avoid losing money. Dr. Patton asked about the size of the program. Dr. Fritz estimated $100K-200K. Ms. Peterman cited difficulties collecting from students in the past. Dr. Fritz responded that the same collection agency used by Student Accounts would be used for the loan program.

Dr. Winkler commented that students were too often told something could not be done in a particular office without being directed to another office, which could address their issues. Dr. Fritz pointed to the One Stop Shop as a solution for this problem. Dr. Carson asked about advertising for the One Stop Shop. Dr. Fritz replied that a marketing campaign would kick-in upon completion of construction in 3-4 weeks. Ms. Hurt observed that the name “One Stop Shop” did not strongly convey the message of place to get problems solved. Dr. Patton expressed confidence that word would get around quickly as students had success using the One Stop Shop.

Dr. Adamson urged more attention to generating graduate credit hours. She noted that the University Strategic Plan had specified a 70-30 split between undergraduate and graduate credit hours, but this had not been specifically addressed. She asked how many of the budgeted 729K credit hours for FY2006 needed to be graduate hours. Mr. Rackliffe promised to re-run the numbers following final tallies of summer term credit hours. Dr. Adamson suggested the same analysis would be beneficial for lower division and upper division undergraduate hours since these were differentiated in the funding formula.

Dr. Huss termed the fee structure a hindrance to summer enrollments, with fees a disproportionate share of the total cost to students taking only one or two courses. Mr. Rackliffe stated that this issue was being considered with modeling of a graduated fee structure for course loads 6 credit hours or less. He advised that any change would necessitate offsets in fall and spring semester fees in order to protect the cashflow requirements for debt service for the Recreation Center, the Student Center and the Library Transformation Project.

Dr. Adamson asked about potential savings from migration to a campus telephone switch. Mr. Rackliffe answered that the conversion to an Internet-based system would begin in October. He characterized the savings as cost avoidance in the range of $1.6M annually. He noted that this amount of annual savings would allow infrastructure upgrades (GSUNet3, GSUNet4, etc.) to be accomplished without seeking special funding from FACP with each iteration.

Dr. Dabney asked about the Board of Regents Tuition Task Force recommendation regarding raising the tuition cap from 12 to 15 credit hours. Dr. Fritz replied that the task force had submitted its report to the Chancellor, but there had been no action. Mr. Rackliffe added that the topic would be discussed at the August 2005 meeting of the Board of
Regents. He noted opposition at Georgia Tech and to some extent at the University of Georgia. He pointed to the main concern of slowing through-put of students to graduation.

Dr. Fritz called attention to problems caused by revision of the HOPE audit scheme to include audits at the conclusion of every spring semester. He cautioned that the change might result in 50% of students failing to qualify, who did under the previous 30-60-90 credit hour audits. He noted that in the past many students had taken 27 credit hours the first year in order to avoid the 30-credit hour audit. Dr. Patton commented that students would work harder to keep their HOPE scholarships. He suggested spreading the message that taking 30 credit hours in the first year was the way to maximize guaranteed coverage.

Dr. Winkler voiced concern about addressing unmet demand with seemingly fewer faculty for hire in Atlanta on a part-time or last-minute basis. Dr. Adamson added that if additional faculty were hired, there is the need to keep them in order to avoid loss of capacity in subsequent semesters. She also noted the issue of excessive use of visiting faculty. Dr. Patton asked if there was unmet demand or an efficiency issue. Dr. Adamson replied that there was unevenness across the university with some understaffed and others overstaffed, but no way to transfer capacity between disciplines. Dr. Winkler commented that at least for the incoming freshmen, one could predict demand in English, history, mathematics, etc. Dr. Adamson cited some elasticity, but warned there would be unmet demand. Dr. Patton urged maximizing use of the Alpharetta Center and other sites.

Announcements

Dr. Kelley reported Health and Human Sciences enrollments up in all areas and pointed to satellite nursing programs as a great opportunity for expansion.

Dr. Kelley reported crime in Urban Life is a growing problem. She stated concern about employee safety in confronting thieves, etc. Dr. Patton echoed the need to inform employees as to how to react in the event they encounter criminals. Dr. Dabney pointed out that criminals follow routine patterns in committing crimes, and observed that the high volume of renovations on campus provided cover and opportunities to see what is available for taking. He noted the perpetrators were not necessarily renovation workers, but might include insider-collaborators as well. Dr. Streib commented on the difference since moving from Urban Life to the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies Building. Dr. Patton stressed that new building designs must take into account security (eg., swipe card access).

Dr. Adamson reported on the graduate student health insurance initiative before the Board of Regents. She also noted the targeting of “Double the Double” funds allocated to Georgia State by the Board of Regents for science, mathematics, and language pedagogy.

Dr. Morris reported the $25M grant for the Infectious Diseases Building was on the bubble at #6 with either 5 or 6 projects to be funded.

Dr. Metzler reported on the success of the College of Education in implementing the professional development school approach.

Ms. Rupp reported the donated sick leave pool plan would be announced in August 2005.

Ms. Hurt reported on the start of work on the University Library transformation project in mid-July 2005.

Dr. Emanuel reported on the hiring of a public information officer for the College of Law and recent publicity (eg., Wall Street Journal article on white collar crime quoting faculty member). She pointed out that even though College of Law enrollments were capped and full year-to-year, there was some fluctuation relating to the percentage of accepted students, who actually enrolled.

Dr. Carson reported on updating the “Classified Employee Handbook” and revision of the grievance policy. She indicated the grievance policy would be forwarded to Administrative Council upon completion of review by the Staff Advisory Council.

Ms. Peterman reported on the installation of the new marquee at the Rialto and completion of demolition at the Piedmont-Ellis site. She announced the 2005-2006 Faculty-Staff Campaign would start in the spring semester rather
than the fall semester.

Mr. Lewis reported on University Relations initiatives targeting high-performance high schools through radio, billboards, movie theater advertisements, etc.